

The Catholic TIMES

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Dr. Raymond Sheridan selected as Catholic Man of the Year

Dr. Raymond Sheridan of Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church has been selected as the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club's 2020 diocesan Catholic Man of the Year.

Bishop Robert Brennan will present the award at the club's meeting after the 11:45 a.m. Mass on Friday, Feb. 7 at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave. A \$10 donation is requested to cover the cost of the luncheon.

In a nomination form for Sheridan, Our Lady of Perpetual Help parishioner Sandy Wagner described Sheridan as "a very selfless person who gives abundantly of his time, talent and treasure. He doesn't wait until he sees an opportunity to help another; he goes out looking for opportunities to help others."

Sheridan is a dentist who uses his profession to benefit people in the Grove City area and in other nations. At his office, he has voluntarily provided dental care to people in need. He also visits elementary schools which have many low-income students to teach dental hygiene and to provide packets containing a tooth-

brush, toothpaste and floss.

Each year, he spends a week in the Dominican Republic performing dental work for poor people. "His focus is to serve as many people as possible, as he works long hours during the week," Wagner wrote. "During that time, as he is offering free services, his practice back home takes a financial loss."

Sheridan also is among several Our Lady of Perpetual Help parishioners involved in Asia's Hope, a Columbus-based organization that provides family-style residential care for orphaned children at high risk of sexual and economic exploitation in Cambodia, Thailand and India.

The group has adopted a Cambodian orphanage and visits it each year, bringing gifts and building relations with the children.

Those gifts have included bicycles and mattresses for orphanage residents and a van to provide them with transportation. Sheridan also organized an outreach mission to a nearby village, providing 200 bags of rice from his own funds.

Sheridan has been active for the past



Dr. Raymond Sheridan

10 years with various parish men's ministries that meet early Saturday mornings. His work with these groups led to the founding

of a ministry known as Mary's Hands, through which he and other men of the parish deliver sandwiches and other items on Saturdays and Sundays to homeless people leaving a shelter and talk to them about ways they can be of assistance.

"Since some of the families are Muslim, Ray makes sure that he has sandwiches free from pork," parishioner Larry Murnane's nomination letter noted. "I believe this shows that Ray isn't doing what's convenient for him. He is doing what those in need

desire."

Sheridan is a member of the Knights of Columbus, helps during parish fish fries and regularly makes pilgrimages to sites such as Medjugorje and the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey. He is an enthusiastic defender of the faith in conversations with others who have questions about it.

His evangelization efforts include paying for everyone in his dental practice, regardless of religious belief, to attend a talk by Catholic author and speaker Chris Stefanick.

Sheridan, 63, is a graduate of Ohio State University's dental school. He and his wife, Debbie, have a son, Cory, attending the same school.

He was chosen for the award by a selection committee consisting of members of the Catholic Laymen's Retreat League, the Catholic Men's Ministry, the Serra Club, the Knights of Columbus and the luncheon club.

The club established the honor in 1957, awarding it to John Igoe of Columbus St. Agatha Church, and has presented it every year since then. The 2019 recipient was Frank Hartge of Columbus St. Patrick Church.

Local news and events

Diocesan Respect Life events set for Jan. 22 at Cathedral, Statehouse

The annual diocesan Respect Life Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, the 47th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion. The Catholic Church across the United States marks this day as a day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children.

After Mass, Greater Columbus Right to Life will conduct its annual *Roe* remembrance program at noon in the atrium of the Ohio Statehouse. Those attending this event are asked

to allow extra time for Statehouse security measures. Stickers, signs and weapons are not permitted inside the statehouse.

For more about the Mass, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or socialmailbox@columbuscatholic.org. Additional information about the *Roe* event is available at www.gcrl.org/roe.html.

The annual national March for Life in Washington will take place on Friday, Jan. 24. In addition, Catholics across the nation will join the bishops of the United States in a 9 Days for

Life novena from Tuesday, Jan. 21 to Wednesday, Jan. 29.

Bishop Brennan to celebrate Healing Mass on Jan. 20

Bishop Robert Brennan will celebrate the bimonthly Mass of healing and healing service at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20 in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.

The healing service will follow the Mass and include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, veneration of relics of the True Cross of Christ, and an opportunity for everyone present to speak individually with a priest

and have him say prayers of healing for what they seek. The sacrament of Anointing of the Sick also will be available. The service will close with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

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

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Front Page photo:
DEFENDING LIFE
Students from Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School's Irish4Life group pose for a picture at the 2019 March for Life in Washington, D.C. The school will send more than half of its student body again this year to the March. (Photo/Irish4Life)

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Bishop Robert J. Brennan: President & Publisher

Doug Bean: Editor (dbean@columbuscatholic.org)

Tim Puet: Reporter (tpuet@columbuscatholic.org)

K. Colston-Woodruff: Graphic Designer (kwoodruff@columbuscatholic.org)

Mailing Address: 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215

Editorial/Advertising: (614) 224-5195 FAX (614) 241-2518

Subscriptions: (614) 224-6530 FAX (614) 241-2573

(subscriptions@columbuscatholic.org)

St. Vincent de Paul thrift store opens on east side of Columbus



Bishop Robert Brennan blesses a crucifix that will hang in the new thrift store operated by the diocesan council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society on Columbus' east side. The crucifix is being held by Warren Wright, the council's president, with Father Charles Klinger, its spiritual adviser, saying the prayer of blessing at an opening ceremony on Monday, Jan. 13. The store, at a former TJ Maxx location in the Carnaby Center at 5969 E. Main St., has about 16,500 square feet of space filled with donated furniture, jewelry, new and used clothing, toys, household goods, books and other items. It is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Saturday. Planning for the store began in September 2018. Wright and store coordinators Bob and Deb Zabloudil said 21 truckloads of items were donated to get the store started. About half of those items are on display at the store. The rest are in storage and will become available as the displayed items are sold.

Photo by Jerry Freewalt, diocesan Office of Social Concerns

Ohio's First Lady visits JPII Preschool

The St. John Paul II Early Childhood Education Center in Columbus celebrated its first anniversary with a visit by Ohio's First Lady, Fran DeWine, on Tuesday, Jan. 7. She read the first book featured in the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library program, *The Little Engine That Could*, to the center's more than 20 students.

This program, similar to the reading initiative sponsored by Dolly Parton in Tennessee, helps promote literacy in young children and a love for learning through reading at home. It is being offered in 54 of Ohio's 88 counties and has a \$5 million budget. Promotion of literacy is close to DeWine's heart, since she and her husband, Gov. Mike DeWine, are the parents of eight children and grandparents of 24.

After reading the story, the First Lady toured the center and spent time with the children. Each child made her a card filled with stickers, drawings and warm wishes.

"What a treat it was to have Mrs. DeWine help us celebrate the school's first anniversary," said Jessica Schmitt, the parent of two St. John Paul II students. "My sons loved the story, and especially the thoughtful attention she gave the children as she patiently listened to everything they shared with her. We will remember this day for a long time."

"It was a day filled with many blessings, especially having the First Lady visit," said Sister Bozena Tyborowska, LSIC, director of the center. "The



Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine visits children at the St. John Paul II Preschool and Early Education Center. Photo by Jack Kustron, Ohio Development Services Agency

children loved the story time with her, but I could not help to notice the special attention she gave each one of them, and this brought so much joy to the parents and visitors. It was an unforgettable first anniversary."

The center is at 957 E. Broad St., just east of downtown, and is open to all children ages 3 to 5. Its primary educators are religious sisters from Poland who belong to the order of the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

"We specialize in preschools, since our founder believes this is where faith is established, where faith is enhanced. We have witnessed over the years that when you pass faith to young children with excellent academics in a loving and faith-filled environment, a great childhood is a gift of a lifetime," Sister Bozena said.



St. Charles Preparatory School THE DISTINCTIVE LEADER IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Experience "Cardinal Madness" on Jan. 20

St. Charles Preparatory School invites all young men in the fifth-eighth grades to join us for a Night of Cardinal Madness on Monday, Jan. 20. Meet new friends and future classmates as the evening begins at 6 p.m. in our Campus Theater's Cavello Center. Enjoy wings, sliders and refreshments before attending the St. Charles varsity basketball team's home game at 7 p.m. Parents, who are also welcome to join us, may wish to tour the school, meet other families and learn more about the St. Charles experience. There is no cost for the young men or their parents, but we ask that those attending register their attendance by e-mail at nkeyes@scprep.org.

St. Charles Academic Scholarship Test for Eighth-Grade Boys

St. Charles Preparatory School will offer its annual Academic Scholarship Test to prospective students at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 in the Robert C. Walter Student Commons on the school's campus (2010 E. Broad St.). The exam is open to any eighth-grade boy regardless of his current high school enrollment status. Test results determine which students will receive merit-based academic awards from the school for the 2020-2021 school year. For this 2019-2020 school year alone, St. Charles has offered more than \$400,000 in academic scholarships and grants to its students. St. Charles is an Ed Choice participating school and is committed to providing financial aid to qualified families. Anyone interested in sitting for the St. Charles scholarship test may register by calling the school office at (614) 252-6714 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday or online at www.stcharlesprep.org/8th-grade-scholarship-test.

We need to recover a sense of the sacredness of life

The beginning of the year always puts me in a reflective mood, carrying lessons learned from the experience of the past through a hope-filled present and allowing God to transform them into a brighter future. With all the evidence in, there seems to be an imbalance in the force.

2019 had something to tell about the dark side, and not just in the *Rise of Skywalker* movie. A database compiled by the Associated Press, *USA Today* and Northeastern University shows that there were more mass killings in the United States in 2019 than in any other year since such statistics have been compiled. We remember El Paso, Odessa, and Dayton, as well as the recent stabbing at a rabbi's home Hanukkah celebration in Monsey, New York. On the world stage, religiously motivated violence killed more than 320 people in the Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka, which involved three churches and five hotels. Shootings at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand left 49 dead. In Denmark and Sweden, neo-Nazi groups coordinated acts of vandalism on Nov. 10, placing yellow stars inscribed with the German word *Jude* (Jew) on Jewish gravestones, homes and businesses, the *Times of Israel* reported. In Nigeria on Christmas Eve, seven Christians were killed by Boko Haram. Two days later, the Islamic State West Africa Province released a video that showed the beheading of 10 Christians and the shooting of one Muslim in response to a U.S. raid that killed ISIS leaders in October. The lesson in the past year is this – we need to recover a sense of the sacredness of life and the dignity of the human person.

FAITH IN ACTION

Mark Huddy

Mark Huddy is the Episcopal Moderator for Catholic Charities and the Office for Social Concerns in the Diocese of Columbus.



January 1, 2020, the feast of Mary Mother of God, was the 52nd observance of the World Day of Peace, established by St. Paul VI in 1967. In this year's papal message, Pope Francis looked at peace as a journey of hope, dialogue, reconciliation and ecological conversion. He tells us that "Peace will not be obtained unless it is hoped for." Listening, dialogue and reconciliation are the tools we must use to counteract the fear and mistrust that are the enemies of peace. The Holy Father says, "The world does not need empty words but convinced witnesses, peacemakers who are open to a dialogue that rejects exclusion or manipulation ... convinced dialogue between men and women who seek the truth beyond ideologies and differing opinions. The path of reconciliation is a summons to discover in the depths of our heart the power of forgiveness and the capacity to acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters. When we learn to live in forgiveness, we grow in our capacity to become men and women of peace."

Now where does ecological conversion fit in. Pope Francis helps clarify: "The ecological conversion for which we are appealing will lead us to a new way of looking at life, as we consider the generosity of the Creator, who has given us the earth to share it in joy and moderation. This conversion must be understood in an integral way, as a transformation of how we relate to our sisters and brothers, to other living beings, to creation in all its rich variety, and to the Creator who is the origin and source of all life. For Christians, it requires that 'the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them.'"

So, perhaps amidst the New Year's resolutions about exercise and dieting, we would resolve this year to be intentional peacemakers. We could flex our spiritual muscles by listening to and dialoguing with those we disagree with on religion, politics or immigration policy. We could take seriously Pope Francis' last injunction in his message: "For the followers of Christ, this journey is likewise sustained by the sacrament of Reconciliation. ... This sacrament of the Church, which renews individuals and communities, bids us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who reconciled 'all things, whether on Earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.' It requires us to set aside every act of violence in thought, word and deed, whether against our neighbors or against God's creation. The grace of God our Father is bestowed as unconditional love. Having received forgiveness in Christ, we can set out to offer that peace (and that love) to men and women of our time."

Saints make great role models; what about parents?

By MaryBeth Eberhard

She walks into my room, a blanket trailing behind her, almost 12 years old. She leans in for a hug and her hair smells of a fresh bath.

"Mommy, I can't sleep."

I listen as she tells me she has been up for hours. Giving her a hug, I shoo her off to bed with words about trying again, my dear. But the Lord whispers in my heart, "This is a moment you must use."

Quietly I call her back, open my blankets, and we whisper together. I listen and then I teach:

"Have you tried a litany?"

"What's a litany again?" she asks. I remind her of the wedding we went to where the bride walked down the aisle to the Litany of the Saints, and the whole church was praying for their intercession for this couple. The Alphabet Litany, as I call it, is one I pray with my kids when they can't sleep. We name a saint for each letter of the alphabet. We stop wherever the spirit leads us to recount the life of a particular saint, a reminder of our friends in heaven praying for us. We

laugh quietly, so as to not wake daddy, when trying to find a saint for Q or X. The next morning, without fail, the kids have looked it up and found a new friend.

So we pray the Alphabet Litany and then I walk this sweet soul to bed. Whether I could remember each saint's story or just the name, I believe that my children see my desire to turn to our friends in heaven and seek their prayers.

Traditions. Culture. Beauty. These elements draw me back to the Catholic Church frequently. The Eucharist is a source of strength for me, and I have been working to bring that element back into our family life. But as a parent who wants to keep the faith alive, the depth of the Church is important to share. Moments like doing schoolwork, finishing chores, completing a job that you signed up for are opportunities to teach virtues. Perseverance and self-discipline are just two.

When my little ones lost patience, we would sit them on the stairs until they regained self-control. We talked about self-control, what it feels like

and why it is important. We would share a story of a saint who demonstrated the needed virtue. We use this strategy with our oldest children during late-night discussions about life choices and joyful and challenging moments.

I'm often tired. It takes energy to run this family. Lately, though, I've been running it on God's grace. On the days I stay in constant communication with the Lord, I am more patient. I seek His will in those moments. Sometimes I close my eyes and pray out loud. I've given up seeming crazy and am calling on Jesus through it all. My children see this.

Deacon James Keating once said saints are the crazy ones whom you see talking to themselves in the grocery store. While I am not a saint, I am striving because I want to be holy and I desire to be like Jesus. I am also striving because my vocation as a mother and wife is to lead by example. What my children see they will one day imitate. So I'm leading by example.

We persevere as parents even when our hearts are hurting when an older

child rejects a youthful tradition. We trust that seeds have been planted. We read the books, teach the prayers, listen to the podcasts and bring Jesus to our neighbor because it matters. These mustard seeds are images that, we hope, will ingrain in our children a sense of belonging, family, service and faith.

Post note: Ironically, my husband did bedtime recently so I could finish my writing. In that time, I had one son come to my room for a deep conversation about youth groups. Another son came in to tell me that dad was reading a comic book to his brother and now he never would get to hear his chapter. (I told him to have faith and ask for what he needed. If his father couldn't give that to him, I would.) A daughter came to give me hugs, and my oldest sat on my bed to "see what the plans were for tomorrow."

Thank you, Lord, for these opportunities to turn their hearts to your presence in their lives.

MaryBeth Eberhard writes about marriage, life experiences of a large family and special needs. She attends Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.

We need time with Our Lord to replenish and renew us

Have you ever felt as though you have just no more to give? Suddenly you find yourself uninspired, unmotivated and flat-out too tired to do anything. The activities, goals and challenges that seemed to call you in a special way now seem too heavy and burdensome to carry a step farther.

As leaders in parish stewardship, you not only come to know the joy in helping others find their gifts, but you also find meaning and purpose in living in your own strengths and using your own gifts to give glory to God and to help build up the body of Christ. Yet there are times we can find ourselves struggling to do what came so easily before. I have found these to be the times when I must pause from all my doings and goings and step back, breathe deeply and seek the One who gifted me.

A young woman approached her mentor and said, "I think I have lost my ability to write." Even though she gave a small chuckle after her statement, her mentor could tell that she was upset. Lynn had been writing a few paragraphs focusing on the concerns and interest of the young adults in the church for the parish's weekly bulletin. It had become a popular addition to the bulletin among the parishioners and everyone, young and old, looked forward to reading her stories on the third Sunday of every month.

She explained that she had been struggling to find the words to share for the past few months, but that

STEWARDSHIP, LIVING OUR FAITH

Andrea Pannell

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



this month in particular, she felt she had nothing to say. Her mentor looked at her and said, "Oh, that is just writers' block. This, too, shall pass." This gave Lynn no comfort.

What she once saw as being a gift from God felt more like a burden weighing heavily on her life. She began figuratively beating herself up and telling herself that she was just not trying hard enough and might need to discontinue contributing to the bulletin altogether.

We must remember that our stewardship is never reducible to a task in and of itself, no matter how gifted or confident we may feel doing it. Our confidence is not in the gift; in faith, we trust and gain confidence in the One who gave us the gift. Jesus Christ is God's greatest gift to each of us. Our stewardship, which motivates and encourages our generosity and the sharing of our time and talents, must

remain Christ-centered and not self-centered.

There are times when we are called to step back, let go, be still or just allow a deep exhale. But are we called to do nothing? Sometimes, yes, and most times, we are being encouraged to be attentive and prayerful and listen. Lynn took the next month and decided not to try so hard. She picked up her laptop and tapped away. This time, she did not try to write for the bulletin. She wrote a passionate letter to God, thanking him for being with her through her hardship and believing in his love and desire for goodness for her. A few days later, she went back to her laptop, read through her letter to God, then wrote her next piece for the bulletin.

We must remember that we cannot give away or share what we do not own for ourselves. We, too, must make room for time with Our Lord to replenish and renew us. We must take the time to rest in the Lord, never forgetting that as Christian stewards, we use our gifts for God's purpose.

The next time you feel stuck or are experiencing a block of some sort, look to the One who created and gave you your talent and called you to the task. God is the origin of life and source of all things. We are grateful for the talents and abilities we have been given and are eager to use them to show our love for God and for one another. Therefore, we look to Jesus to lead us and guide us in all aspects of our life.

Finding hope in God's transforming love

GRACE IN THE MOMENT

Mary Van Balen

Visit Mary van Balen's blog at <http://www.maryvanbalen.com/the-scallop>.



Not a response to something you did, such a look simply celebrates the reality of you. When experienced, you know its power to help you become your best self.

I carried the scripture's words around for another day and in the afternoon saw *It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, starring Tom Hanks as Fred Rogers. I was hesitant about an actor playing the iconic figure, but the story drew me in. I wasn't disappointed.

No spoilers here. I'll just say there was a lot in that movie about the power of being in the presence of love.

As the packed theater slowly emptied, I walked down the steps, stopping as a woman in front of me helped a much older one navigate her descent. The middle-aged woman guided her friend to a walker that was sitting behind a row of seats at floor level.

"Go ahead," she said to me, "This will take a

while."

"That's OK," I replied. "I'm not in a hurry."

She smiled. "Well, how could you not be kind after watching that movie?" I nodded. "Fred Rogers is the closest person to Jesus Christ I've ever seen," she said.

Her comments mingled with the words of St. John: *How could you not be kind after seeing that movie? Watching someone truly seeing, accepting, loving ... it changes us. If seeing a movie could make folks a bit kinder, what happens when one "sees" God as God truly is?*

And wasn't watching the story of Fred Rogers caring about others also seeing a bit of God – God who lives and works in and through us? Isn't that what we've been celebrating this Christmas season: the ongoing incarnation and our call to participate in it?

We become more like God the more we see God, the more God's love moves through us. That's where hope rests: in God's transforming love.

The first letter of St. John is full of reminders that we are called to love, that we cannot hate others and love God at the same time, that it isn't enough to believe in the Christ. Our actions must mirror those of Jesus.

However we participate with it, however we speak truth to power, however we look at others with love and acceptance, we are participating in the work of healing and salvation. Hope is trusting God to make it enough.

People long for hope, for peace, for cooperation. While some are bent on stirring up distrust and spreading fear based on dividing the world into "us" and "them," most of humankind is looking for a better way in 2020.

Many people I talked with during the holidays desire an end to such divisiveness. Some Christmas cards I received included handwritten notes expressing that hope. How do we get there in the midst of issues facing us today? I don't know. Looking at the big picture, I'm often at a loss.

I turned to the Scriptures, reading through the *Lectionary's* January passages. One line from the first letter of St. John made me stop, not because it inspired, but because I didn't understand what it was saying: "Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed, we shall be like God, for we shall see God as God is."

How can we become like God just by seeing the Holy One? I pulled commentaries off the shelf. Not much help.

So I sat with it. I didn't try to figure them out, just let the words sink in. That night, I wrote in my journal:

Slowly, God's gaze draws forth in our souls the reflection of God that we are. Resting in that Presence, we become aware of the Holy One looking at us with love and recognition of God's heart within our own.

I thought of loving looks from people in my life.

Confession once a year?; Is incense harmful to health?

QUESTION & ANSWER

Father Kenneth Doyle

Catholic News Service



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

QIn one of your recent columns, you stated: "Strictly speaking, one is obliged to go to the sacrament of penance only for serious sins – although it is certainly a good idea to confess regularly even for lesser sins and imperfections."

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, however (No. 1457), that all Catholics should go to confession at least once a year. If this is actually a precept of the church, my understanding is that all of the precepts must be obeyed under penalty of mortal sin. Can you explain your position on this and why it differs from the catechism – or was it just an oversight? (Indianapolis)

AI stand by my recent answer, and it is consistent with Catholic teaching. The section to which you refer (No. 1457) in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, referencing the church's *Code of Canon Law*, actually says this: "After having attained the age of discretion, each of the faithful is bound by an obligation faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year."

Again, though, I make a plea for much more frequent confession, even for venial sins. The introduction to the church's rite of penance states, "Frequent and careful celebration of this sacrament is also very useful as a remedy for venial sins. This is not a mere ritual repetition or psychological exercise, but a serious striving to perfect the grace of

baptism so that ... his (Christ's) life may be seen in us ever more clearly."

QSince it is now known that incense is medically harmful – causing asthma, contact dermatitis and lung cancer – why does the church continue to use it? I am severely asthmatic and a fairly large number of our elderly parishioners are oxygen-dependent. Our pastor will not make concessions, which means that a number of us have no way of attending Mass. (Oregon)

AAt least once a year, someone submits a question to this column about the potential for health hazards caused by the use of incense in church – or at least raises the complaint that it is bothersome to the writer personally. The frequency

of the question inclines me to think this issue merits a serious study – perhaps outsourced by the church to medical authorities.

Incense, an aromatic substance made from the resin of certain trees, has been used in religious rites as far back as the 15th century BC in Egypt. Its use was common in Jewish worship and was carried over into Christian practice, where the smoke of the incense has been viewed as a symbol of the prayers of worshippers rising to heaven.

A *U.S. News & World Report* article in 2008 made note of a study that linked long-term incense exposure to an increased risk of respiratory cancer, and I uncovered one reference to an Environmental Protection Agency concern about the nexus between incense smoke and lung inflammation.

But I would think more research needs to be done for a link between the occasional use of church incense and medical problems to be established definitively. I do remember a 2014 Catholic News Service story in which the Allentown Diocese in Pennsylvania suggested the use of a certain hypoallergenic incense to prevent worshippers from developing headaches or breathing problems.

All of which leads me to recommend that a pastor be especially solicitous to parishioners' concerns: Incense is not mandated by the church at any particular Mass, and why make it harder for people to come to church?

The Two Popes: baloney, brilliantly acted

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel



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

of his ego and jumps off!"

In the main, however, scriptwriter and director trade in stick-figures, however fetching the portrayal of those cartoons by two actors of genius.

Alas, one-dimensional portrayals of popes have been the journalistic and pop-cultural standard ever since the pseudonymous "Xavier Rynne," writing in *The New Yorker*, created the liberal/conservative template for everything Catholic during the Second Vatican Council.

Thus it's even more to the credit of Hopkins and Pryce that they bring a cartoon Benedict XVI and a cartoon Francis to vibrant life in *The Two Popes*. What ought not go unremarked, however, are the film's grave misrepresentations of the dynamics at work in the conclaves of 2005 and 2013.

The script suggests that Joseph Ratzinger wanted to be pope in 2005 and maneuvered before and during the conclave to achieve his ambition. That is rubbish. As I thought I had demonstrated in *God's Choice*, my book on the papal transition of 2005, Cardinal Ratzinger actively resisted the efforts of his many admirers to promote his candidacy during the interregnum, saying, "I am not a man of governo (governance)." His friends responded

that he should leave matters to the Holy Spirit, and Ratzinger – who had tried to retire three times under John Paul II and who wanted nothing more than to return to Bavaria and pick up the threads of his scholarly life – acceded to their wishes and to what he believed was God's will. There was no ambition in this. On the contrary, there was a touching display of self-knowledge, spiritual detachment and churchmanship.

As for 2013, *The Two Popes* suggests that a "reformist" current, frustrated at the conclave of 2005, persuaded the cardinal-electors of 2013 that the Church needed a decisive shift from the magisterium of John Paul II and Benedict XVI to catch up with "the world." That, too, is rubbish. There was no such consensus among the cardinal-electors in 2013. There was, however, broad agreement that the New Evangelization was being seriously impeded by financial and other corruptions in the Vatican, which had to be vigorously addressed in a new pontificate. And the proponents of Cardinal Bergoglio's candidacy presented him in precisely those terms – as a tough-minded, no-nonsense reformer who would quickly and decisively clean house. That presentation, reinforced by the Argentine prelate's Christocentric and evangelically oriented intervention in the general congregation of cardinals before the conclave's voting began, was the key to Pope Francis' election. The notion that Francis was elected to upset the magisterium of John Paul II and Benedict XVI is sheer invention, at least to those who knew what was actually afoot in 2013.

Is there motive here in advancing this fake-news account of Conclave 2013? Some undoubtedly will find one. I'm content to clarify the historical record.

I first met Pope Emeritus Benedict in June 1988. During the next three decades, I've enjoyed many lengthy conversations and interviews with him, including a bracing discussion covering many topics last Oct. 19. I first met Pope Francis in Buenos Aires in May 1982 and have been in three private audiences with him since his election as successor of Peter. Before, during and after the conclaves of 2005 and 2013, I was deeply engaged in Rome, where my work included extensive discussions with cardinal-electors before each conclave and after the white smoke went up. On both occasions, I correctly predicted to my NBC colleagues the man who would be elected and, in 2013, the day the election would occur.

Thus credentialed, I take up the movie critic's mantle and say without hesitation that, as history, the Netflix film *The Two Popes* is baloney on steroids. It's brilliantly acted, sometimes amusing and occasionally moving. But despite its claim to be "based on actual events," *The Two Popes* no more reflects the history through which I lived and men I've personally known than does *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*.

The script offers several coruscating moments, perhaps more revealing of the two key personalities than screenwriter Anthony McCarten or director Fernando Meirelles realize. Thus Anthony Hopkins nicely captures Joseph Ratzinger's dry sense of humor when the cinematic Benedict XVI remarks to Jonathan Pryce as Cardinal Bergoglio, "It's a German joke; it's not supposed to be funny." And then there's Pryce/Bergoglio's smiling riposte to a grumpy Benedict, who accuses the archbishop of Buenos Aires of egotism: "Do you know how an Argentinian commits suicide? He climbs to the top

Holy Rosary-St. John to commemorate MLK Day

Father Charles Smith, SVD, will be the featured speaker at the annual Martin Luther King Day celebration of Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 660 S. Ohio Ave., from noon to 1:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20.

Father Smith and his twin brother, Father Chester Smith, SVD, are co-directors of the Bowman Francis Ministry, which provides religious education and evangelization to the African American Catholic community. Some of its programs include rites of passage, revivals, workshops, school rallies, lectures, counseling, and specialized ministries of jail and hospital chaplaincy.

He also is co-founder and director of Ambassadors of the Word Ministries, a program that educates African American young people about how to share

their knowledge, culture, faith and skills with other youth.

Father Smith works full time as a chaplain at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Indianapolis and is Midwest district superior for the Society of the Divine Word missionaries.

Holy Rosary-St. John has been honoring Martin Luther King Day every year since the holiday was established in 1986, making its celebration the oldest such event in Columbus. Vernon Hairston will direct the parish gospel choir, and artists from the community will be display their work.

For additional information, send an email to hrsjevents@gmail.com or call (614) 252-5926, extension 7.



MARIA CECELIA VILLA

Congratulations on your retirement and thank you for 17 years of dedicated service at the Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in the Diocese of Columbus. You were a tireless worker who did virtually everything at the center. May God continue to bless you.

MUSIC DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Marysville, Ohio is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Director of Music. A Bachelor of Music degree and excellent piano and organ skills are required for this fulltime (30-40 hours/week) position.

The ideal candidate will have a vision of working with the Pastor to grow and maintain a music program for all Catholic liturgies and musical events including, but not limited to: directing the adult choir, children's choir, vacation bible school music program, concert and seasonal event series.

Qualified applicants must be highly organized and detailed, possess a friendly demeanor, and be enthusiastic to work with a vibrant staff of a busy and growing parish.

Successful compliance with the mandatory background screening and VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" program must be completed prior to beginning the role of Music Director.

Applications will be accepted until Monday, February 3, 2020. To apply, send resume with references to:

Fr. Kevin Kavanagh
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
1033 W. 5th Street
Marysville, Ohio 43040 or Email: olol.marysville@rrohio.com

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Lancaster Ohio is seeking a full-time Parish Administrator. This is a salaried position.

The Administrator will have a close working relationship with the Pastor. This position requires management skills, flexibility, the ability to multi-task and set priorities. The position also requires moving about the parish facilities, including the cemetery.

Job Requirement / Education / Training / Experience / Responsibilities (not limited to):

- Bachelor's Degree
- 2 – 5 years Administrative/Financial experience (preferred but not mandatory)
- Supervision of parish staff (Supervisory experience preferred)
- Must be familiar with and competent MS Office (Word, Excel)
- Ability to communicate effectively and project a positive image
- Ability to work well with others
- Attend parish meetings as necessary (including some evenings)
- Maintain all information in a highly confidential manner
- Schedule and coordinate maintenance for the parish facilities
- Oversee the operations of St. Mary Cemetery
- Practicing Catholic

Offer of position is contingent upon successful completion of a mandatory background screening and the VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" program. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. We offer a full complement of benefits, including health, dental, vision, life, short & long-term disability, and matching 403(b). Benefits are according to Diocesan policy.

A copy of the job description is available upon request. Resumes and three (3) references, both personal and professional, may be e-mailed to jogilvie@stmarylancaster.org no later than February 14, 2020.



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.colsdioc.org

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

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

Parish ministry reaches out to inactive members, invites them to return

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

St. Luke notes in the 10th chapter of his Gospel that as Jesus prepared to leave Galilee for his final journey to Jerusalem, he appointed 72 disciples to go out in pairs and proclaim to the people of the places he intended to visit that the Kingdom of God was at hand.

Deacon Carl Calcara of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church is leading a ministry dedicated to following that example, with modern-day disciples ministering in pairs to inactive Catholics, learning what has drawn them away from the Church and encouraging them to resume active participation in the faith.

Deacon Calcara calls his ministry The Mission of the 72 because he feels God led him to the passage from Luke about commissioning disciples, which was the Gospel reading for Thursday, Oct. 1, 2015, the Feast of St. Therese, the Little Flower.

“Coming to that reading was the end of a remarkable few days,” he said. “It started the preceding Sunday, Sept. 27. I was in Philadelphia that day distributing communion to some of the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims who had gathered along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway to watch big TV screens showing Pope Francis celebrating Mass in front of the Philadelphia Art Museum.

“That was a remarkable, unforgettable experience which also gave me the chance to assist Father David Sizemore, who was pastor here at the time, with a Mass at the (National) Shrine of St. John Neumann in Philadelphia.” The Sunbury parish’s patron saint served as bishop of Philadelphia from 1852 until his death in 1860.

“I was still feeling the impact of that experience two days later when I was leading Tuesday night Eucharistic Adoration at the parish,” Deacon Calcara said. “I had just finished Evening Prayer and was sitting in a pew and meditating when I felt the presence of Our Lord. He said, ‘I want you to reach out to inactive Catholics, go to their homes in groups of two, proclaim the Good News and tell them the Kingdom of God is at hand. Don’t be afraid if they reject you, because I am with you.’

“After this happened, I asked myself whether God was really calling me or whether this was my own thought. The next evening at dinner, I talked to my wife, Gloria, about this. She said that when I went to Adora-

tion the next day, I should see if God would talk to me again or give me a sign. While praying the next day (Oct. 1), I came to the day’s Gospel, and it was about the disciples being called.

“At that point, I said, ‘OK, Lord, I get what you’re trying to tell me.’ I went to Father Dave and told him what happened, and he told me to go ahead and start what’s turned into this ministry.” Father Sizemore gave strong support to the ministry until he was transferred to Newark St. Francis de Sales Church in mid-2017, and that support has continued under Father Paul Noble, his successor as pastor.

“Reaching out to bring Catholics back to the faith needs to be personal, with individual disciples engaging them directly with an opportunity to encounter Christ,” Deacon Calcara said. “We have some great ministries that work to bring a few back, but there are so many inactive Catholics we never will reach all of them unless we ask them one-on-one to come back to the Church.”

He cited statistics published in 2018 by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate indicating that 21.1 percent of people in the United States who consider themselves to be Catholic attend Mass weekly. Figures for Europe are even lower.

Deacon Calcara said that once Father Sizemore approved his proposed ministry, it took about a year to determine the number of families who were registered as parish members but had no active involvement with the parish and to form a plan for reaching out to them.

During that time, those who were invited to serve as missionaries for the program were chosen, in cooperation with the pastor and the parish evangelization team. The ministry currently has eight participants.

“The ministry’s first step to reaching out to parishioners is a phone call,” Deacon Calcara said. “If someone answers, the caller identifies himself or herself, explains that this is a parish outreach and asks the person being called what his or her experience with the parish has



Deacon Carl Calcara distributes Communion in Philadelphia during Pope Francis' 2015 visit to the city. Photo/Deacon Carl Calcara

been. Depending on the response, we talk about what’s going on in the parish and ask if we could set up a time to meet with the person or invite him or her to call us with any questions.

“We get into all kinds of conversations. People recognize why you call. Some say they want to get back to church. Others say they have God in their lives and don’t need a formal religion. We know a lot of people don’t answer their phone these days because they’re tired of robocalls. If someone doesn’t answer, we leave a message, then try again a few days later. If there’s still no response, we follow up with an email to the parishioner, relaying the same message as the phone calls, if that person has an email address listed in our records,” he said.

“Whether we receive a response or not, we mail that person materials including a copy of the U.S. bishops’ pocket-size book of the Gospels, a current parish bulletin, a magnet with parish Mass times and other information, and a pamphlet issued by *Our Sunday Visitor* about the Mass.

“The package also includes a blank card saying ‘Bless You’ on the outside, with a handwritten message saying the writer is praying for the person, and a business card so the person can contact me or whoever sent the package. If there is still no response after about a year, we resume the cycle of phone calls, email and a mailing.”

Deacon Calcara said there was some concern about whether people might be offended by the mailings, but that proved to be unfounded. “We’ve sent out about 300 mailings, but only one was sent back to us unaccepted,” he said.

He realizes that it will take some time to determine the impact of The

Mission of the 72’s efforts. “It’s not something where the results can be tracked quickly,” he said. “Some of the people we’ve contacted have resumed regular church attendance. Others have been spotted at a Mass, or we encounter some people out in the everyday world.

“The most important thing about this ministry is that it is a personal effort making the attempt to call back the lost sheep one at a time in the image of Jesus the Good Shepherd. It plants the seed of faith in inactive Catholics and gets them to at least think about returning to the Church.

“It probably took some time for them to leave the Church, and it may take years and the influence of the Holy Spirit for some of them to become active Catholics. The important thing is never giving up on anyone, because Jesus never gives up on us.”

Deacon Calcara said that once or twice a year, he preaches a homily on the parable of the Good Shepherd. In connection with that homily last fall, he had cards printed on one side with the Good Shepherd image and on the other with suggestions on how to start a conversation with inactive Catholics and invite them to return to the Church. About 2,000 cards were placed in the pews at St. John Neumann Church, and several hundred were picked up.

“This was designed to empower the people in the pews to be disciples,” he said. “Every one of us knows people who have drifted away from the Church, and all of us can reach out to them.”

Deacon Calcara said he knows of no other parish in the Diocese of Columbus conducting this specific type of outreach and is eager to have more parishes take part in similar efforts. A workshop he conducted last fall at his parish about the program was attended by about 300 people representing 16 parishes in the Columbus area and in communities ranging from Ada in the northwest to Zoar in the northeast and Chillicothe in the south.

“I want to spread this ministry as far as I can,” he said. “Bishop Brennan has given me permission to do a grassroots effort, and I invite all parishes to join me. I didn’t come up with this idea, for there’s no way I’d have thought of something of this magnitude. God came to me with this mission, and my role is to do as he has commanded me, as Jesus’ original 72 disciples did. I know God is with me, and any success that results from this ministry is not mine but his.”

Abortion trauma leaves women in need of one-on-one help

By Tim Welsh
Executive Director,
Bethesda Healing Ministry

It seems as though everybody I know has been touched by abortion in one way or another. Nearly every day, someone approaches me about the sorrow he or she has experienced because of an abortion in the past.

Even though my experience is anecdotal, if one does the math and extrapolates from the number of abortions performed on women in central Ohio since 1973, there are thousands of women here who are struggling through life because of their abortion experience.

So as a caring, pro-life community, what are we to do? Certainly in the big picture, we need to pass pro-life legislation, elect pro-life legislators, educate the public about the genuine implications of abortion. But what about the one-on-one encounter with someone who needs help because of the misery resulting from an abortion experience? What then?

For whatever it's worth, here are eight suggestions for what to do (and what not to do).

Be available. There is a profound loneliness resulting from post-abortion stress, and your friend needs you. The woman who is struggling with an abortion decision of the past probably will think that there is no other person



on earth that she can talk to. Prove her wrong. Be that person.

Listen. Allow for her expression of grief and be open to accompanying her on the journey – not to lead, but to serve. Don't push. She may share feelings with you that shock you. It's not for you to judge her. That's way above your pay grade.

Understand that you won't understand. Post-abortion stress and trauma is a very complex, fragile medley of emotions and psychology. Find pleasure in just being there; there are things that you're not meant to understand.

This may take a while. Be consistent, reliable and patient. Comiserate without pity; give comfort without insincerity. She needs you to participate in her pain, but not contribute to it. Things may not be OK for a while.

Inspire. This isn't about you. It's about her. She needs you to

hear her story, not hear you tell yours. She'll get more out of your charity and kindness than anything you say. Love her. She'll notice.

Encourage. When she's ready, she'll seek professional help. Plant the seed early and often without being overbearing.

Be honest. Truth is vital, but truth without love is unbearable. Tell her the truth in love.

Pray. Pray with her and for her. Hold her hand (literally) and pray out loud for her. Pray for her at every Mass you attend. Pray together. There is no healing without God. None.

The abortion experience, far from the panacea that its advocates pretend it is, has been a scourge on America the likes of which never have been seen. Beyond the political, cultural, economic havoc it has inflicted, it has left millions of women and men in its disastrous wake.

Women spend years reeling from their abortion experience wondering what hit them. They don't understand why there is a distance between their spouse and them. They can't bring themselves to be truly joyful. They limp through life in a subtle, exhaustive numbness that bewilders them.

Some look for answers in drugs or alcohol; others look for peace in other addictions. Still others

strive for a personal perfection that always eludes them. Most don't realize for decades that the genesis of their anguish is their abortion experience. That's when they need us most.

Bethesda Healing Ministry is a Catholic ministry of hospitality and healing. Through a community of love and acceptance, all women and men suffering the effects of an abortion are welcomed and supported on their journey or healing and reconciliation.

In the 26 years since its founding, Bethesda has helped thousands of women regain their peace, self-respect and relationship with God. Through prayerful participation in communal exploration, many have re-found their beauty and dignity.

If you or anyone you know are struggling with a past abortion experience, please call (or have them call) the confidential help line of Bethesda Healing Ministry at (614) 309-0157. A loving and caring advocate who understands is waiting to speak with you.

As a pro-life community in central Ohio, we have an obligation to help those who have been victimized by an insidious abortion industry. We are obligated to help those in need in a very personal, significant way.

One on one.
You and me.

Bottoms Up grows rapidly to help meet enormous need for diapers

When Tim Welsh started the Bottoms Up diaper drive, he knew it would grow into something really big. He just didn't know how fast it would grow.

Bottoms Up incorporated in October 2018 and in 15 months, the organization has grown from distributing a few hundred diapers per month to more than 24,000 per month.

Bottoms Up distributes diapers through partnerships with food pantries, child care facilities and pregnancy centers – a distribution channel that grows every month. It now has partnerships with 35 agencies in three counties.

"The growth has been amazing and I don't expect it to slow down anytime soon," Welsh said.

In fact, even though the organization owns a cargo van to transport the tens of thousands of diapers it transports, Welsh thinks the organization needs another, smaller delivery vehicle.

"A lot of the deliveries we do are to smaller food pantries and it doesn't make sense to use the

big van for the smaller deliveries," he said.

The organization grew so fast that in February, he enlisted his wife, Jo, to take over operations of Bottoms Up. He is also the executive director of Bethesda Healing Ministry.

Jo Welsh has been thrilled to be a part of such a needed effort.

"We did some elementary math about diaper need, and the need in Franklin County alone is unbelievable," she said. "We calculated the number of births in Franklin County that will be born into poverty and factored in the number of diapers a child uses in a day, and it all boiled down to a need approaching eight million diapers. It's overwhelming."

The numbers don't deter her.

"If you know my husband, you know he likes to think big and think with imagination," she said. "We will find a way to meet the need."

In 2019, the number of diapers supplied per month to food pantries and child care facilities by Bottoms Up grew 8 fold.



Large Fisher Catholic group will be among March for Life attendees

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

LANCASTER, Ohio — Visitors to Fisher Catholic High School next Thursday and Friday will wonder where most of the students have gone.

Desks in many classrooms will sit empty, and the halls will be much quieter than normal.

More than half of the student body will be absent, but not because a flu epidemic is wreaking havoc or the kids are skipping school. There's a good reason they won't be there.

Nearly 100 of the 164 students in grades nine-12 will be in Washington, D.C., to participate in the annual March for Life on Friday, Jan. 24. They're part of the Irish4Life club, taken from the school's nickname, that meets twice monthly during the academic year and engages in various activities to support and defend human life at all stages.

It's a staggering number of young people from a small Catholic school who will take part in an annual journey to the nation's capital, where they will join hundreds of thousands of other people of all ages from throughout the United States and other countries to stand up for the unborn.

"This is the third Catholic school that I've been a part of as an adult," said Jim Globokar, who is in his second year as Fisher Catholic principal, "and we didn't have anything like this at the other schools. The commitment these kids and their families have for

life and making a difference is above and beyond.

"It's so important to this community. We should almost cancel school."

Joining the event

Students from a number of Catholic schools in the diocese will be participating in the March for Life in Washington on Jan. 24 or attending the Respect Life Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral in downtown Columbus and the Roe Remembrance event at the Ohio Statehouse on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

Bishop Robert Brennan will celebrate the Respect Life Mass at the Cathedral and then travel to Washington to join students, chaperones and Father Stash Dailey from Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School in Washington for the March for Life. Father Dailey, the pastor at Columbus Holy Family Church, is a DeSales graduate.

Others going to Washington include contingents from Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School, Worthington St. Michael School, Dennison Immaculate Conception School and Columbus St. Catharine School.

Students from Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, Newark Catholic High School (along with Newark Blessed Sacrament and St. Francis de Sales elementaries) and New Lexington St. Rose School will accompany groups from other schools or parish organizations.

Seminarians from the Pontifical College Josephinum as well as organizations and individuals from parish-



Fisher Catholic's freshman class won a school-wide competition by raising the most money in Pregnancy Decision Health Centers' Baby Bottle campaign. Students presented a check for \$1,254.16 to Anna Dillon, PDHC's community outreach coordinator.

es throughout the diocese also will be on hand for the national march.

Participating in the Respect Life Mass at the cathedral and/or the Roe Remembrance will be students from Columbus Bishop Watterson High School, Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, Columbus St. Cecilia School, Trinity School, St. Michael, DeSales, Hartley and others. Faculty and staff from various schools also are expected to attend either the march in Washington or the Columbus events.

At Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul, an all-school Respect Life Mass is planned for Jan. 22.

Prompting the effort

The March for Life began in 1974, one year after the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade ruling that made abortion legal in all 50 states. Every year since then, the march has been held in Washington close to the Jan. 22, 1973, anniversary of the landmark decision. The march has grown exponentially in 45 years from a few hundred to as many as an estimated 650,000 marchers in 2013.

Others marches and events like the two that will take place in Columbus have sprung up throughout the world. The largest march in the Midwest occurred this past Saturday in Chicago, where thousands braved inclement weather for a rally in a state that passed legislation in 2019 to give women expanded access to abortion.

Students, staff and chaperones from Fisher Catholic began attending the

national March for Life in Washington in the early 2000s. The Irish4Life club, formed as an outgrowth of the annual trip to D.C., currently counts 93 students as members.

Other Catholic schools offer similar clubs, but the percentage of student involvement at Fisher Catholic might be unrivaled nationally.

"That's an astounding number," said Kristi Hamrick of Students for Life of America, a national organization that launches and supports pro-life groups from the college- to middle-school level. "That really speaks volumes to the commitment of these students and the school."

Visiting the capital

The Fisher Catholic group will be joined at the march by Father Ty Tomson, who teaches theology at the school and serves as pastor at Lancaster St. Bernadette and Bremen St. Mary churches. He's also the chaplain for Irish4Life and the school.

Father Tomson has worked with other pro-life groups in previous priestly assignments but "not anywhere close to this degree," he said. "And we owe that to those who have worked so hard for so long to build it up and make it an institution at the school. That's from their good leadership and good participation of the community. We have parents who are so amazing. The faith of this area, the support is fantastic."

The Fisher Catholic contingent of



Fisher Catholic students (from left) Nick Krooner, Anastacia Viau and Alex Smith form part of a Life Chain on Memorial Drive in Lancaster during Respect Life Month in October.

FISHER CATHOLIC, *continued from Page 10*

Irish4Life members (from left) Sam Gundelfinger, Isabelle Gentile, Abbey Krile and Anna Tencza offer free cupcakes to students at the high school in October on National Pro-Life Cupcake Day.

98 people will leave in two buses after school on Wednesday, Jan. 22 for Washington. In addition to the March for Life and the Life Expo (which features exhibits by pro-life organizations and ministries), the group will visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and some monuments on the National Mall. On Friday morning, they'll go to Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle before beginning the march.

"This is truly a trip the kids look forward to every year," Globokar said. "It's not just the march. The Holocaust museum – that will hit them hard. This is real life. It isn't just in history books."

"It's all about protecting life. I think the museum is a wonderful example of what not to do – how in the past people did not protect life. All human life is sacred from the womb."

Having the experience

Father Tomson began attending the March for Life as a seminarian and has returned on numerous occasions with groups from the diocese. This will be his second time with the Fisher Catholic students.

"Just having the experience ... there's nothing that can replace that experience," he said. "It has a magnetic effect, and you're drawn into it, not just intellectually but experientially."

"It's so formative for Catholic identity. The pro-life issue is one thing.

It's not just a Catholic event. There are people of goodwill out there, and I think it's important to experience that."

Irish4Life club members aren't required to go to the March for Life. Father Tomson believes it's important for the students to make the decision to attend on their own.

But they do have to help raise money to make the trip possible. Every year, the club designs and sells Irish4Life apparel for a sale. Additional funds are earned through pancake breakfasts at each of Lancaster's three parishes – St. Mary of the Assumption, St. Mark and St. Bernadette.

"They have to come forward," Father Tomson said. "It's not just another thing we have to do. It's important to us, and we're willing to sacrifice a lot for it."

Putting faith into practice

The march provides a real-life field laboratory where young people can see faith being put into action in a peaceful, profound way.

"It's not just an intellectual conviction, but it gets put into practice," Father Tomson said. "Anything we can do to put our faith into practice is super important. I teach theology, but it's better to let them experience things. Those lessons stick forever."

Kristin Garrabrant, a Fisher Catholic graduate, began serving as the group's moderator this year. Traditionally, the club met from September through January, but she extended the twice-monthly meetings through April to provide additional opportu-



Serving as Irish4Life club officers during the 2019-20 school year are (from left) senior Sam Gundelfinger, president; senior Lucy Reed, secretary; and junior Aiden Jackson, vice president.

Photos courtesy Irish4Life club

nities for education and service to the pro-life community at large.

"I am passionate about educating our Fisher Catholic students so that their minds and hearts are fully prepared to protect all human life at the time of their high school graduation," said Garrabrant, who is employed with a pro-life nonprofit organization, Mommies Matter. "I often remind the students that you can only believe and defend what you know."

Part of the education process includes Father Tomson and Garrabrant discussing with the students what they'll encounter at the March for Life.

"This is a positive event," Father Tomson said. "Sometimes you get some negativity and challenges (from pro-choice protesters), but we're there in a prayerful capacity, and that's always positive."

Garrabrant recalled an instance where a man was making anti-Catholic comments at the march, and "for some of the students who hadn't been before, it kind of took them aback and bothered them. We talked about it on the bus. We'll make sure we're prepped."

Making the trip again

This year's club includes a mix of returnees to the march and first timers. For those who have been there before, the takeaway has been nothing but positive.

Senior Lucy Reed, the club's secretary, is one of the veterans. She'll be making her fourth pilgrimage to Washington this year.

"All I have to say is, it's incredible

because there are no words to describe what it is, seeing all those people gather for one purpose: to defend life," she said.

"Honestly, all the positivity there is, you see some people standing with their signs who are against pro-life, but most of the time you see people who are so happy to be there. There's singing, there's dancing, there's people jumping around, there's people praying and just enjoying the community."

Freshman Lillia Funk, one of the first timers this year, said she's "just really excited to experience it and see what it's about because I hear so much positivity come from it. So I'm just expecting a lot of happiness and joy to celebrate life."

Club vice president Aiden Jackson, a junior, will be going for the second time. "I didn't do it my freshman year, and I think it was a mistake on my part because I enjoyed it so much (last year)."

"It was eye-opening for me last year," he said. "We're a group, and we're big, but I have friends who are not pro-life and it was just cool to see thousands upon thousands of people who affirmed what we actually believe and that we're not alone as a Fisher club."

"Going to the march is so affirming because you can feel very alone when you're only looking at social media," Garrabrant said. "Oh, my gosh, are we the Jesus freaks?" But when you go and see thousands upon thousands of people and the love and support, it does en-

Pregnancy Decision Health Centers offers a new life-saving service

Editor's note: Names are changed to protect individual identities.

Nurse Amy was preparing to close Pregnancy Decision Health Centers' North in Columbus when she received a call from Rachel, a PDHC hotline worker. Rachel quickly explained that a desperate woman, Heather, was headed to the center. Heather called for help after taking an abortion pill and deeply regretted it. Nurse Amy immediately got in touch with PDHC's physician, who was available to speak with Heather and provide a prescription for Abortion Pill Reversal.

Every day, women in crisis reach out to PDHC for help. They call, text and chat with PDHC looking for answers and hope. Last year, PDHC had 28,922 of these contacts with women, which was a 10 percent increase over the previous year.

Nurse Amy unlocked the center door and prayed while she waited for Heather. As soon as Heather arrived, Nurse Amy sat with her in a consultation room. Heather tearfully described what she had been through over the last few weeks and expressed her deep desire to save her baby. Nurse Amy then explained how the abortion

pill worked and what could be done to reverse it.

The abortion pill actually involves two pills: mifepristone and misoprostol. Mifepristone first destabilizes a pregnancy by blocking progesterone receptors and reducing progesterone levels in the mother's blood. To finish the abortion, misoprostol induces labor, forcing her body to expel the baby. A woman usually takes the first pill at an abortion facility and takes the second pill at home, often cramping, bleeding and passing her child alone.

"This is not healthcare for women. It's complete disregard for a baby's life and the safety of women," said Julie Moore, PDHC president. "Most women don't want to have an abortion. They succumb to the pressure of their situations or coercion. Some immediately regret taking the abortion pill and desperately want to save the lives of their babies. That's why PDHC now offers Abortion Pill Reversal to our community as part of Heartbeat International's Abortion Pill Rescue Network."

Time and location are key to getting women prescriptions to reverse RU-486 within 72 hours of taking the first pill. PDHC is a critical connection for women in central Ohio. "Now wom-

en who regret starting abortions will have a second chance to save the lives of their babies," Moore said.

Fortunately, if Heather took a prescription dose of progesterone to increase her progesterone levels, there was a chance to stabilize her pregnancy and save her baby. After Heather understood the process, Nurse Amy spent time with her talking about avenues of support within PDHC, as well as in the community. Amy then performed Heather's ultrasound, which revealed a seven-week baby with a strong heartbeat. Heather was relieved that her baby was still alive and grateful to find out about abortion pill reversal. Amy offered to pray with Heather before she left the center. Heather gratefully accepted prayer for herself and her child.

Heather would continue to take her prescription throughout her first trimester of pregnancy. She was invited to return to PDHC each week to monitor her pregnancy while she awaited her first prenatal care appointment, and for practical and emotional support.

PDHC empowers women and families by providing individualized care that includes healthy pregnancy and reproductive education as well as no-cost pregnancy testing, ultrasounds

and maternity items. In 2019, PDHC helped women during 5,872 appointments and 1,509 ultrasounds. More than 90 percent of women who have ultrasounds at PDHC choose life. To support women after their babies are born, PDHC offers parenting classes, baby clothes, diapers, cribs and can connect them to other agencies for additional help. PDHC is dedicated to serving women during pregnancy and after their children are born.

People in the community interested in helping women, babies and families should visit PDHC's How to Help web page at SupportLifePDHC.org. They can sign up to attend a volunteer interest meeting or give financial support.

Heather is now in her second trimester! Her most recent ultrasound at PDHC showed a healthy, growing baby with a strong heartbeat. PDHC is grateful for this mom's change of heart and for compassionate PDHC staff that helped this mom in her time of need.

PDHC is a non-profit organization that empowers individuals to make healthy life choices. Since 1981, PDHC has been a crucial resource for those in central Ohio. To reach PDHC, call the hotline at 614-444-4411 or visit www.pdhc.org.

FISHER CATHOLIC, continued from Page 11

courage you to keep pushing forward."

Jackson shared pictures on social media of what he encountered at last year's March, and "I had people say I'm just not thinking straight and stuff like that. I think I handled it well because I actually had research to back it up that we learned from this club."

Being pro-life all year

The club does more than attend the March for Life. In September, members served dinner at a Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) fundraiser in Lancaster. In October, the group recognized Respect Life Month by participating in the Life Chain event on Memorial Drive in Lancaster.

At school, Irish4Life gave away cupcakes on National Pro-Life Cup-

cake Day, participated in a Baby Bottle Campaign to raise money for PDHC, and spent pro-life adoration prayer time in the school chapel.

To increase awareness during National Adoption Month in November, Irish4Life hosted an adoption event to address foster care and adoption and watched the adoption documentary *I Lived on Parker Avenue*.

At its after-school meetings, the club has discussed abortion statistics, how abortion became legal, abortion procedures, foster care and adoption, and rape and abortion.

After returning from the March for Life, Irish4Life will host a diaper drive for the nonprofit organization Mommies Matter, gather to pray outside an abortion clinic, and discuss life topics related to individuals with

disabilities, men and abortion, fetal development and activism.

"First of all, when you live in Lancaster, Ohio, and are part of Fisher Catholic, there's a huge push for life," Globokar said. "This club isn't just for the trip. We try to make it year-round to do different things for women in need and help women make those life decisions."

The long-term goal is to equip the students by the time they leave high school to go out into the world armed with knowledge and resources to be committed to faith and life.

"In the meantime, it's to build a spirituality and practicality of what it means to be pro-life," Father Tomson said. "Prayer is such an integral part of the march and of this group. This makes you live it, and then we have lifelong pro-lifers."

BOTTOMS UP, continued from Page 9

So far, Bottoms Up has been able to keep up with the demand from its partners, but it has a lot of work to do to be able to meet an ever-increasing demand. The organization serves partners in three counties, but expects to be in four more counties in a few months.

The biggest challenge is stabilizing

funding for the organization, but the couple believes that they are doing God's work and that he will provide all the funding they need to build on what they've started. They have seen miracles along the way and don't worry about resources.

Nonetheless, Tim still pays close attention to the bottom line. "We have a

lot of agencies counting on us to help them supply diapers for the families they serve," he explained. "Too many babies are going to bed in a dirty or wet diaper, and we are obligated to do something about that."

It's a labor of love for the couple. They develop ads and literature that are fun and uplifting, and they truly

"Something we try to teach them in theology class or by having all-school Masses and penance services and Eucharistic Adoration is to live their faith beyond Fisher Catholic," Globokar said.

Being part of a group such as Irish4Life is a blessing for the students.

"I think it's taken for granted because other schools don't have that kind of club or community that can talk about these things like we do," Reed said.

"They are just the most helpful, most respectful, inspiring kids," Garabrant said. "They're great. We're excited for the march."

More information on the club and its respect life initiatives can be found at <https://www.fishercatholic.org/extracurricular/Club-Pro-Life.html>.

enjoy the opportunity to offer the community a service that is desperately needed. This is their way of acting out their faith and their pro-life beliefs.

To become involved with Bottoms Up, interested parties can go to bottomsup.life or text "Give" to (614) 412-1414.

Pro-life victories realized locally, but work still to be done

By Beth Vanderkooi
Executive Director
Greater Columbus Right to Life

Each year since 1973, we have gathered as a community and a nation to commemorate the millions of children who have died by abortion in our country, to protest the laws and court decisions that have enabled abortion on demand, and to join in a renewed fight to protect the dignity of each person – born or unborn – by ending abortion.

Estimates pin the number of abortions in the United States since the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision at 62 million, which is difficult to fathom. To put it in familiar terms, that would be like filling Ohio Stadium 591 times. It is the entire population of Ohio five times over, or the population of the 24 smallest U.S. states and the District of Columbia combined. It is an overwhelmingly large number, and we are just one nation among many.

It is a grim statistic, but not one without hope. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Pro-Life Plan of Action for 2019 and 2020 calls us to remember that Christ is our hope in every season of life. We know that hope is not an irrational expectation of a good thing but the knowledge

that whatever sorrow, darkness or uncertainty we encounter, God's love offers us protection and guidance. In a tangible way, pro-life workers and volunteers are missionaries of hope in a world that is hungry for truth.

As the executive director of central Ohio's pro-life education and advocacy organization, I see that deeply in my colleagues at pregnancy centers and post-abortion healing programs. I also see it from those who work with adoption or foster care, those who mentor single parents or help women to rebuild their lives after addiction or abuse or violence. I see it in the work that we do and in the hearts of our volunteers who are praying and counseling on a regular basis as well as those who will join us for their first ever 40 Days prayer campaign this spring.

A decade ago, Greater Columbus Right to Life charted a new course. We developed a plan of action and announced our 2020 vision: We wanted to end abortion in central Ohio by 2020. At the time, I served on our board of trustees and, as a bit of a pragmatist, I asked, "Can we really do that? Is it very realistic? Are we setting ourselves up for failure?"

I forget the exact response that our then-president made, but it was something like, "That is our goal; we should not be afraid to say it and then

work toward it every single day." In retrospect, I am glad we set such a big goal. Spoiler alert: It is 2020, and we haven't ended abortion in central Ohio. We have cut it almost in half, and I don't think we would have done that if we woke up each day with anything but the ideal in mind.

Let's take, for example, last year. In the fall, Ohio released the annual abortion statistics report. It showed that the number of abortions happening in central Ohio fell by nearly 25%, with 1,138 fewer abortions (that counts those reported by surgical or chemical/medical methods). Statewide, abortions also dropped by 468.

First, realize (and celebrate) that, compared to other regions and the state as a whole, central Ohio continues to see jaw-dropping reductions in abortion. At first we were cautious about overgeneralizing these results. Our goal is not merely to push women who are having abortions to other clinics but to truly end the procedure. When we started breaking down the numbers, we realized that the total abortions performed in our area declined by nearly three times the total state average, and our local reductions by residential county account for more than 50% of the state net reduction.

When we widened the circle from eight counties to the 23 in the Diocese

of Columbus, we saw the same results duplicated with consistent reductions in all but a small number of counties. What does this mean? In one sense, it means that we have work left to do. In another, it means that what we are doing is having a direct and measurable effect to rescue lives. That would not have happened without big goals, lots of prayer and an undefeatable hope.

The fight is far from over, but we are not backing down, giving in or losing hope.

Although Greater Columbus Right to Life actively serves the counties in the Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area, we are always happy to help churches and respect-life groups throughout the diocese, especially in areas without an organized group. If you are interested in bringing one of our programs to your community, especially our abortion statistics research project, visit our website at gcrl.org/speaker.

If you've never joined a local Roe event, we invite you to join us for the 2020 Roe Remembrance, which will be held at the Ohio Statehouse at noon Wednesday, Jan. 22. It will follow the annual Respect Life Mass celebrated at 10:30 a.m. at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop Robert Brennan. To learn more about both events, visit gcrl.org/roe.

More pro-life successes could come in 2020

By Allie Frazier
Communications Director
Ohio Right to Life

The pro-life movement is at a pivotal point in 2020. We are ushering in the year on the heels of major victories in Ohio, full of energy to continue being a voice for the voiceless in this state and beyond. While we have had much to celebrate – including passage of the Heartbeat Bill last year – we still have work to do to keep up the momentum we have experienced in recent years.

In early March, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear a case from Louisiana that has the potential to profoundly impact *Roe v. Wade*. A Louisiana law, passed in 2014, requires that doctors performing abortions have admitting privileges with a local hospital in case of a medical emergency. The law nearly mirrors one passed in Texas that was overturned by the Supreme Court in 2016. Whole Woman's Health vs. Hellerstedt, the Texas case, was cheered as a landmark victory for abortion proponents. Although there is no way of knowing in advance what the court's decision will be on the Louisiana law, this is clear: Pro-abortion forces across the nation are afraid. They know that *Roe*'s days are numbered. The tide of our nation is turning toward life.

In Ohio, the cause of life continues to advance. This month, news broke that the federal Sixth

Circuit Court of Appeals will rehear the challenge against Ohio's Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act, legislation championed by Ohio Right to Life and passed in 2016. The law was previously heard by the same court and overturned, but pro-life Attorney General Dave Yost petitioned for an en banc hearing where the case would be argued in front of the full panel of judges on the Sixth Circuit. Oral arguments begin in mid-March.

This year is shaping up to be a rough one for Planned Parenthood, not unlike last year. In 2019, a federal court upheld the Ohio Right to Life-championed law that defunded Planned Parenthood in Ohio, a major victory with implications across the country. On the heels of that ruling, two Planned Parenthood locations in southwest Ohio closed. During the past 10 years, Ohio has seen the closure of half of its abortion facilities. We will continue to advocate both for the unborn and for women's health and safety as the abortion industry loses its grip on Ohio.

And Ohio is only the beginning. Later this month, Ohio Right to Life will join hundreds of thousands of pro-lifers across America as they converge on our nation's capital to participate in the annual March for Life. This year's theme,

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Second Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

'Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will'

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
Ps. 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10
1 Corinthians 1:1-3
John 1:29-34

The Scriptures of the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time present us with an understanding of God's ways and an invitation to make a response to God's call in our lives.

"The Lord said to me: You are my servant, Israel, through whom I show my glory."

"I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

"Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."

"To you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy, with all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

God has a vision for the world. He invites us to share in his vision, seeing it for ourselves and becoming a part of it by responding and by living it concretely. We are called to open our eyes also to see God's vision for us, as individuals and as a community. This is meant to bear fruit for the whole world.

There is a movement that flows both through the Old Testament and the New:

- A personal call and response
- A people's call and response
- The living presence of God and his glory among a people, for all the world to see.

Isaiah expresses the prophet's call to be a sign to Israel of how to live with God and to be a sign to the nations. Salvation offered and received becomes a new witness of salvation offered, calling for a response.

Paul addresses the Corinthians, acknowledging the call to holiness that is shared by all who are in Christ. Grace is God's life in us. Peace is the fullness

Father Timothy Hayes



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

of the gift, accepted and lived in communion with all who are in Christ.

John the Baptist points to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away sin. He offers his own witness to the power and presence of the Spirit. As the text continues, we see that, on the following day, the disciples of John accept the invitation and become some of the first disciples of Jesus.

How do you and your family respond to the Lord's call? How does your parish community respond? What is your witness to the world? How does the Spirit rest upon you?

Members of parishes are called to build up the presence of Christ among them. They are charged to form their families in the practice of the faith, participating in the life of the parish and school programs of formation. They invest their lives with one another. Parishes, families and individuals are now being called to aim for the world.

There is a darkness in the world. St. John Henry Cardinal Newman's motto is *"Ex umbris et imaginibus in veritatem,"* meaning, *"From shadows and images into the Truth."*

The move from darkness to light, from shadows and images to Truth, is paralleled by the movement from intentions and plans to reality. There is a movement from not knowing to recognition, from knowledge to fulfillment.

Following the proclamation of the Word, the expression of God's vision and our call, a new life begins for us through our response. Grace builds on nature. God is going to get us there, where He calls us to be.

The One who sent us has told us what to look for as the sign that He is present. Do we see the Spirit descending on us and remaining?

May we all respond together, *"Here we are, Lord; we come to do your will."*

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www.columbuscatholic.org/catholic-times-archive

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

MONDAY
 1 Samuel 15:16-23
 Psalm 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23
 Mark 2:18-22

TUESDAY
 1 Samuel 16:1-13
 Psalm 89:20-22, 27-28
 Mark 2:23-28

WEDNESDAY
 1 Samuel 17:32-33,
 37, 40-51
 Psalm 144:1b-2, 9-10
 Mark 3:1-6

THURSDAY
 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7
 Psalm 56:2-3, 9-13
 Mark 3:7-12

FRIDAY
 1 Samuel 24:3-21
 Psalm 57:2-4, 6, 11
 Mark 3:13-19

SATURDAY
 Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22
 Psalm 117:1-2
 Mark 16:15-18

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF JAN. 19, 2020

SUNDAY MASS
 10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus
 St. Joseph Cathedral on St.
 Gabriel Radio (AM 820),
 Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

Mass with the Passionist Fathers
 at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the
 CW), Channel 53, Columbus and
 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel
 18, Zanesville. Mass from St.
 Francis de Sales Seminary,
 Milwaukee, at 10 a.m. on WWHO-
 TV. Check local cable system for
 cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the
 Angels Monastery, Birmingham,
 Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN
 (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight
 Channel 382, or WOW Channel

378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m.,
 and midnight).
 Mass from the Archdiocese of
 Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION
 TV (AT&T U-verse Channel
 195, Dish Network Channel
 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

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

DAILY MASS
 8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels
 Monastery in Birmingham, Ala.
 (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and
 midnight). See EWTN above; and
 on I-Lifetv (Channel 113, Ada,
 Logan, Millersburg, Murray City,

Washington C.H.; Channel 125,
 Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown
 and New Philadelphia; Channel
 207, Zanesville).

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

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

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



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CATHOLIC RADIO**

LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 2

Secured parking is available off East Gay Street. There is a handicapped-accessible elevator in the courtyard (west side of the cathedral) on East Broad Street. Healing Masses take place at the cathedral on the third Monday of every other month. Other Healing Masses at the cathedral in 2020 are scheduled for March 16, May 18, July 20, Sept. 21 and Nov. 16.

For more information, call the cathedral at (614) 224-1295.

Lancaster St. Mary to host World Marriage Day gala

The marriage and family life committee of Lancaster St. Mary Church invites all married and engaged couples to a World Marriage Day gala from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1 in the gymnasium of St. Mary School, 309 E. Chestnut St.

The event will be preceded by the parish's 5:30 p.m. Mass, which will feature a blessing for couples. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served and light spirits will be available at the gala. Music for dancing will be provided by DJ Johnny Garber. The cost is \$50 per couple.

Couples wishing to attend are asked to RSVP by Sunday, Jan. 19 and to send a wedding photo and a current photo for a slideshow presentation to mary@efmurphy.com. If you have any questions, contact Dan or Jody Boyden at (614) 554-2612.

Father Hussey to talk about controversial issues

Father Edmund Hussey will speak about controversial issues in the Catholic Church and their background and importance in talks at 9:30 a.m. on the Sundays of February at Columbus St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Road.

Dates and topics for the talks will be: Feb. 2, "Feminism and the Ordination of Women"; Feb. 9, "Clerical Celibacy and Married Priests"; Feb. 16, "The Sex Abuse Scandals in the

Church"; and Feb. 23, "Why Belong to the Church?"

Father Hussey is weekend associate at St. Agatha and is a retired pastor and seminary professor of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. He is a specialist in discussing how the Catholic Church can speak effectively to a democratic culture and has more than 80 published monographs, articles and reviews.

DCCW sponsors estate planning event

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will sponsor a program on estate planning and end-of-life issues from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 21 at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway.

The event will provide useful information for women, couples, newlyweds, singles and retirees. Information will be offered on how to avoid probate; bank accounts; life and long-term disability insurance; and end-of-life planning.

The cost is \$30 person, including lunch and materials. Registration and payment is due by Friday, March 6 to the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215. More information is available on the diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org.

Our Lady of Bethlehem plans open house for Jan. 26

Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare, 4567 Olentangy River Road, will host an open house from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26.

Parents are invited to register for programs for the 2020-2021 academic year at the school, which serves children from six weeks old through kindergarten during the school year, as well as offering before- and after-school childcare. It also has a sum-

mer program for children in preschool through grade six.

Visit www.ourladyofbethlehem.org for more details.

Friends and Family Day at Ss. Augustine & Gabriel

A Friends and Family Day Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 9 in Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel Church, 1550 E. Hudson St., followed by a potluck lunch. Residents of the neighborhood near the church, former members of St. Augustine and St. Gabriel churches and former students of their schools are encouraged to attend.

Father Blau to speak at St. Elizabeth mission

Father Thomas Blau, OP, of the Columbus St. Patrick Priory will be the speaker for a parish mission on "Understanding God's Mercy" from Monday, March 16 to Thursday, March 19 at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd. The program will last from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each evening, preceded by confessions from 6 to 7.

Topics for Father Blau's talks will be: Monday, "Mistakes We Make in Understanding God's Mercy"; Tuesday, "How Do We Receive God's Mercy?"; Wednesday, "How Do We Live in God's Mercy?"; and Thursday, "Studying an Examination of Conscience."

Father Blau is assigned as an itinerant preacher for the Diocese of Columbus and was appointed by Pope Francis as a papal missionary of mercy as part of the Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2016.

St. Therese's hosting retreat, day of reflection

St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus will be the site of a silent overnight retreat on Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 19 and 20 and a day of reflection on Ash

Wednesday, Feb. 26.

The retreat will be led by Father Vinny McKiernan, CSP, of the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center. It will be focused on a quotation from St. Hildegard of Bingen: "You are embraced by the arms of the mystery of God."

It will begin at 10 a.m. Wednesday and conclude after dinner Thursday. The cost is \$105. To register, go to www.columbuscatholic.org/mid-week-retreat-february-2020.

The day of reflection will last from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and be led by Father Rod Damico and Anita Davidson. It will include prayer, music, shared silence, Mass and the imposition of ashes. A light lunch will be provided. The cost is \$25. To register, go to www.columbuscatholic.org/ash-wednesday-day-of-reflection.

Franciscan University develops new degree

Recognizing a need for a general liberal arts education with a Catholic worldview, Franciscan University of Steubenville has developed a new graduate degree in Catholic studies.

The fully online master of arts in Catholic studies program draws from across the humanities and sciences to create an integrated curriculum that deepens the student's Catholic vision of the world.

The program will require students to complete four core courses examining Catholic culture and thought from ancient times until today. To fulfill the remaining credit requirements, students will choose from elective courses including philosophy of religion; natural law and natural rights; virtues and morality, and more.

Several professors at Franciscan professors will serve as faculty for the new program, representing its multi-disciplinary approach. The program

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BORGERDING, Victoria A. (Snyder), 69, Jan. 7
St. Paul Church, Westerville

BUTTS, Richard D., 82, Jan. 7
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

CARNEY, James M. "Mike," 67, Jan. 6
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

CUGINI, Gerardo "Jerry," 89, Jan. 10
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

DEMPSEY, Mark, 55, Jan. 10
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

FISHER, Joseph E., 27, Jan. 4
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

KIEHNER, Paul, 84, Jan. 3
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

O'CONNOR, Peggy A. (O'Neal), 80, Jan. 2
St. Cecilia Church, Columbus

RAINS, Donna D., 85, Dec. 21
St. Simon and Jude Church, West Jefferson

SANFORD, Kathleen M. (Jester), 64, Jan. 9
St. John XXIII Church, Canal Winchester

THOMAS, Langdon J., 24, Jan. 4
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

TIPPETT, Ronald A., 70, Jan. 7
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

Thousands participate in March for Life Chicago

Catholic News Service

CHICAGO -- Despite high winds, freezing precipitation and cold temperatures, thousands turned out for the seventh annual March for Life Chicago, which kicked off Jan. 11 in Daley Plaza.

The march, with the theme "Life Empowers: Pro-Life Is Pro-Woman," ended at the Congress Plaza Hotel. A youth rally hosted by the Archdiocese of Chicago took place before the march, along with an expo of pro-life groups.

A "Mass for Life" was celebrated after the march, and the evening featured a banquet and swing dance party.

Participants came from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri. Among them was Jonathan Olesen, a sophomore at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

He is a member of WeDignify, a group formerly known as Students for Life of Illinois, and was chosen to carry the "March for Life Chicago" banner.

PRO-LIFE SUCCESSES, *continued*

"Life Empowers," exudes the positivity and hope that continues to propel forward the cause of life in both our state and our nation. We believe that women deserve better than abortion. We advocate for policy that offers real support to women and babies.

We denounce the fearmongering and lies propagated by the abortion industry about the need for abortion. And we reject the idea that a woman must choose between herself and her baby. At this year's March for Life, the pro-life movement is sending a

"I'm a Roman Catholic and I respect life and I really do think abortion is an evil that has come upon the country," Olesen said.

In May, Illinois passed legislation that allows abortion at any stage of pregnancy for any reason. That action re-committed many to support life at all stages.

Kailey Mongoven, a freshman at St. Louis University, is involved with the pro-life group on her campus.

"Each and every single human being deserves the right to live their life, to have the opportunity to have a life and not have that taken away. We all have human dignity. That's important to every single person no matter what," Mongoven said.

Before the march, Jim Holuj from Knights of Columbus Council 10926 in New Lenox, Illinois, passed signs out.

Seeing all the young people is "very encouraging," the father of six said. "That's where it's at. They give us the vitality to continue."

from Page 13

clear message to the world: being pro-life is pro-woman.

Ohio Right to Life goes boldly into a new decade that will define our nation, and, Lord willing, we will see abortion ended. Pro-life Ohio's dedication, compassion and support for life have turned the tide in our state. With renewed energy, we are ready to continue advocating with you for the most vulnerable. There is much to do. We can't wait to continue to fight alongside you for the sake of the unborn in 2020.

M. Kathleen "Skip" Malone

Funeral Mass for M. Kathleen "Skip" Malone, who died Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2019, was celebrated Monday, Jan. 6 in Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on Nov. 8, 1929 to Carl Geyer and Estelle (Sturgeon) Geyer-Hull, was a graduate of Columbus St. Joseph Academy, attended Ohio State University and received training as a registered nurse at the Good Samaritan School of Nursing in Zanesville.

She was head nurse at the former St. Raphael Home for the Aged in Columbus and served in a variety of other nursing positions for hospitals, physi-

cians and industries. Over the years, she was a member of Columbus St. Philip and Our Lady of Victory and Newark St. Francis de Sales churches and of the Columbus Maennerchor, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Shamrock Club of Columbus.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, William "Mike"; daughter, Colleen "Kitty" Lappie; and sister, H. Carol Price. Survivors include sons, Mickey (Melissa) and Carl (Kelley); daughters, Molly (Max) Rouse, Peggy (Jim) Bennett, Sara, and Betsy (Mic) Cooper; sister, Ann "Honey" (Eugene) Haynes; 13 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren.

Jan L. Beery

A funeral service for Jan L. Beery, 79, who died Friday, Jan. 3, was conducted at the Dwayne R. Spence Funeral Home in Pickerington by his stepson, Father Jeffrey Coning, pastor of New Philadelphia Sacred Heart and Dennison Immaculate Conception churches.

He was born on Sept. 7, 1940 in Columbus to Raymond Chester and Lois (Radugge) Beery.

He was a 1958 graduate of Groveport-Madison High School and served in the U.S. Army, and was a retired employee of American Electric Power, with 37 years of service.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Logan Beery. Besides Father Coning, survivors include his wife, Donna (Hindes); stepdaughters, Anne Heishman and Susan (Lee) Shannon; and two granddaughters.

Sister Rita Imelda Sullivan, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Rita Imelda Sullivan, OP, 84, who died Sunday, Jan. 5 in the Mohun Health Care Center, was celebrated Wednesday, Jan. 15 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on Dec. 4, 1935 in Somerville, Massachusetts to Francis and Catherine (Clark) Sullivan. She earned a degree in medical technology from Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky and later earned units in clinical pastoral education.

She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine,

Kentucky (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1953 and pronounced her vows on Aug. 15, 1955.

She was a certified hospital and hospice chaplain who served for more than 30 years at hospitals and clinics in Kentucky, Nebraska, Massachusetts, Tennessee and Louisiana. She was a resident of Rosary Manor in Watertown, Massachusetts until coming to the Mohun center in 2019.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Philip; and sister, Margaret Wenger. She is survived by a sister, Frances Reinfrank.

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

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. PAS

HAPPENINGS

CLASSIFIED

WHITEHALL VFW 8794 BINGO

4100 E. Main St.

Regular Small Town Bingo will be played every Sunday at 6 p.m. and Tuesday at 7 p.m. Doors open at 4 p.m. Sunday and 5 p.m. Tuesday. Food, refreshments, instant Bingo tickets available. Proceeds help support local Veterans Relief Fund and VFWOC

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JANUARY

17, FRIDAY

Millennial Church Conference at St. Matthew
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. Conference on how the Church can reach out to the millennial generation (people born between 1980 and 1996). Begins with Mass at 8:30; includes talks by four speakers from youth ministries throughout the nation, light breakfast, and lunch. Sponsored by diocesan evangelization office. Free; register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mcc-columbus-tickets-80113241863?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>.

Catholic Singles On Fire for Christ

6 p.m., Chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Monthly meeting of Catholic Singles On Fire for Christ, for anyone older than 35 who is single in the eyes of the Catholic Church and seeks to grow in faith, bring hope to others and share the love of Christ. Begins with prayer and Adoration, followed by dinner at a restaurant. 614-855-1400

18, 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.

19, SUNDAY

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education
10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Presentation on the meaning of mysticism and ways to nurture the gift of experiencing God, with *Catholic Times* columnist Mary van Balen.

Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family
After 11 a.m. Mass, Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Blessing of St. Gerard Majella, patron of expectant mothers, for all women who are pregnant or wish to become pregnant. 614-221-1890

Angelic Warfare Confraternity at St. Patrick
Following noon Mass, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Monthly meeting of Angelic Warfare Confraternity, with talk on

chastity-related issues followed by Holy Hour. 614-224-9522

Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark

1 p.m., Aranda Center, St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Kateri Prayer Circle meeting to honor St. Kateri Tekakwitha and promote Native Catholic spirituality.

Polish Mass at Sacred Heart

1 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus (New time and place). Monthly Mass in Polish. 614-221-4323

St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans
2 to 4:30 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Prayer 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. First meeting of six-week Seasons of Hope bereavement ministry support group for those who have lost a loved one, sponsored by North High Deanery. 614-565-0795

Taize Evening Prayer at Corpus Christi

4 to 5 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Evening Prayer in the style and spirit of the Taize monastic community, with song, silence and reflection. 614-512-3731

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

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

Catechesis at the Cathedral

6:45 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Father Adam Streitenberger's series of talks on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* continues. Topic: "What Is the Liturgy?" 614-224-1295

St. Pius X Holy Hour

7 to 8 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Quarterly Holy Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and prayer for the parish, the diocese and the Church in the nation and the world. 614-866-2859

20, MONDAY

Martin Luther King Day Program

Noon to 1:30 p.m., Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 660 S. Ohio Ave., Columbus. Parish's 35th annual Martin Luther King Day commemoration. Speaker: Father Charles Smith, SVD, co-director of the Bowman Francis Ministry to the African American community. 614-252-5926

'Cardinal Madness' at St. Charles

6 p.m., Cavello Center, St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus. "Cardinal Madness" night for fifth- to eighth-grade boys. Includes a program about the school, building tours, buffet of wings and sliders, and a basketball game against Chillicothe. Free; registration required at nkeyes@scprep.org.

Mass of Healing at Cathedral

6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Healing Mass followed by healing service including Exposition, Benediction and veneration of relic of the True Cross. 614-224-1295

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

21, TUESDAY

Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc

Following 6 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for Life, sponsored by church's respect life committee. Fasting Program at Shepherd's Corner 6:30 to 8 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center,

987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Program with theme "Rediscover Fasting." Suggested donation \$5. 614-866-4302

22, WEDNESDAY

St. Patrick Mass, Refreshments for Students

7 and 11:45 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Mass, followed by coffee and doughnuts at 7:30 and 12:15 for students at Columbus State Community College and the Columbus College of Art and Design. 614-224-9522

Respect Life Mass and Rally for Life

10:30 a.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Bishop Robert Brennan celebrates annual diocesan Respect Life Mass, followed at noon by the annual Rally for Life in the Statehouse atrium, sponsored by Greater Columbus Right to Life.

Divine Mercy Chaplet at St. Pius X

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

23, THURSDAY

Ohio Dominican St. Thomas Aquinas Lecture

11 a.m., Matesich Theater, Erskine Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Dr. Anthony Lisska, Denison University philosophy professor, delivers ODU's annual St. Thomas Aquinas lecture. Topic: "Mindfulness and St. Thomas: Reason and the Good Life." Followed by Mass at 12:15 p.m. in Christ the King chapel of Sansbury Hall. 614-251-4453

Cenacle at Holy Name

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

24, FRIDAY

Holy Hour at St. Matthew

7 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. Monthly Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and prayers for reparation, purification and sanctification of the universal Church. 614-471-0212

24-26, FRIDAY-SUNDAY

Men's Retreat at Maria Stein

Maria Stein Spiritual Center, 2365 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein. Men's retreat led by Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP, of the Columbus St. Patrick Priory. Theme: "Becoming a Missionary for Christ." Cost \$170, including meals and private room with bath; \$110 Saturday and Sunday only. Sponsored by Hilliard St. Brendan Church Knights of Columbus Council 11208. 614-946-8117

25, SATURDAY

Admissions Testing at Bishop Hartley

Bishop Hartley High School, 1285 Zettler Road, Columbus. Admissions testing for Class of 2024. For information, go to www.bishop-hartley.org and click "Admissions" tab.

Academic Scholarship Test at St. Charles

9 a.m. and 1 p.m., St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus. School's annual academic scholarship test, open to any eighth-grade boy regardless of his high school enrollment status.

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.

26, SUNDAY

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Part 1 of five-week series on Pope Francis' encyclical *Lumen Fidei*, with Ohio Dominican University theology

instructor Mary Koors.

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. 614-861-1242

Our Lady of Bethlehem School Open House

1 to 3 p.m., Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare, 4567 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Open house for parents of prospective students at school which serves students from six months old to kindergarten. 614-459-8285

Community Supper at St. Aloysius

2 to 4 p.m., Family center, St. Aloysius Church, 2165 W. Broad St., Columbus. Free community supper, open to all. 614-875-5669

St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans
2 to 4:30 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Prayer followed by ongoing formation, general meeting and fellowship. Visitors welcome. 614-895-7792

Scout Day with the Bishop

3 p.m. Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Annual Scout Day with the Bishop program sponsored by diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, with Bishop Robert Brennan honoring diocesan Scouts who have received religious awards.

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

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

'Following Christ' Program at St. Timothy

6 to 8 p.m., St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus. First session of seven-week "Following Christ" evangelizing course for anyone 18 and older, with meal, music, video presentation and small-group discussion. No charge. Program includes half-day retreat on Saturday, March 2. Details at www.sttimothychurch.org.

Catechesis at the Cathedral

6:45 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Father Adam Streitenberger's series of talks on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* continues. Topic: "What Is Baptism?" 614-224-1295

27, 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

Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry
6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of church). 614-718-0227, 614-309-2651, 614-309-0157

Our Lady of Peace Men's Bible Study

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

28, TUESDAY

St. Patrick Mass, Refreshments for Students

7 and 11:45 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Mass, followed by coffee and doughnuts at 7:30 and 12:15 for students at Columbus State Community College and the Columbus College of Art and Design. 614-224-9522

Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc

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

29, WEDNESDAY

Divine Mercy Chaplet at St. Pius X

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

Birthright honors Secular Franciscan



Sandy Wilcox of Birthright Columbus presented Marilyn Scott (left), a member of the local St. Catherine of Bologna Fraternity of Secular Franciscans, with a certificate honoring the many crocheting projects she has done over the years for Birthright. Scott, a resident of Mother Angeline McCrory Manor in Columbus, no longer is able to crochet, but many other volunteers donate their crocheting projects to her and she donates them to Birthright, the world's first crisis-pregnancy service, which provides counseling, clothing and financial assistance before and after birth to women facing unplanned pregnancies. Scott lives a life of constant prayer as a Secular Franciscan, dedicating one of her daily rosaries to the sanctity of human life and to Birthright volunteers. Birthright has offices in the Franklinton and Clintonville neighborhoods of Columbus and in New Philadelphia and a thrift store in Columbus and may be reached at (614) 221-0844 in Columbus or (330) 364-1752 in New Philadelphia. The Secular Franciscans meet at 2 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month at Columbus St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave. For more information, call Tim Keller at (614) 895-7792 or Teena Gallagher at (614) 563-7847.

Photo courtesy Elizabeth Bowen

An advertisement for The Catholic Foundation Scholarships 2020. It features a collage of images: a young man holding a book, a young woman holding a book, and a circular icon with a graduation cap and a pencil. The text "APPLICATION PERIOD January 31 through March 2" is in a red circle. The main text "SCHOLARSHIPS 2020" is in a green circle. The "THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION" logo is at the bottom. The website "www.catholic-foundation.org/scholarships" and phone number "614-443-8893" are at the bottom.

Bishop visits Our Lady of Bethlehem



Students of Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare welcomed Bishop Robert Brennan on Tuesday, Jan. 7. They heard the bishop read the story of the Three Kings and sang *O Little Town of Bethlehem* and *We Three Kings of Orient* with him. They presented the bishop an ornament made by kindergarten students representing the birth of Jesus. Our Lady of Bethlehem emphasizes early childhood education, serving students from 6 weeks old through kindergarten year-round and offering summer programs for students from age 3 through sixth grade. Photo courtesy Our Lady of Bethlehem School

The New Thrift Store is Open!

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Society for the Propagation of the Faith membership drive weekend

By Leandro M. Tapay
Diocesan Missions Office Director

The weekend of Jan. 18-19 is a renewal weekend for our membership to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Our promise of support for the Church's mission through our prayers, sacrifices and financial donation is the only requirement for membership. There is no formal dues structure. The event is an opportunity for us to recommit ourselves to participate in the mission of the Church to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth, as Jesus commanded His disciples – and us – to do (Mark 16:15). Members of the society receive the graces of 15,000 Masses celebrated at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican for the members of the society. Thank you for your generosity.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which is under the direction of the Vatican's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, is the main source of support for the 1,150 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands and some regions of Latin America. The society does not have any investments or savings. Every



LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 15

is scheduled to begin during the fall 2020 semester. Courses will be completed in eight-week sessions, with two courses per semester and six per year, including the summer. It can be completed in as little as two years.

The program's interim director, Dr. Andrew Jones, said that while other universities have Catholic studies programs, Franciscan's is the only one completely online.

For more information, contact Thomas Weishaar at tweishaar@franciscan.edu or (740) 283-4410, or go to spt.franciscan.edu/programs/ma-in-catholic-studies.

year, the funds it collects are totally distributed to mission dioceses and mission congregations or mission societies spreading the Gospel in places where people have yet to hear the Good News of salvation.

The membership drive in January and the World Mission Sunday celebration in October are the society's two major collections. In 2018, the Diocese of Columbus contributed \$57,099 for the membership drive and \$85,914 for Mission Sunday. The society also received \$119,101 in miscellaneous gifts from our diocese.

You can touch the world by leaving a gift to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in your will. Your legacy will live for generations. Your charity will help the Catholic Church spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth. A specific amount may be designated, or you can allocate a percentage of your estate. A qualified attorney can help you prepare your will or trust. Notify the diocesan missions office of your bequest so we can include you in our bequest society and keep you updated with our monthly newsletter.

The Cross of Christ is a daily reality in the poverty of the Congo, Haiti, Bangladesh, Brazil, the Philippines and India, to name a few nations. Catholics suffer for their faith in Vietnam, Rwanda, Sudan and many other countries. Your gift through your will or trust to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith means life itself to the Church in these nations and many others. It is a living tribute to you and a lasting hymn of praise to God. It is a lifeline and a sign of hope for our brothers and sisters who cry to God for help.

Wilderness Outreach plans four expeditions

The Wilderness Outreach organization is sponsoring four wilderness expeditions to Western states in the late spring and summer for Catholic men who want to become stronger physically and spiritually through the disciplines of worship, work, asceticism, leadership and brotherhood. Each expedition lasts for 10 days, from Friday of one week to Sunday of the next, and combines outdoor activity with frequent prayer and the daily celebra-

Letter from Bishop Brennan

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, we partake in the Church's mission to bring the message of God's Kingdom of love, mercy and forgiveness "even to the ends of the earth."

The weekend of Jan. 18 and 19 is the membership drive for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. With our membership, we make a special commitment to the Church's mission "to all peoples and nations" by pledging daily prayer and financial help to the society.

In more than 1,150 mission dioceses worldwide, priests, religious brothers and sisters, and lay catechists rely on the prayers and financial assistance of the society's members.

The missionaries count on this support as they help young people search for the meaning of life, comfort refugees in their spiritual and material needs, minister to the sick, teach children, prepare adults for baptism or bring help to the suffering in times of war and natural



disasters. During the membership drive, let us pray for missionaries everywhere, especially the seven men and women from the Diocese of Columbus who are sharing Christ's Gospel message around the globe.

I am most grateful for your continuing generosity and support for the most important task of the Church – evangelization.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Robert Brennan, DD
Bishop of Columbus

People establish bequests for many reasons:

- In thanksgiving for the blessings of life and love
- To honor deceased loved ones
- To praise God for the gift of faith
- In gratitude for the opportunities of America or of one's career
- As an act of spiritual and social justice
- In reparation for sins of the past
- As an example of Catholic charity for the next generation

If concern for the poor and the spread of the Gospel are important to

you during your lifetime, a bequest to the society will carry on those principles in a long-term tribute to the power of faith.

As missions director for the diocese, I attest that legacies, gifts and bequests left to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith will be used entirely for the missionary work of the Catholic Church. Donors and their intentions remain in the prayers of missionaries the world over. I sincerely thank you on behalf of the Church's missionaries and the people they serve.

tion of Mass.

This year's first expedition will be to the Rogue River Wilderness Trail in Oregon from May 29 to June 7. Participants will perform work requested by the federal Bureau of Land Management. Medford, Oregon will be the staging site for the expedition.

Wilderness Outreach's 50th expedition will take place from July 17 to 26 to the Platte River Wilderness in Wyoming. This will be the organization's fifth trip to the site to build and clear trails. It will stage out of Laramie, Wyoming.

The men will return to the Cascade

Mountains in Washington from Aug. 7 to 16. They will help the U.S. Forest Service in the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest. The staging site will be Seattle.

The final expedition for 2020 will be to the Ansel Adams Wilderness in California from Aug. 28 to Sept. 6, with participants doing rock work in the "cathedral of granite" in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The expedition will stage out of Fresno, California.

For more information, go to www.wilderness.outreach.net or call John Bradford at (614) 679-6761.



Almost 1 in every 5 children born in Ohio live in poverty.

Too many moms can't afford to keep their babies in clean, dry diapers. As a result, they re-use diapers or leave them on for way too long, resulting in rash, infection, a cranky baby, and a stressed mom.

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This ad graciously paid for my Anne and Brad Lamone, proud supporters of Bottoms Up Diaper Drive