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WHAT DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY MEANS TO LOCAL AUTHORS
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Are U.S. cathedrals vulnerable to fire?

Are U.S. cathedrals vulnerable to fire?

By now, almost everyone has seen the devastating images of the fire that broke out last week in historic Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. With those pictures etched in our minds, it’s only natural to wonder if something similar could happen in America at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York; the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington; St. Joseph Cathedral here in our diocese; or other magnificent churches.

The collapse of the roof of Notre Dame was attributed to the vast amount of centuries-old wood in the rafters that allowed the fire to spread swiftly.

The heroic efforts of firefighters saved the main structure, and the Blessed Sacrament and other treasures, including the crown of thorns and other relics, were removed as the fire broke out, through a human chain led by a brave priest.

Columbus Bishop Robert Brennan issued a statement the day after the Notre Dame fire that said, in part, “It is with a profound sadness, especially as we begin Holy Week, that I have learned today of the tragic fire which has engulfed Paris’s Cathedral of Notre Dame. The loss of this majestic house of worship, which has stood in the city for centuries, is unbelievable. … We express our deep sorrow to our brother bishops throughout the world, to the people of France and throughout the world back to the Catholic Church and rekindles the faith, that would be a great blessing.

The threat of a damaging fire at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception isn’t as likely because it’s largely built of brick and mortar.

St. Joseph Cathedral is 150 years old, but fire mitigation efforts there in the past five years have included installing sensors in the attic to detect problems, upgrading the lighting, replacing electrical lines, tuck-pointing exterior walls to keep the structure dry, and making sure there’s proper ventilation.

Our diocese experienced the destructive nature of fire most recently in 2013 on Thanksgiving Day, when Cardington Sacred Hearts Church was destroyed, requiring the building of a replacement church that was completed two years later. It reminds us to be vigilant in praying to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary for protection.

No one ever wants to see damage to a treasure such as Notre Dame Cathedral, but if this tragedy brings the people of France and throughout the world back to the Catholic Church and rekindles the faith, that would be a great blessing.
Bishop Robert Brennan led Holy Week activities in the Diocese of Columbus for the first time since he was installed as its shepherd on March 29.

Last Tuesday, April 16, Bishop Brennan began the week with the Chrism Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. He blessed the holy oils that will be used to administer the sacraments at parishes throughout the diocese in the coming year.

In his homily, he reflected on the devastating fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris one day earlier. He also shared a story about his crosier – the staff that a bishop carries – and thanked the clergy and congregation for attending the Mass.

“What a moment, what a privilege this is for me – the very first time ever – to celebrate the Chrism Mass and to be among you, who I’m still learning to know and coming to meet,” he said. “But as I look around and see faces – a lot of familiar faces, old friends already – of people from different parishes where I’ve been, priests who have come a long way, people who were here at my installation. The church is so alive, so alive here in the Diocese of Columbus.”

Holy Week continued on Thursday with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. On Friday, Bishop Brennan accompanied youth and others from around the diocese for Walking Stations of the Cross in downtown Columbus. That was followed by the solemn Good Friday liturgy at the cathedral. That evening, Bishop Brennan went to Columbus Christ the King Church to lead a Good Friday liturgy in Spanish.

On Saturday evening, after the blessing and lighting of the Paschal candle in the courtyard, the bishop, clergy and congregation processed into the cathedral for the Vigil Mass and celebration of Confirmation.

On Easter Sunday, Bishop Brennan spoke in his homily about the recent apostolic letter Christus Vivit (Christ Is Alive) and addressed the tragic bombings in Sri Lanka while offering a message of hope.

“The sad reality is that there are re-
Living the faith fully

As far back as my memories can reach, I remember my father urging my brother and I to desire a “lived faith” of our own. It is a lesson I did not appreciate until much later in my life and one that I value greatly today. Our Catholic faith is to be fruitful and lived fully. A favorite scripture verse of mine I tend to sing when I am facing a challenge is “The favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; They are renewed each morning, so great is thy faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23).

My father died in 1999, but his life continues to encourage me to remain open to the mystery and the risks that come with faithfulness. Faith believes for me when I have any doubt that Jesus is with me and cares about me, even when the people I have placed my trust in have grossly let me down. Faith gives me the courage to know that Mother Church continues to reveal the truth most pleasing to God, despite the weaknesses and failures of her members. Faith can see the Church as a field hospital tending to so many wounded souls. For it is by our faith, in the mercy and grace of Our Lord, that we are made whole.

As we come out of the Lenten desert of temptation and sacrifice and awaken to the glorious joy of Easter, we hope for strengthened faith and transformed lives. We ask ourselves, “Am I ready to be who God created me to be? Am I a joy-filled witness to our risen Lord Jesus Christ? For many of us, these are questions which are not so easy to answer. The full voice of a resounding “Yes!” is not our reality. Our “Yes,” though courageous, is muffled with insecurity, thoughts of unworthiness and plain old doubt. However, there is a man who believed in you and believed in you. There is One who has great love and enduring faithfulness toward each one of us, even in our sinfulness.

Today with my own son, as my father did for me, I continue to encourage him not to settle for a taught faith alone, but to thirst for a lived faith of his own. Because, if there is one thing I know for sure, it is that faith, while it can come with its bumps and bruises, the personal experience of God’s grace and mercy, is transforming.

It is God alone who turns lives around, mends broken hearts, heals all wounds and makes a way when no way seems impossible. Jesus restores hope to the hopeless, quenches every thirst and is there to pick us up when we fall. It is in these times when we experience the need for Christ’s hand to be upon us and we trust in His willingness to carry us that we build up our faith. It is in faith that we emerge from the dry, britteness of our lives, ready, willing, and able, to walk into the will of the Father. He, who died so that we may live fully in witness to the hope, faith and joy of God, is risen!

Andrea Pannell is episcopal moderator for the diocesan Office of Development and Planning.

Local news and events

Red Mass set for May 2 at Cathedral

Bishop Robert Brennan will be the celebrant and homilist for the annual Red Mass for those in professions dealing with law and justice, which will be celebrated at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., at 5:15 p.m. Thursday, May 2.

Accompanied by bagpipes, Bishop Brennan will lead a procession of priests and judges from all levels of state courts to open the Mass. Refreshments will be served after Mass in the cathedral undercroft.

The Red Mass dates to 1928 in New York City and was reintroduced in Columbus by the Thomas More Society in 1985, according to the Columbus Bar Association. The Mass coincides with Law Day, a tradition that started centuries ago in Europe to mark the opening of court.

The Thomas More Society is named for St. Thomas More, who was lord chancellor of England from 1529 to 1532. He was beheaded for refusing to compromise the “rule of law” and recommend a marriage annulment for King Henry VIII.

Concert features organ’s ‘Big Boys’

The concluding concert of Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church’s 2018-19 “Concerts in a Country Church” series will feature parish organist and music director Craig Jaynes “Playing with the Big Boys.”

The title is a reference to major composers for the organ, such as Johann Sebastian Bach, George Fricderic Handel, Cesar Franck and Louis Vierne. Jaynes presented a solo program of works by major composers last year, and it was so well received that it was decided to continue the program this year.

The concert, which will feature a surprise guest, will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 28 at the church, 219 S. North St., with doors opening at 2:30. Tickets are $10 at the door.

This will be the 17th program in the “Concerts in a Country Church” series, which began six years ago after the installation of a new, concert-capable organ at the church. Jaynes, who has been the parish’s music director since 2005, is known for interspersing large major works with lighter, more familiar pieces to provide a program of great variety and interest. Previous concerts in the series have included a choir, woodwind ensemble, string orchestra, brass quintet, percussion and chamber orchestra, along with a variety of soloists.

Organ concert at Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes

The next event in the “Music on the Hill” series at Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1033 W. 5th St., will be an organ concert at 7 p.m. Friday, May 3 featuring Gregory Crowell, a member of the senior affiliate faculty at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan.

Crowell has appeared as an organist, harpsichordist, clavichordist, lecturer and conductor in the United States, Canada, Germany, Holland, France, Italy, Spain and Japan.

Particularly noted for his performances of the keyboard works of Johann Sebastian Bach, he has been a featured performer at the Weener (Germany) International Bach Series, the Grand Rapids (Michigan) Bach Festival, the Old West Organ Society (Boston) Bach Marathon, the Valparaiso (Indiana) Bach Institute and the Bach Organ Festival in Tokyo.

Renewal sponsors prayer meeting

Bryan O’Donnell of Encounter Ministries will be the speaker at a citywide Adoration and prayer meeting sponsored by Columbus Catholic Renewal from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 11 at Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road.

Mass, celebrated by Father Dean Mathewson, will begin at 9 a.m., with a potluck breakfast to follow. After breakfast, O’Donnell will share his testimony on the intercession of the Virgin Mary. Healing and prayer teams will be available during Adoration, along with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Living Stones will provide worship music. Childcare is available upon request.

Columbus Catholic Renewal is under the authority of Bishop Robert Brennan, with Father Mathewson as liaison. For more information, visit ccr columbus.org or call (614) 980-3021.

ODU commencement is May 11

Sister Margaret Ormond, OP, president of the Dominican Academy and

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See LOCAL NEWS, Page 6
Workshops help parish staff members serve people with disabilities

More than 60 staff members from about two dozen parishes throughout the Diocese of Columbus gathered recently to discuss how to minister more effectively to people with special needs related to disabilities.

Participation in the sacramental life of the Church is a fundamental right for all baptized Catholics. Sacraments are the signs that bind us together as members of the Body of Christ, and individuals with disabilities are integral members of that communion. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops recognizes this, and in June 2017 issued a revised version of its Guidelines for the Celebration of Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities. This revision was a much-needed, more extensive update to a rather brief document last revised in 1995.

Esther Garcia from the National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities (NCPD) and Andrew Burson, associate director of the diocesan Office of Divine Worship spoke about some of the implications of the guidelines in parish life during two days of workshops hosted by Columbus St. Elizabeth and Westerville St. Paul churches. The event was a joint effort of the Diocesan Interdepartmental Inclusion Committee and the Diocesan Association of Faith Formation Leaders (DCAFFL) and was funded in large part through the Knights of Columbus Measure Up campaign. American Sign Language interpreters were on hand to translate for members of the Deaf community.

Garcia and Burson highlighted changes in the guidelines, outlined their implications for each sacrament, addressed pastoral concerns, and gave practical suggestions for cultivating a welcoming parish. Those in attendance also heard about best practices for working with disabled persons from people in the diocese who are active in such efforts. Panelists included Mark Butler, education resource coordinator for the Dominican Sisters of Peace; Allison Shardell, religious education director at Heath St. Leonard Church; Msgr. Joseph Hendricks, pastor of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church; and Mary Ginn Ryan, co-founder of Special People in Catholic Education (SPICE).

Garcia discussed important updates of the guidelines, such as how to incorporate technology in increasing accessibility to the sacraments and the use of feeding tubes. Other updates involved the call to integrate people with disabilities as much as possible into all aspects of parish life, to the extent that they are able, and the importance of parish staff and communities in providing support as soon as possible to parents who receive a difficult prenatal diagnosis.

Garcia and Burson talked about the need for parish staff members to get to know special-needs children and adults and their families who are engaged in sacramental preparation, especially in situations where the individual is non-verbal, has limited ability to communicate, or suffers from a cognitive disability. This personal knowledge helps the pastor, parish staff and family members better discern the readiness of each person for the sacraments and is vital to developing the type of formation each person needs.

Burson emphasized that the bishops take great care to remind us that disability, in and of itself, never disqualifies a person from any sacrament. Adoptions can and should be made that allow people with a disability to convey their readiness for a particular sacrament in the way that they are best able, whether that be “through manner, gesture, or reverential silence. … Cases of doubt should be resolved in favor of the right of the Catholic to receive the sacrament.” (Guidelines, paragraph 22).

Pastors and parish staff should encourage persons with disabilities to serve in liturgical roles to the extent they are able as greeters, ushers, altar servers, readers or extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

The highlight of the event was the discussion by members of the four-person panel, who addressed real-life situations of parents, parish staff and pastors.

Butler shared his experience of raising two children with autism in the Catholic faith. He discussed the need to support parents throughout the difficult challenges of raising children with disabilities and caring from them in adulthood. He also reminded conference participants of the deep desire for God that is innate in all people. He recalled how his daughter Katie, who at the time was nonverbal, formed one of her first real sentences. Her older sister was making her first Communion and Katie said, “I want that, I want that.” She clearly understood that something special was occurring, and to this day, she receives Communion with great joy.

Shardell, the mother of four children with disabilities, shared her journey in creating a ministry for the Deaf at St. Leonard Church. She noticed the lack of participation in the parish of persons with disabilities and wanted to find a way to welcome them into the community. She encouraged taking little steps to improve the welcoming of all into the parish and utilizing resources within the parish and the surrounding ecumenical community.

Msgr. Hendricks credits the success of St. Brigid’s well-established inclusion programs to the collaboration and networking of knowledgeable people within the community, working together. Strategic efforts of collaboration within deaneries and at the diocesan level are a key factor, as well as tapping into resources such as The Catholic Foundation and local community organizations.

Ryan talked about the founding and growth of SPICE, a lay organization whose main objective is to raise awareness of inclusion programs for people with special needs and to provide funding for education and support services in parishes and schools. SPICE developed out of a desire to enable all people to participate in Catholic education and parish life. It engages in informational campaigns and provides funding for needs such as large-print missals or building ramps and for support services for children in Parish Schools of Religion or parochial schools.

Throughout the two-day event, the energy and enthusiasm of the attendees was evident. Several said it was one of the best training sessions they ever attended. Much work remains, but armed with new resources and insights, there is hope for continued growth in opportunities for welcoming and including people with disabilities in all parishes.

Additional information and resources to support people with disabilities is located at https://columbuscatholic.org/faith-formation-inclusion.
In a few weeks, I will turn 65 years old. I have arthritis in most of my joints; in the early spring, when it’s rainy and damp, the arthritic pain can be unbearable. Is it a sin to miss Sunday Mass, given the extreme pain?

When is it acceptable to stop going to church and watch Mass on television? (Also, since my total knee replacement, I can no longer kneel down; so how does one go to confession without kneeling?) (Brookville, Indiana)

First, about the posture for confession – because that part is easy. I have heard the confessions of people lying in a hospital bed, sitting in a quiet corner of a restaurant, even standing on a beach. Clearly there is no requirement that the penitent be kneeling.

In the parish where I served as pastor for 24 years, we had a confessional “room,” which is typical in Catholic churches today. There, the penitent could opt for anonymity by sitting or kneeling behind a screen or – if he or she preferred – could come around and sit and talk face-to-face with the priest. As for the part about how sick you have to be to skip Mass, the answer is “use your head.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, “The faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants)” (No. 2181). The nature and degree of the sickness is not defined, so we have to figure it out for ourselves. The God we serve and believe in is a person of reason. How could a loving God want you to suffer excruciating pain as the price for going to Mass? And how could you even pray effectively when you’re feeling that bad? A handy rule of thumb might be this: Would I go to work if I felt this way?

Approximately 200 students will receive degrees at the event, which will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 11 in Alumni Hall, 1216 Sunbury Road. It will be preceded at 9 a.m. by a baccalaureate service at Christ the King Chapel in Sansbury Hall across the street.

Sister Margaret earned a bachelor’s degree in history from ODU and a bachelor’s degree in sacred theology and a licentiate of sacred theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. She received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from ODU in 2011.

She serves as president of the Dominican Academy in New York City, a Catholic college preparatory school for girls founded and supported by the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Before serving as the congregation’s prioress from 2009 to 2015, she ministered as a consultant on leadership among African religious. She also facilitated Dominican congresses in the Philippines, El Salvador, South Africa, Kenya, Peru and Hungary. She has served on the boards of ODU, Alber-
**The challenge and grace of embracing truth**

We are often afraid of the truth. Rather than thinking of it as a way to experience a deeper reality, we see it as something that upends our world, threatening our sense of security and even our sense of self. We have found a comfortable place to “fit in,” and we don’t want anyone or anything to disturb it. It’s how we make sense of the world.

Jesus brought the challenge of truth with him, and he certainly disturbed the religious status quo of his time. Many religious leaders and officials didn’t see how they would fit in to his worldview. They had narrowed their vision to see the world through their lenses of laws and rituals and understanding of history, which made sense to them and assured their place in it. Jesus and his truth were a threat, and as we observe on Good Friday, he was murdered for it.

April 10 was the anniversary of the death of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, (1846-1955), a Jesuit priest, scientist (geologist and paleontologist), theologian and mystic whose work informed his spirituality. Much of what he wrote and spoke about was unacceptable to some who had the authority to deny his ability to publish, teach or lecture.

Despite the censure of his work, he remained faithful to his vows of obedience and to the church, as painful and disheartening as it was. After his death, his work was published and has informed much current theology and spirituality.

I always have believed that sincere seekers of truth, whatever their field of study, spiritual path or human experience, will come eventually to the same place: The Holy One who is Truth.

One night, when my middle daughter was five, I went upstairs to check on her and found her wide awake.

“Mom,” she said, “I don’t know what to do. I love God, but I love science, too. Some people say that people and dinosaurs lived at the same time. That the Bible talks about everything being created at once. But dinosaurs and people didn’t live together. Paleontologists know that.”

She sighed. “I don’t know which to choose, God or science,” she said.

“The good news is you don’t have to choose,” I said. “The Bible isn’t a science book. The writers of the Bible were telling stories and sharing history that pointed to the truth as they knew it about God. They were truth seekers.

“Scientists are looking for truth, too. Sometimes they have to change what they thought because a new discovery proves it wrong. But they keep observing and experimenting.”

“All truth leads to God. So you don’t have to worry. The Bible. Science. Truth – eventually, they take you to the same place.”

She smiled. “I’m glad,” she said, then rolled over and went to sleep.

Seeking truth and accepting it when it isn’t what is expected takes openness and humility, as well as courage. History is full of examples. In our own time, new discoveries and understanding in many fields challenge the status quo. What do we know of race, of the cosmos, of human psychology, of the effect of human activity on our planet? Truth is always drawing us forward into new territory.

“Conventional truth” confronted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. It made sense to his palm-waving, excited followers, caught up in signs and wonders. Of course, he would be King. It made sense to them, but not to Jesus.

Jesus refused to deny the truth of who he was. He had a message for all people, for all creation, that transcended religion, politics and power. His work was to proclaim the radical love of God for all in and all.

That truth was hard for his followers to accept. It certainly turned their world upside down. For some, it was too much to accept.

The same is true for us. Jesus message and our slowly evolving way of experiencing it is a challenge. It requires us to both let go and to accept. We never can understand God. But we can believe that always, God is drawing all things closer to the Divine Self until one day, we will understand that, mysterious as it is, we are one.
Columbus Bishop Hartley High School has earned the first College Board Advanced Placement computer science female diversity award for achieving high female representation in AP computer science principles. Recipients of the honor have expanded girls’ access in AP computer science courses. Bishop Hartley is one of 685 schools to accomplish this out of more than 18,000 secondary schools worldwide that offer AP courses. Schools earning the award have either 50 percent or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses, or a percentage of their female computer science students meeting or exceeding that of the school’s female population. Hartley AP computer science students (back to front) Hannah Kitsmiller, Shirleen Otieno, Bailee Zacovic, Azaria Greene-Williams and Nasya James are shown participating in a class activity.

(Photo courtesy Bishop Hartley High School)

Columbus Trinity Elementary School students are shown with the “ceriodic table” — a display of cereal boxes designed to mimic the periodic table of elements. The students worked together as a class to organize the boxes vertically in groups, such as all marshmallow cereals or flake cereals, and horizontally in periods, with the amount of sugar content increasing from top to bottom. They then had to present their reasoning for placement to the teacher. Pictured are (from left): first row, Josh Ashmore, Christian Stratton, Rece Hatem, Jacob Blubaugh, Mason Murnane and Anthony Wood; second row, Christian Kouam, George Hewitt, Sarah Qemalli, Lucy Rodriguez, Esmeralda Qemalli, Zelma Hutton, Evie Borgerding and Madi Dickson. (Photo courtesy Trinity Elementary School)

Six students from the Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare School Power of the Pen team competed in a regional tournament in March. They are (from left) Sophia Heise, Sara Goodlive, Carly Henry, Devin Mitchell and Victoria Garascia. Yulia Karelina is not pictured. Goodlive placed eighth in the seventh-grade division, and the seventh-grade team finished fourth overall. Power of the Pen is a competitive creative writing team competition in which students write short stories in 40 minutes or less in response to prompts. Students learn from example stories, discover new writing techniques, and work on the craft of storytelling.

(Photo courtesy St. Brigid of Kildare School)

Bishop Watterson senior Elizabeth D’sa (right) has been awarded a scholarship from the Zonta Club of Columbus, based on scholastic achievement, leadership and commitment to service in the community and school. Zonta is one of the largest women’s service organizations in the world. D’sa is shown with Colleen Linhart, chair of the Outstanding Young Women program sponsored by the Zonta Club of Columbus since 1980. D’sa was one of 12 high school seniors the program honored this year. More than 100 students were nominated. As the club’s scholarship winner, she becomes eligible for Zonta district and national awards.

(Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School)
Brogan Ryan to be ordained as Holy Cross priest

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Deacon Brogan Ryan, CSC, says he is about to become a Holy Cross priest because God’s persistence overcame his own resistance.

Deacon Ryan, the son of Bob and Mary Ginn Ryan of Columbus St. Catharine Church, will be ordained to the priesthood as a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross this coming Saturday, April 27, in a ceremony beginning at 2 p.m. at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. He will celebrate his first Mass the following day at Notre Dame, and his first Mass at his home parish will be at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 26.

As he begins his priesthood, he will retain his role as rector of Notre Dame’s Keough Hall dormitory, providing spiritual advice to its residents. He has held that position throughout the 2018-19 academic year, which began shortly after his ordination to the permanent diaconate on Aug. 26, 2018.

Deacon Ryan, one of five men to be ordained as priests on April 27 by Bishop William A. Wack, CSC, of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida, is 33, a few years older than most men are at the time of ordination. He said that although he always admired priests and grew up in a strong Catholic family, he didn’t think about becoming a priest until after graduating from Notre Dame in 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in accounting that God was calling him to the priesthood.

Instead, he became a teacher at a Catholic school in Montgomery, Alabama, working with Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program. After spending two years there and earning a master’s degree in education from Notre Dame, he came back to Columbus for two years and worked for the KPMG accounting firm.

“Those who were the most different experiences you can imagine,” he said. “I was using what I had learned and working in the areas I thought I was going to specialize in, but through all that, I always was feeling a sense of unrest, that God had something else in mind for me. It was something I realized I couldn’t ignore.

“I entered the Holy Cross congregation in August 2012. It didn’t take long to realize God had been inviting me to serve him as a priest for years and that the Holy Cross community, which works together, prays together and supports one another, was where I belonged.”

Deacon Ryan is the sixth of 11 children. His parents are well known in the Catholic community because his father is part of the fourth of five generations of the same family to operate the Egan-Ryan funeral homes in Columbus, and his mother and father are co-founders of the SPICE (Special People in Catholic Education) organization.

SPICE started at St. Catharine’s made the school more inclusive, making it a place where all are welcome, with no barriers to people, and from there it’s just kept growing. It changed the direction of their lives and the lives of all of us in the family.”

Deacon Ryan said another significant family influence was that of his twin brother, Brendan, who began studies a year ahead of him, but discerned after four years in the seminary that he was not being called to the priesthood. Brendan now teaches in the religious studies department of St. Ignatius College Preparatory School in Chicago after following a path similar to Brogan’s through Notre Dame, the ACE program and seminary.

Another brother, Michael, is in formation for the priesthood. He is spending a year at the novitiate of the same order in Chicago after following a path similar to Brogan’s through Notre Dame, with the Catholic Worker organization in Colorado Springs, Colorado; with the religious studies department of St. Ignatius College Preparatory School in Chicago; with the Sacred Heart school in Monticello, Colorado; and as an intern with Family Theater Productions in Hollywood.

“Out of all those, probably my time in Uganda was what I will remember most,” he said. “It enabled me to see how important the work is that the Holy Cross fathers do throughout the world and to have a firsthand look at the liveliness of the faith in Africa.”

As rector of Keough Hall, a men’s residence hall at Notre Dame, Deacon Ryan acts in a role similar to that of a parish pastor, planning liturgical activities such as nightly Masses, prayer services and Lenten activities and answering questions about the Catholic Church and life in general from a congregation of 275 “parishioners” – in this case, all young men.

“We talk about everything from faith life to academic questions to career discernment to discipline,” he said. “I’m 15 years older than most of these guys, so I’m sort of like an older brother they can talk to. It’s a real gift to be here for them at an important time in their lives and to have them get to know the Church through me.”

“My formation gave Deacon Ryan the opportunity to be involved in a variety of areas. He served as an RCIA team member at Christ the King Church in South Bend; in the tax assistance program at Notre Dame; as a summer intern at Holy Redeemer Church in Portland, Oregon; as a chaplain at Penrose-St. Francis Medical Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado; with the Catholic Worker organization in Colorado Springs, Colorado; with the religious studies department of St. Ignatius College Preparatory School in Chicago; with the Sacred Heart school in Monticello, Colorado; and as an intern with Family Theater Productions in Hollywood.

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Another brother, Michael, is in formation for the priesthood. He is spending a year at the novitiate of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Colorado, which will be followed by graduate theology studies at Notre Dame.

“Msgr. David Sorohan at St. Catherine’s also had a big impact on me,” Deacon Ryan said. “Whenever I think of the priesthood and what it means, I think of him.” Msgr. Sorohan was St. Catherine’s pastor from 1988 to 2004 and continues to have close ties with the parish. The new parish center currently being built will bear his name.

“Father (Joseph) Trapp, Father (James) Black, Father (Michael) Lumpe and Father (Dan) Dury (the current pastor) at St. Catherine’s also provided good examples,” Deacon Ryan said. “So did Sister Margaret (Hoffman, OSF, English teacher) at (Columbus) St. Charles (Preparatory School, from which he graduated in 2004).”

“I don’t know that you can ever really be ready to become a priest, but I’m very excited about it,” he said. “I had wonderful formation experiences and great people around me, and I know so many people have been praying for me that I just feel very loved. With that and the grace of God, I’m eager to see what plans he has for me.”

Deacon Ryan, CSC, professes his final vows as a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross on Aug. 25, 2018 in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Deacon Ryan, a Columbus native, will be ordained as a Holy Cross priest on Saturday, April 27 at the basilica. After ordination, he will continue as rector of Notre Dame’s Keough Hall dormitory. (Photo/Conregation of Holy Cross)
Divine Mercy Sunday: An invitation to grace, mercy and conversion

By Michele Faehnle

I was introduced to the Divine Mercy devotion as a young girl in the 1990s by my parents. We attended Divine Mercy Sunday celebrations, even when they were only offered at a handful of parishes in the United States and St. Faustina still was known as “Blessed” by the Catholic Church (as part of the process the Church uses to recognize people as saints, this is the step before canonization). We prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy each day and had the large image of Jesus with red and pale rays on our mantel over the fireplace. At first, I was drawn to the devotion mainly because the Chaplet was shorter than the Rosary, plus I knew of the promises given to St. Faustina that those who participated in Divine Mercy Sunday celebrations by going to Confession and receiving Holy Communion would receive total remission of all sin (Diary of St. Faustina, 1109). In my immature spirituality as a young teenager, I thought this was my “get out of jail free” card to live my life as I pleased and yet still be able to squeak into Heaven. As I grew in my faith, I came to understand what the devotion to Divine Mercy truly was — a great invitation to God’s mercy and a call to deep conversion. Much later in life, I dove into the Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska and this great devotion took root in my life.

This Sunday, we will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. It is a feast day you don’t want to miss! Jesus told St. Faustina, “I desire that there be a Feast of Mercy ... on the first Sunday after Easter.” (Diary, 49) and promised to “pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy” (Diary, 699) on this day.

At the canonization of St. Faustina in 2000, Pope St. John Paul II proclaimed the first Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, to be universally recognized by the Church from that day forward. It is a day of extraordinary grace, of being cleansed of sin and punishment due to sin. To celebrate this great feast day and receive the promised graces of complete forgiveness of sins and the punishment associated with those sins (Diary, 699) is actually pretty easy — go to confession before or on the feast, attend Mass in the state of grace and receive Communion with the intention of receiving the graces, and do an act of mercy. Today, many parishes offer special celebrations on Divine Mercy Sunday to make it easy for you to go to confession, attend Mass, and even do your act of mercy by praying the Chaplet for others. I never miss this special feast day. Even before it was officially proclaimed, I would seek out a parish hosting this devotion because of the great graces I knew I would receive.

Divine Mercy Sunday always has been a special day of grace and blessings for me, but one Divine Mercy Sunday had a special meaning for me. In 2014, I was asked to speak at the National Shrine of Divine Mercy on the Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday for a special project for my friend Father Michael Gaitley, a priest with the Marianists of the Immaculate Conception. He had asked me to share about living the works of mercy with my family and to give a personal testimony of how Divine Mercy had impacted my life. To make this trip, I had to choose between hopping on a plane and going by myself, or bringing the rest of my family (husband and three children) with me on a 10-hour road trip from our home in Columbus.

I knew what an amazing experience it would be for my whole family to experience the shrine on such a holy day — it was, as they say, the opportunity of a lifetime. I decided we should make the road trip together and pitched the idea to my husband. Matt is self-employed, and he wasn’t so sure that a week of unpaid vacation, especially since I would be 36 weeks pregnant at the time, was a good idea. He also reminded me that our Catholic school’s tuition for the next year was due shortly, and we certainly didn’t have any spare money lying around!

I had talked to my obstetrician, who assured me there were good hospitals in Massachusetts if I needed one, so I told my husband that if God wanted us to go, he would make it clear to us with a sign.

How could he argue with that?

The following evening, we attended an auction and fundraiser at our children’s school. As her donation to the school, my mother-in-law had given us $40 to spend. I used the money to purchase one ticket to the school tuition raffle, so-called because the prize was exactly that: a year’s free tuition! (If you know anything at all about what it costs to send a kid to Catholic school these days, you can imagine how many of those tickets were sold.)

At 8:45, the drawing was announced. The master of ceremonies cracked some jokes and shook a gift bag full of names, finally drawing one ticket from the bag. Looking over the crowd, he announced that the winners of the raffle were ... Matt and Michele Faehnle!

I was in shock, even though I had been praying for a sign. Sometimes God just has to knock me over to get my attention. He certainly got it that night. One look at Matt told me I wasn’t the only one who had decoded the signal: my husband knew where we were headed on spring break.

We road-tripped that spring break, stopping in Pittsburgh for a Reds-Pirates game; Hershey, Pennsylvania for a tour of Chocolate World; and New York City to see the bright lights and the Statue of Liberty. We ended the trip with a weekend in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Just as I had hoped, it was a beautiful experience for my whole family.

We stood atop the hill with thousands of pilgrims to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy and chanted the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. I was in awe. The sun was high in the sky, and the mercy and love of God were palpable in the sunlight and in the voices filling the air. I knew God was blessing us for taking this pilgrimage, as well as all the people that were gathered there.

What I didn’t know was that He also was preparing me for what was going to come next in my life. Our little girl arrived a few weeks later. Shortly afterward, we were notified there was “something wrong” with our baby. Genetics testing confirmed what we feared, and I found myself unsettled by the news. However, I placed her life in Our Lord’s hands and said, “Jesus, I trust In You.” I knew that because of the ocean of graces that had been poured out on our family on Divine Mercy Sunday, I was able to be at peace and trust in Him.

Excerpts from this article from “Divine Mercy for Moms” and “Our Friend Faustina,” by Michele Faehnle and Emily Jaminet, are reprinted with permission of Ave Maria Press and Marian Press, the publishers.

Michele Faehnle is the co-author of “Divine Mercy for Moms, The Friendship Project” and “Our Friend Faustina: Life Lessons in Divine Mercy.” She is also the co-director of the Columbus Catholic Women’s Conference and the school nurse at Columbus St. Andrew School.
Divine Mercy Sunday and the two great sacraments

By Tim McAndrew

The following consists of quotations from the Diary of St. Faustina Kowalska with paragraph references (printed in italics), and the author’s reflections:

“The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sin and punishment” (699).

Where do the greatest miracles take place?

“In the tribunal of mercy (the Sacrament of Reconciliation) ... the greatest miracles take place and are incessantly repeated” (1448).

I never would have thought the greatest miracle would be in the confessional, but that’s what Our Lord told St. Faustina. I would have thought it would be at some healing service, or that I would have to go to Lourdes or Fatima or another apparition site. But no, Our Lord says the greatest miracles take place in the confessional.

“To avail oneself of this miracle, it is not necessary to go on a great pilgrimage or to carry out some external ceremony; it suffices to come with faith to the feet of My representative and to reveal to him one’s misery, and the miracle of Divine Mercy will be demonstrated” (1448).

Again, miracles, as well as conversion, take place in the confessional!

Why does Our Lord say “Come to me in the confessional and reveal your misery?” We are wounded. We need healing. Oh, how miserable souls must be who do not take advantage of God’s miracle of mercy. We are like a decaying corpse and, from a human standpoint, there would be no hope. But not so with God. He wants us next to His Sacred Heart and healed of our misery.

“Fight for the salvation of souls, exhorting them to trust in My mercy, as that is your task in this life and in the life to come” (1452).

St. Faustina is fighting for us to trust in God’s mercy. Only that soul who rejects it will be damned, for God condemns no one. If I go to the confessional expecting miracles and have my sins forgiven, I will get what I ask for. If I will receive in proportion to what I am open to and expecting. I go to Confession trusting that the greatest miracle of my life is about to take place and will be incessantly repeated, and that God is going to restore me in His fullness. The more you are open to, the more you will receive. All depends on trust.

“What do we think happens when the Mass begins? Do we think Jesus checks His watch and says “See you, Dad; see you, Holy Spirit; and see you, Mom. I have to get to Mass for the sacrifice now. I have to get in the Eucharist.” Isn’t this silly? The church teaches Christ is present in the Eucharist and in heaven at the same time.

“Once after Holy Communion, I heard these words: ‘You are our dwelling place.’ At that moment, I felt the presence of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. I was the temple of God, child of the Father. I cannot explain all this, but my spirit understands all this. I knew more distinctly than ever that the divine persons: the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, are one. My soul is in communion with These Three” (451).

So when we enter into communion, we enter into the full Trinity.

There is only one Mass

There is only one liturgy. Christ is the only high priest, and all other priests share in the priesthood of Christ. The laity, in a different way, share in one priesthood of Christ, but Christ is always the high priest. Christ is eternally in heaven, interceding at the right hand of the Father, worshiped by all the angels and saints. Only in eternity will we understand how awesome the Mass really is.

Doing more than just receiving communion

We need to do something more than just receive Communion. We must become Communion. We must enter into Communion with God. When we receive, we live in Him and He lives in us. “Anyone who eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me and I in him” (John 6:56).

How do we enter into communion?

There are two kinds of eating: The first is sacramental eating. When we are receiving this sacrament, we receive with belief that this is truly the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ.

The second is spiritual eating. Spiritual eating is where we do something. We actively unite ourselves with Christ. The two should happen at the same time.

There is no limit to how many times a day we can spiritually receive Communion.
Diocesan Divine Mercy Sunday events

The following parishes in the Diocese of Columbus have scheduled programs for Divine Mercy Sunday, April 28:

CHILlicoTHE ST. Peter – 12:30 to 3 p.m., Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; 3 p.m., singing of Chaplet of Divine Mercy, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Sacrament of Reconciliation available from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 27. Chaplet is being recited every day through Sunday at 3 p.m.

CIRCLEVILLE ST. JOSEPH – 2 to 3 p.m., Exposition, Reconciliation; 3 p.m., Chaplet.

COLUMBUS HOLy FAMILY – 12:30 p.m., Exposition, followed by Reconciliation; 2:30 p.m., solemn blessing and veneration of Divine Mercy image; 3 p.m., Chaplet; 4:30 p.m., Benediction; 5 p.m., Mass.

COLUMBUS HOLy ROSARY-ST. JOHN – 9:30 a.m. Mass, followed by procession with Divine Mercy image, blessing of image, recital of Chaplet (using Rosary beads) and veneration of image.

COLUMBUS OUR LADY OF VICTORY – 3 to 4 p.m., Hour of Mercy, including Chaplet, Exposition, and Reconciliation.

COLUMBUS SACRED HEART – 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Reconciliation; 2 p.m., blessing of Divine Mercy image, followed by Exposition and Litany of the Sacred Heart; 2:30 p.m., Stations of the Cross, followed by Benediction; 3 p.m., Chaplet; 3:20 p.m., Mass.

COLUMBUS ST. CATHARINE – 2 p.m., Exposition; 2:05 to 3 p.m., Reconciliation; 2:05 p.m., Rosary; 3 p.m., Chaplet, led by soloist; 3:30 p.m., Benediction.

COLUMBUS ST. DOMINIC – 11:30 a.m. Mass, followed by recital of Chaplet (using Rosary beads).

COLUMBUS ST. TIMOTHY – Following noon Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Reconciliation; 2:30 p.m., blessing of Divine Mercy image; 3 p.m., Chaplet and Benediction.

DUBLIN ST. BRIGID OF KILDARE – 2 to 3 p.m., Reconciliation; 3 to 4 p.m., Exposition, followed by Chaplet and Benediction.

GAHANNA ST. MATTHEW – 3 p.m., Adoration and Chaplet; 4 p.m., Benediction.

GROVE CITY OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP – 1 to 4 p.m., Exposition; 2 p.m., Rosary for the intentions of Pope Francis; 3 p.m., Chaplet.

HILLIARD ST. BRENDAN – 3 p.m., Chaplet sung by Polish Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

LANCASTER ST. MARK – 2:30 p.m., Veneration of Divine Mercy image; 3 p.m., Chaplet; 3:20 p.m., Mass, followed by reception.

LOGAN ST. JOHN – 2 p.m., movie about history of the Divine Mercy devotion in church hall; 3 p.m., Exposition in church; 3:15 p.m., Reconciliation, singing of Chaplet; 3:30 p.m., Benediction and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

MATTINGLY SETTLEMENT ST. MARY – 3 p.m., Rosary procession, Adoration, Benediction, Divine Mercy devotions.

MOUNT VERNON ST. VINCENT DE PAUL – 2 p.m., Exposition, followed by Reconciliation; 2:30 p.m., Litany of the Blessed Sacrament; 3 p.m., Chaplet sung, followed by Benediction.

NEW PHILADELPHIA SACRED HEART – 2:30 p.m., Exposition, Rosary, Reconciliation; 3 p.m., Chaplet, followed by Benediction.

NEWARK BLESSED SACRAMENT – 10:45 a.m., Mass; 11:45 a.m. to 3 p.m., Adoration; 3 p.m., Chaplet, followed by Benediction. Divine Mercy Novena will be prayed at 3 p.m. daily through Saturday, April 27.

PICKERINGSTON ST. ELIZABETH SETON – 3 to 4 p.m., Chaplet, Exposition.

PLAIN CITY ST. JOSEPH – 2 p.m., Exposition; 2 to 2:45 p.m., Reconciliation; 3 p.m., Chaplet; 3:30 p.m., blessing and veneration of Divine Mercy image, followed by Benediction.

POWELL ST. JOAN OF ARC – 2:30 p.m., blessing of Divine Mercy image, followed by Exposition, including Liturgy of the Word and recital of Chaplet; 3:45 to 5 p.m., Reconciliation; 4:45 to 5 p.m., closing prayer and Benediction; 5:30 p.m., Mass.

SUNBURY ST. JOHN NEUMANN – Following 11 a.m. Mass, Adoration, Chaplet and Reconciliation; 1 p.m., Benediction.

WEST JEFFERSON SS. SIMON AND JUDE – 1 to 3 p.m., Adoration; 2 to 2:45 p.m., Reconciliation; 3 p.m., Chaplet, followed by Benediction.
Conversion

HOLY AND HEALTHY
Lori Crock

I’ve been helping people get physically stronger for nearly eight years. In that time, I’ve gone through a lot of changes in how I teach others and how I train and care for my own body. I’ve watched my students learn and grow. I’ve seen my training program change and evolve, and it continues to do so.

Change is inevitable in all areas of our lives, and it can be good, but sometimes life hits us hard with any number of challenges in family, work, and life. On top of that, we are aging and dealing with forms of physical suffering, such as injury, illness, and infirmity.

In our physical difficulties, we learn about the spiritual power of suffering with love and perseverance – and by God’s grace, we have an opportunity to grow spiritually and to develop more compassion for the hardships faced by others.

Spiritual conversion is similar in that changes occur in us that can be both uplifting and challenging. We may experience many conversions in our lifetime as God seeks to bring us closer to him to help us grow in holiness.

Changes, both big and small, by the grace of God, can lift us up, lead us to darkness, move us into new ways of serving, living and doing for God and for others.

The changes might surprise us, even frighten us a little, and we may, believe it or not, even have an occasional longing for some sins that we’ve left behind.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraph 1989): “The first work of the grace of the Holy Spirit is conversion, effecting justification in accordance with Jesus’ proclamation at the beginning of the Gospel: ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Moved by grace, man turns toward God and away from sin, thus accepting forgiveness and righteousness from on high.

Sometimes conversion, or this movement away from sin and toward God, means we change how we use our resources, our time, our energy, and even the people we spend our time with. We might be called to simplify, to give more, to lead or to follow in new ways, to pray more, or just to be more. God works with us so personally that the path of conversion is not predictable, nor is it ever universal.

I look to the saints for wisdom on this journey of conversion that we pray continues throughout our lives here on earth. The saints are regular people who had many points of conversion in their lives and grew to great holiness by their gradual, yet eventual submission to God’s will.

Pope St. John Paul II encourages us. “I plead with you! Never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, never become discouraged. Be not afraid.”

The fruit of conversion can, in fact, be the gift of journeying more fully with and for others. Other times, it can be more of a dark and lonely road, as St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta experienced when God didn’t feel near to her, and so we rely on faith to keep moving forward without the clear light of His presence guiding us.

In our physical journey, as in our spiritual journey, there will be changes, conversions, movements big and small, good and not so good. I pray that we listen to our bodies and respond with prudent care – and more importantly, listen to God, accept and cooperate with his grace with a steady focus on the ultimate goal of eternal life.

St. Padre Pio knows well the struggles we face.

“The life of a Christian is nothing but a perpetual struggle against self; there is no flowering of the soul to the heart of its perfection except at the price of pain,” he said.

Lori Crock is a parishioner at Plain City St. Joseph Church. Lori leads SoulCore Rosary prayer and exercise at parishes, teaches physical strength classes and writes about faith and fitness at holyandhealthycatholic.com.
Open your heart and believe

Father Timothy Hayes

Acts 5:12-16
Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24
Revelation 1:9-11a,12-13,17-19
John 20:19-31

Signs and wonders are at work among us. But we must have the eyes to see them for what they are. So what are we looking for?

The old expression says “seeing is believing,” but that is not really so. If we see, we do not need to believe.

Thomas – often accused of doubting – never really doubted. He went from a mistaken certainty that Jesus could not have risen from the dead to the true certainty that Jesus did just that.

Notice how Jesus comes the week after Easter just for Thomas. The others already have encountered the risen Lord and have come to believe.

Thomas is invited to open His heart to belief and is given just what He needs to “get it.” His response goes further than any of the others’ response: “My Lord and my God!”

Thomas’ openness to the truth opened in his heart a capacity to know something more through faith: The risen Lord Jesus is truly God. Thomas’ change of perspective opens for all of us a new way of seeing.

When Peter and the other Apostles walk among the crowds, they find an openness to faith, in spite of the controversy that surrounds them. Even Peter’s shadow is considered to be flowing with the healing grace of Jesus Christ.

God loves us personally, individually and immensely – so much that His Son became one of us and lived and died and rose in our very flesh.

Now God asks us to become a vessel for the very life that Jesus won for human nature. But He doesn’t want us to wait until death.

The Eastern Rite churches have a strong emphasis on what is called “theosis”; that is, “deification” of human nature. God has become a human being so that we might become partakers, that is, sharers of the divine nature.

Faith in the Resurrection of Jesus leads us in two distinct directions: First, it invites us to acknowledge Jesus for who He IS as the Son of God, as the savior of the human race, who redeems us and lifts us up to salvation.

Second, it directs us to our neighbor – that is, to each human being we encounter – as a bearer of the divine. We meet God in Jesus, the risen Lord, and we meet the risen Lord Jesus in our neighbor.

God’s mercy is the flow of divine life outward, transforming, healing, sanctifying. It is the power of the risen Jesus living in each of us and being offered through us to our brothers and sisters, to our neighbors and to the whole world.

The signs Jesus does are tailor-made for each person. We are invited to understand the meaning of the Resurrection not by seeing miracles happen outside ourselves – though these certainly do happen – but rather in our own hearts.

We are invited to open our hearts to God’s own life. The name of Jesus is given to us as the passkey, the way to God.

In the various devotions celebrated today in honor of Divine Mercy, we pray that through the gift of Eucharist – the body, blood, soul and divinity of God’s dearly beloved Son – God may have mercy on us and on the whole world.

There is a movement in the spiritual life: Suffering and death give way to resurrection and new life and communion with God and all the saints.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus opens to the rays of Divine Mercy that flow out into the world. The mercy and forgiveness and healing that we receive from Jesus are given to us so that we may go out to share the Gospel.

What is the sign that Jesus does for you? Do you have the eyes to see it? Is your heart open? Can you join Thomas, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist, and acknowledge that Jesus is your Lord and your God?

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of Columbus St. Timothy Church.

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**THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS**

**MONDAY**
- Acts 4:23-31
- Psalm 2:1-9
- John 3:1-8

**TUESDAY**
- Acts 4:32-37
- Psalm 93:1-2,5
- John 3:7-15

**WEDNESDAY**
- Acts 5:17-26
- Psalm 34:2-9
- John 3:16-21

**THURSDAY**
- Acts 5:27-33
- Psalm 34:2,9,17-20
- John 3:31-36

**FRIDAY**
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
- Psalm 19:2-5
- John 14:6-14

**SATURDAY**
- Acts 6:1-7
- Psalm 33:1-2,4-5,18-19
- John 6:16-21

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**DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: APRIL 28, 2019**

**SUNDAY MASS**
- 10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.
- Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus. and at www.stgabrielradio.com.
- Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).
- Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirectTV Channel 305).
- Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WLKB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

**DAILY MASS**
- 8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113 in Ada, Logan, Middlesburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville);
- 10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.
- We pray Week II, Seasonal Proper, Liturgy of the Hours.

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**Living ‘I Do’ – Weekly Marriage Tips**

Timing and wording mean the difference between a disagreement and a fight. Ask your spouse when the best time is to have a frank discussion, as well as how you can bring up hard topics. Think back to previous conflicts to discover what works with your spouse and what doesn’t. This is what it takes to learn the art of healthy, productive conflict.

Diocese of Columbus Marriage and Family Life Office

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**PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN**

(Never known to fail)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in necessity. Oh, star of the sea, help me and show me herein, you are my Heaven and Earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your powers. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to thee. (Repeat three times) Oh, Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hand. (Repeat three times) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads that I can obtain my goals. You gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and in all instances in my life, you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer three consecutive days, after three days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor has been granted. CTH
The Ratzinger diagnosis

George Weigel

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

Published a week short of his 92nd birthday, Joseph Ratzinger’s essay on the epidemiology of the clergy sex-abuse crisis vividly illustrated his still-unparalleled capacity to incinerate the brain circuits of various Catholic progressives.

The origins of the text written by the pope emeritus remain unclear: Did he initially write it to assist the bishops who met in Rome this past February to address the abuse crisis? But whatever its history, the Ratzinger diagnosis is well worth considering.

In Benedict XVI’s view, the Catholic crisis of clerical sexual abuse was, in the main, an ecclesiastical byproduct of the “sexual revolution”: a tsunami of cultural deconstruction that hit the Church in a moment of doctrinal and moral confusion, lax clerical discipline, poor seminary formation and weak episcopal oversight, all of which combined to produce many of the scandals with which we’re painfully familiar today.

This diagnosis does not explain everything about the abuse crisis, of course. It does not explain psychopaths like Marcial Maciel and Theodore McCarrick. It does not explain the abusive behavior by clergy and religious in pre-conciliar Ireland and Quebec. It does not explain the challenges the Church faces from clerical concubinage (and worse) in Africa today.

But Ratzinger’s epidemiology does address, pointedly, the sharp spike in clerical sexual abuse that began in the late 1960s and peaked in the 1980s, before the reforms of the priesthood and seminaries initiated by Pope John Paul II began to take hold.

As it happens, I have been making virtually the same argument since the publication of The Courage to Be Catholic: Crisis, Reform, and the Future of the Church in 2002.

There, I suggested that the clerical self-deception and duplicity that accompanied widespread dissent from Pope Paul VI’s 1968 encyclical on family planning, Humanae Vitae, created an environment in which abusive sexual behavior intensified.

Men who persuaded themselves that they need not believe or teach what the Church professed to be true (especially about the ethics of human love) were especially vulnerable to the tidal wave of the sexual revolution; and in short order intellectual duplicity led to behavioral duplicity and abuse. That seminaries were in intellectual and disciplinary meltdown in this same period compounded the crisis. So did Rome’s failure to promote ecclesiastical discipline in the face of blatant dissent.

It was, in brief, a perfect storm, one in which the dark forces that are always trying to destroy the Church and impede its evangelical mission could wreak terrible damage.

For this analysis, I was duly bludgeoned by a portside Catholic commentator that seemed locked into denial in 2002. Judging from the immediate, volatile and sometime vicious responses to Ratzinger’s memorandum from the same quarters two weeks ago, too many on the Catholic Left remain in denial about the link between doctrinal and moral dissent.

Thus, the pope emeritus was deemed senile by some, imprudent by others, and disloyal to his successor by the critics. One of these frothing pundits (many of whom are progressive ultramontanists for whom Pope Francis’s infallibility is virtually boundless) even went so far as to charge Benedict with being, in effect, a schismatic.

But did any of these critics engage Ratzinger’s argument? No. Did any of the critics offer a different, more plausible explanation for the spike in clerical sexual abuse that followed the penetration of the Church by the sexual revolution, the Humanae Vitae controversy, the breakdown of discipline in seminary formation, and the evolution of moral theologies that deconstructed the notion that some acts are always and everywhere wrong? No. As in 2002, there was lots of vitriol, but no serious alternative diagnosis was offered.

And as I’ve noted before, “clericalism” is not a serious explanation for the sin and crime of clerical sexual abuse. Clericalism facilitates abuse, in that abusers prey on those who rightly hold the priesthood in esteem. But “clericalism” does not explain sexual predation, which has other, deeper causes and is in fact a global plague.

The pope emeritus did the Church a service by offering a diagnosis of the abuse crisis that should be taken seriously by anyone serious about healing the wounds inflicted on the Body of Christ by the abuse of Holy Orders for wicked, self-indulgent purposes. Those who cannot or will not discuss the Ratzinger diagnosis with the seriousness it deserves thereby brand themselves as unserious about resolving the abuse crisis.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.
BROOKER, Ruth, 89, March 29
Holy Cross Church, Columbus

FLOWERS, Chad G., 40, April 18
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

HOLLAND, Francis J., 92, April 16
St. Patrick Church, London

HUNTER, Rebecca J. (Sutner), 76, April 19
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

KELLEHER, George F., 96, April 20
Holy Cross Cemetery Chapel, Pataskala

KETTLER, Rosemarie (Salway), 92, April 17
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

MAXWELL, James W., 83, April 14
St. Paul Church, Westerville

James J. Csaszar
Funeral Mass for James J. Csaszar, 69, who died Sunday, April 21, was celebrated on Thursday, April 25 at Columbus St. Anthony Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center.

He was born on Oct. 11, 1949, and was a former employee of the Diocese of Columbus finance office. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Bobbi; and son, Father James Csaszar. Survivors include his wife, Sharon; daughter, Jodi (Mike) Snider; brother, Joe (Annie); sisters, B and Lori (Peggy); and six grandchildren.

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Bishop Brennan prays for bombing victims in Sri Lanka


“We are deeply saddened by the sequence of bombings that took the lives of hundreds in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday,” Bishop Brennan said. “It is especially disheartening that many of these attacks were coordinated against Catholic churches during the holiest day of our faith, the day we all celebrate Jesus’ victory over death and his everlasting sacrifice for us. We offer our prayers to those who have died, their loved ones, and friends; we also pray that those who work to aid and assist those affected by these events remain safe.

“In the face of this tragedy, especially during this Easter season, it is important to remember that Christ is truly alive — always among us, encouraging us to follow his teachings, to find a higher path. At Easter Mass, we were asked to reject Satan and his power over us and learned Jesus’ life and resurrection proves death is not the final answer, that His truth is stronger than the powers of darkness. We all pray that Jesus’ message of eternal life, joy, and hope will sway and redeem those who embrace the inherent evil of these acts.”

Sri Lankan government officials on April 22 blamed the little-known Islamic group National Thowheeth Jama’ath for the bombings, which also were directed at three luxury hotels. Islamic State later claimed responsibility, but the claim could not be confirmed immediately. The multiple

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Diocese of Columbus Child Protection Plan

It is the goal of the Diocese of Columbus to make the Church a place of safety: a place of prayer, ministry and comfort. Everyone who enters our churches, schools, or facilities must be confident in this. Not one child or young person should suffer from abuse while at Church. In order to assure the safety of our youth, the Diocese of Columbus has enacted a complete program of protection. As part of this program, the Diocese of Columbus will provide appropriate, just, and pastoral care for anyone who has suffered the crime of sexual abuse of a minor at the hands of diocesan clergy or church employees or volunteers. The Diocese of Columbus will report any and all allegations of abuse reported to it to the authorities and will cooperate fully with those authorities.

Help is available: The Diocese of Columbus wants to hear from anyone who has suffered. If you wish to report an allegation of abuse or need pastoral and/or clinical care in order to begin or continue the process of healing from sexual abuse as a child at the hands of a member of the clergy or a church employee or volunteer, simply call the diocesan Victims’ Assistance Coordinator. You can find contact information at the bottom of this notice. If you wish to receive a copy of the diocesan complaint form or any of the diocesan policies and procedures, simply call the number below or visit the diocesan web site at www.coldsdioc.org

To contact the diocesan Victim’s Assistance Coordinator, call:

The Rev. Msgr. Stephan J. Moloney
614.224.2251 • helpisavailable@columbuscatholic.org

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See SRI LANKA, Page 18
HAPPENINGS

The Perfect Mother’s Day Gift! Send a needy newborn home from the hospital with a new layette 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 Janey Davies by May 2nd at jadavies1349@gmail.com, or go to the Christ Child Society of Columbus website christchildcolumbus.org.

Click on Layettes.

APRIL

26, FRIDAY
Frassati Society Board Game Night
7 p.m., Tabletop Game Cafe, 4316 N. High St., Columbus. Columbus. St. Patrick Church Frassati Society for young adults sponsors board game night. Cost $6. 614-224-0522

26-28, SATURDAY-
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA AT BLESSED SACRAMENT
3 p.m., Blessed Sacrament Church, 394 E. Main St., Newark. Novena of Divine Mercy, concluding on April 28 with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from end of 10:45 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m., when chapel will be recited, followed by Benediction. Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. 740-345-4290

DIVINE MERCY CHAPEL AT CHILICOTHE ST. PETER
3 p.m., St. Peter Church, 118 Church St., Chillicothe. Daily recital of Chaplet of Divine Mercy, concluding on April 28 with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from end of 11:30 a.m. Mass until singing of Chaplet, with procession and Benediction, at 3 p.m. Confessions heard from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. April 27. 740-774-1407

27, SATURDAY
LIFE AND MERCY MASS IN PLAIN CITY
9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession.
Back in His Arms Again Memorial Mass
1 p.m., Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Mausoleum, 9751 N. High St., Lewis Center. Memorial Mass sponsored by Back in His Arms Again ministry for families who are experiencing the loss of a child. 614-906-3115

27-28, SATURDAY-SUNDAY
OHIO DOMINICAN PRESENTS ‘THE TAXI CABARET’
7 p.m. Saturday, 4 p.m., Sunday, Mateesch Theater, Enskine Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. ODU Panther Players present The Taxi Cabaret, a drama about six people in their 20s in their first year in New York City. Cast: Adults: 30-59, Ages 15-18. Tickets: $12-

28, SUNDAY
PRAISE MASS AT CHURCH OF OUR LADY
11 a.m., Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Praise Mass with upbeat contemporary music. 614-861-1342

ST. PADRE PIO SECULAR FRANCISCANS
1 to 5 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 720 Hamlet St., Columbus. Fellowship and ongoing formation followed by adoration and prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, and initial formation with visitors. 614-282-4676

ST. CATHERINE OF BOLGIA SECULAR FRANCISCANS
2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 3813 E. Underwood Ave., Columbus. Prayers followed by ongoing formation, general meeting and fellowship. Visitors welcome. 614-895-7792

SEASONS OF HOPE BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY
2 to 4 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus. Fifth meeting of six-week support group sponsored by Seasons of Hope bereavement ministry for those who have lost a loved one, sponsored by North High Deanery. Contact rose.daiga@gmail.com.

ODU SENIOR ART EXHIBITION RECEPTION
2 to 4:30 p.m., Wehrle Gallery, Wehrle Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Opening reception for exhibition of art by seniors, which continues through Friday, June 14. 614-251-4453

CONCERTS IN A COUNTRY CHURCH
3 p.m., Colman of Cloyne Church, 219 S. North St., Washington Court House. “Playing With the Big Boys, Part 2” organ concert, with parochial music director Craig Jaynes performing solo organ works by major composers, plus some lighter fare. Free admission.

28, SATURDAY
LIFE AND MERCY MASS IN PLAIN CITY
7 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Marian devotion with Scriptural rosary, followed by Mass and monthly novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, with Father Ramon Ower, CFC. 614-891-0150

MAY

1. WEDNESDAY
DIVINE MERCY CHAPEL AT ST. PIUS X
6:30 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Chaplet of Divine Mercy. 614-886-2898

MARIAN DEVOTION AT ST. ELIZABETH
7 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Marian devotion with Scriptural rosary, followed by Mass and monthly novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, with Father Ramon Ower, CFC. 614-891-0150

2. THURSDAY
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL VISIT DAY AT ODU
8:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., Ohio Dominican University, 1215 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Catholic High School Visit Day for students from diocesan high schools featuring classroom visits, campus tours, student panel discussion, admissions information, group service project competition, Mass and lunch. 614-251-4500

RED MASS AT CATHOLIC

CENACLE AT HOLY NAME
6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacale format of the Marian Movement of Priests.

EUCHARISTIC HOILY HOUR AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
7 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 720 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour with the intention of deepened holiness and an increase in the virtue of fortitude for the Holy Father, bishops, and priests, concluding with Benediction, with social period and refreshments. 614-294-7702

2-5, THURSDAY-SUNDAY
CUM CHRISTO WEEKEND AT ST. JAMES THE LESS
Beginning 7:30 p.m. Thursday, St. James the Less Church, 1632 Oakland Park Ave., Columbus. Cum Christo weekend for women interested in setting aside daily activities to focus on their relationship with Christ. Details at https://cumchristo.org.

ST. CHARLES PRESENTS ‘SPELLEING BEE’
8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus. School’s drama department presents The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Tickets $10 adults, $5 students. 614-252-6714

3, FRIDAY
ST. CECILIA ADOPTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
9 a.m. to 8 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6898 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in the Tagalog language. 614-861-4888

LIFE AND MERCY MASS IN PLAIN CITY
9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession.
First Saturday Mass at Holy Family
9 a.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. First Saturday Mass for world peace and in reparation for blasphemies against the Virgin Mary. 614-240-5311

Lay Missionaries of Charity Day of Prayer
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 720 Hamlet St., Columbus. Monthly day of prayer for Columbus chapter of Lay Missionaries of Charity. 614-294-7702

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

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

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minders of the violence and the hatred that we commemorated a couple of days ago,” he said. “Just this morning, we hear of the bombing of Catholic churches in Sri Lanka and of so many lives taken.

“We see all kinds of attacks on human life and freedom of religion. Acts of hatred toward anyone – so unacceptable. And yet on this Easter morning, you and I come into this church boldly, unapologetically, to say ‘Indeed no, that is not the final answer. We reject Satan and all his works and all his empty promises. We believe in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We believe that Jesus is risen and doing great things among us. We believe that death is not the answer, but that He lives. And we believe that there is a power at work that is stronger than any other power that is in this world.’

“In the midst of darkness, or terror, or sadness, or hatred, we come in here and shout out, ‘Alleluia!’ Because He is risen, because He is among us. And His love, His mercy is stronger than any other power.”

**SRI LANKA, continued from Page 16**

bombings left more than 300 people dead and more than 500 injured.

“This great evil targeted these churches as they were packed full of worshippers who were celebrating Easter, the day in which Christians around the world celebrate the rising of the King of Peace from the dead,” Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston said on April 21.

He said the churches were St. Sebastian’s Catholic Church in Negombo, St. Anthony’s Catholic Shrine in Colombo, the nation’s capital, and Zion Church in the eastern city of Batticaloa, which is an evangelical church. The hotels that were attacked were the Shangri-La, Kingsbury and Cinnamon Grand, all in Colombo.

“We offer our prayers for the victims and their families. And we join with all people of goodwill in condemning these acts of terrorism,” Cardinal DiNardo said. “This evil cannot overcome the hope found in our Savior’s resurrection. May the God of hope, who has raised his Son, fill all hearts with the desire for peace.”

The majority of those killed and injured are believed to be Sri Lankan nationals, many of whom were attending church services. The government said those killed included at least 39 foreign nationals from the United States, United Kingdom, India, China, Japan, Australia, Turkey, Australia and other European nations.

At the Vatican, after his Easter blessing, Pope Francis expressed sadness concerning the bombings in Sri Lanka.

Terrorist attacks like those in Sri Lanka “are the acts of those who reject the sanctity of life, human rights and religious freedom,” Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, said on April 22. In addition to prayers, he said, the fraternal organization is sending $100,000 to Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith of Colombo to use “in the rebuilding and repair of his Christian community in the aftermath of this act of terrorism.”

Anderson said that “globally, it is well documented that Christians are the most persecuted religious group today. Now is the time for every country to take concrete steps to protect their minority populations, including Christians, and to stop this persecution and slaughter.”
The Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School drama department will present its spring musical production, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, at 8 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, May 2 to 4 and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 5 in the campus theater, 2010 E. Broad St. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students. Reservations may be placed by calling the St. Charles main office at (614) 252-6714 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cast members include Anna Turek, Jack Margiotta, Claire Ferguson, Donald Search, Michael Liss, Alexa Kreuzer, Avantae Gonzalez, Avery Valenta and Noah Kuhr.

This Tony Award-winning show features a quirky, yet charming cast of outsiders for whom a spelling bee is the one place where they can stand out and fit in at the same time. In the lighthearted one-act spoof, six students, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, learn that winning isn’t everything and that losing doesn’t necessarily make you a loser.

The Addams Family, like every other family, faces the spookiest nightmare of all: the kids are growing up! Daughter Wednesday is now 18 and ready to live her own life, while her parents, Gomez and Morticia, would be very happy to have life continue as it always has. Add brother Pugsley and a boyfriend for Wednesday and it’s sure to be one interesting family encounter.

Playing featured roles are John Pyles, Eva Freeman, Sandon Skuce, Dominic Tokar, Grace Larger, Olivia Chambers, Daniel Hamilton and Julianne Pece, with a cast of 15 “ancestors.” Tickets are $10 for adults, $9 for those 65 and older and $8 for children. For more information, call the school at (614) 276-5263.
The Red Mass

May 2, 2019
5:15 P.M.

Celebrant/Homilist:
Bishop Robert J. Brennan

Saint Joseph Cathedral

All are welcome