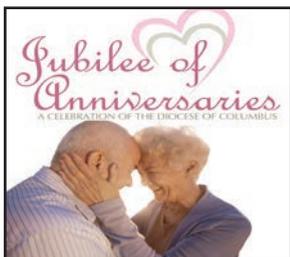


The Catholic TIMES

The Diocese of Columbus' News Source

September 13, 2020 • 24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME • Volume 69:40

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Bishop Robert J. Brennan

Season of Hope

Dear Friends,

Over the past few months, our lives have changed dramatically with many new challenges added to the existing ones we have been working to solve. As I talk with parishioners in our parishes and with members of our community, I have heard some express a “poverty of hope” that weighs them down as they grapple with COVID-19, unemployment, the effects of structural racism, physical and mental health issues and more. These people are looking to the Church for hope and for help.

St. Peter reminds us that Christ is the reason for our hope. His death and resurrection brought us out of slavery to sin and gave us the promise of an everlasting future with Him. He also promised never to leave us orphaned, but to remain with us until the end of time. So the Church, as the Body of Christ, can offer hope to the people of this age, through the Sacraments, the example and intercession of the saints, her many charitable agencies and ministries, and the accompaniment of those who are struggling by the Christian community.

I want to invite you to join me in sharing our hope with others in a Season of Hope. It will be a journey for us, one that through prayer, reflection, changed actions and changed attitudes will renew us and prepare us to better accompany our fellow travelers in need. The Diocesan HOPE

Task Force is offering for your journey through the Season of Hope some tools to kick-start the reflection process; to share in prayer and encourage changed actions based on this heightened awareness of issues and concerns of our faithful membership. These supports and resources will be available monthly on topics that impact all of us and filled with suggestions, supports and resources to accompany you on your journey. For the Season of Hope resources, visit www.columbuscatholic.org/season-of-hope.

We want to encourage the formation of small faith communities to break open the monthly parish bulletin insert for reflection and prayer through the question: What does God call us to be and do in this world?

In this way, anchored in Christ, our hope, we can help overcome that poverty of hope that is experienced by our brothers and sisters. May God give us the ability and determination to be salt and light in the world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Columbus



Bishop calls for day of prayer, fasting on Sept. 24

Bishop Robert Brennan is calling for Thursday, Sept. 24, the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, to be a day of prayer and penance for healing and conversion in our community and our nation.

“Images of Our Lady of Mercy, in the past known as Our Lady of Ransom, the patronal feast of the Mercedarians, often show Mary gathering people under her mantle,” Bishop Brennan said. “It is Mary that gathers God’s people together to bring

them to her Son, to Divine Mercy. In these troubled and uncertain times, this is an important day for us to not only acknowledge the need for conversion and God’s help and mercy in the world but the profound need for us to BE mercy – to be instruments of God’s mercy to one another.”

Additional details will be available at the diocesan website, social media, and Times’ new eConnect newsletter (subscribe for free at columbuscatholic.org/eConnect).

40 Days for Life fall campaign gets underway Sept. 23

The international 40 Days for Life Fall campaign will kick off in nearly 600 cities across the globe, including Columbus, on Sept. 23. The only location in the Diocese of Columbus will be at the Columbus Planned Parenthood East Surgical Center at 3255 E Main Street.

The fall campaign runs until Nov. 1 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Go to the Greater Columbus Right to Life website, www.gctrl.org/40-days-for-life, and select a day to adopt or link to the individual hour campaign to volunteer.

There is still some uncertainty about events this fall, but prayer outside of Planned Parenthood is an activity that churches or Respect Life groups can participate in while also observing full safety and social distancing protocols. Pro-life witness isn’t political, and it actively saves and redeems lives.

Those who go to pray are strongly encouraged to have a partner and to remain on the sidewalk. Columbus Po-

lice are issuing trespass citations and arresting people for perceived and actual trespass, even non-malicious incidents. While the area is generally safe during the day, there is more traffic and community interaction.

For those in the southern part of the diocese, a first-ever campaign will be hosted by the Knights of Columbus across the street from the Athens Planned Parenthood. More information on the Athens campaign can be found at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/athens> or by contacting Grand Knight Tim Peterson. While Athens is outside the Diocese of Columbus, the location may be closer for those in the southern counties.

Since 2013, five clinics that performed or referred for abortion have either closed or ceased to perform abortion in central Ohio. All were sites of a coordinated vigil of prayer and fasting by the pro-life faithful in conjunction with Greater Columbus Right to Life.

Sunday Mass dispensation extended indefinitely

The dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation granted by Bishop Robert Brennan, which was to last at least through Sunday, Sept. 13, has been extended indefinitely, in keeping with the indefinite dispensation throughout the rest of the Catholic Conference of Ohio. Those who are in high-risk categories are encouraged to remain home. Those who are not feeling well or who are exhibiting coronavirus-type symptoms are expected to remain home. Churches will observe safe social distancing by marking off pews. Those attending Mass are asked to wear masks in church and to make use of sanitization procedures.

Send us your questions

Readers are invited to submit questions about the Catholic faith for *The Catholic Times*’ new local Q&A column, with answers provided by Father Adam Streitenberger, the diocese’s coordinator for evangelization. Please email a brief question and include your name (we will print first name only) and city to: questionscolumn@columbuscatholic.org. Questions also may be mailed to: Questions Column, The Catholic Times, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215.

The Catholic Times remains on biweekly schedule

The *Catholic Times* is switching to a year-round biweekly schedule. The issue dates for the remainder of 2020 are Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 8, Nov. 22, Dec. 6 and Dec. 20.



Front Page photo: NURSING COLLEGE BOOT CAMP

Mount Carmel College of Nursing students learn hands-on skills at a Remediation Skills Boot Camp at the college in August. Classes for the fall semester are taking place online.

Photo courtesy Mount Carmel College of Nursing

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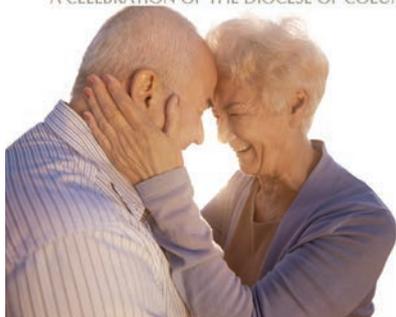
Jubilee of Anniversaries honors married heroes

In challenging times, we look to heroes for inspiration. Perhaps those who demonstrate most excellently the ability to flourish amid life's ups and downs – joy and disappointment, illness and sacrifice – are couples who have faithfully lived their marital vows for many years.

These couples witness to the mystery of God's sacrificial love through their own acts of caring for their spouses, families and communities. In his homily at the 2019 Jubilee of Anniversaries, Bishop Robert Brennan extolled married couples: "You reveal to us something of God's merciful love. ... You reveal the great mystery of God's healing love, sometimes in very tactile, very granular ways, like washing wounds, sitting by a bedside and holding strong."

Bishop Brennan will again honor married couples celebrating significant milestones in married life at the 2020 Jubilee of Anniversaries sponsored by the diocesan offices of Divine Worship and Marriage and Family Life.

As in previous years, couples celebrating their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th and every year after anniversaries of marriage are invited to attend the Jubilee Mass at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25 at West-



Sunday, October 25, 2020

ville St. Paul the Apostle Church, 313 N. State St.

To have enough space for social distancing in the pews, this year's attendance is limited to the Jubilee couples only. Family members and couples who prefer to attend virtually can livestream the Mass from home, using a link provided to registrants. Those who are at high risk and who are most

susceptible to COVID-19, including those older than age 70 or have serious health conditions, are discouraged from attending Mass.

Pandemic precautions such as face coverings, sanitizing and social distancing will be in place at the church. There will be no group photos or reception after the Mass.

All couples observing landmark anniversaries in 2020 are encouraged to register for the Jubilee of Anniversaries. Whether attending the Mass or not, each couple will be mailed a personalized certificate recognizing their anniversary. Couples who register by Oct. 14 will also be featured in the worship aid (available at the Mass and online) and included in The Catholic Times. Registration for the Jubilee Mass is available at columbuscatholic.org/marriage-enrichment, or by calling the Marriage and Family Life Office at 614-241-2560.

Recognize a heroic married couple in your family, parish or community. Tell the couple how they have inspired you and encourage them to attend the 2020 Jubilee of Anniversaries. The world needs the witness of faithful, sacrificial love in marriage, and these couples need to know that their example is noticed.

2021 Women's Conference postponed to 2022

The board of directors of the 2021 Columbus Catholic Women's Conference has announced that the event will be postponed until Feb. 19, 2022, because of the coronavirus pandemic.

It had been scheduled to take place on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021, in Kasich Hall at the state fairgrounds.

Conference co-director Michele Faehnle said speakers for the 2022 event, who would have spoken at this year's conference, will be Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, president of Franciscan University of Steubenville; Janelle Foligno, wife of Columbus Blue Jackets captain Nick Foligno; Sister Tracy Dugas of the Daughters of St Paul; and Lisa Brenninkmeyer, founder of Walking With Purpose. Music will be by Tori Harris and Mass will be concelebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan.

"While we are saddened that we cannot gather 3,500 women together to pray during the pandemic, we look forward to planning and hosting our best conference ever is 2022," Faehnle said.



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Fatima apparitions realistically recounted in film

By Emily M. DeArdo

There are almost as many film versions of the story of Our Lady of Fatima as there were appearances by the Virgin. With so many versions, do we need another account of the apparitions of Mary that occurred more than 100 years ago? Yes, because this version brings the story of the three visionaries and their world to realistic life.

Other tellings of the story have focused on the three seers – 10-year-old Lucia dos Santos and her cousins, Francisco, 9, and Jacinta Marto, 7 – and what they beheld in a two-dimensional way. The new Fatima film gives depth and realism to the apparitions with its vivid storytelling.

The story, after a brief, somewhat confusing dream sequence (several of them occur in the film), begins in 1989, with a university professor (Harvey Keitel) visiting the older Sister Lucia (Brazilian actress Sonia Braga) in Coimbra, Portugal, to interview her for his book. As she answers his questions, the story is told in flashback. (This is the weakest part of the film. Both actors do fine work, but there's no payoff to the storyline.)

We learn that in 1917, the town's

mayor (Goran Visnjic, ER) emphasizes progressive values over religious "superstition," and that Lucia's only brother, Manuel, is off fighting in World War I. Her mother, Maria Rosa (played perfectly by Lucia Moniz, Love Actually), is desperate for him to return, to the point of promising God that her family will be a perfect example of the faith to ensure her son's safety. The apparition the children see is definitely not part of Maria Rosa's plan.

That sets up one of the movie's themes – the relationship between mothers and daughters. Over and over, people ask Lucia (played as a child by Stephanie Gil), if she made up the visions to earn her mother's love and attention. The mayor especially presses this point when he interrogates the children.

Maria Rosa's tumultuous relationship with Lucia is understandable and believable. In previous film versions, I've thought that Lucia's mom was too hard on her daughter. But here, Maria Rosa's feelings are understandable. There's political and ecclesiastical pressure for Lucia to recant. The family's wheat crop is destroyed by the crowds coming to see the apparitions. When the family hears that Manuel is missing in action, Lucia's



Stephanie Gil plays Lucia in Fatima.

relationship with her mother hits bottom. Both actresses do their best work in this pivotal scene.

Gil's Lucia is the heart of the film. Without her absolute honesty, the movie wouldn't work. But her Lucia is a real girl, aware of what's happening to her family, crying out to Our Lady that she doesn't want her family to suffer. She doesn't understand why all this is happening, but she holds firm to what she saw.

Her cousins, Francisco (Jorge Lame-las) and Jacinta (an adorable Alejandra Howard) are slightly less important in this version. The focus is solidly on Lucia and her family. While I appreciated this, I would've liked to have seen more of her cousins, especially the precocious Howard, who is a delight.

And the lady they see? She's played by Joana Ribeiro, who portrays Mary as warm, serious and believable. She doesn't look like a ghost – she looks like a real woman, particularly in the Miracle of the Sun scene. In her interactions with Gil, she especially shines.

The authenticity of the film is supported by incredible production values. It was shot on location in Portugal, and the detail provided in the sets, costumes and props perfectly fleshes out the world of 1917 Fatima. Marco Pontecorvo directs the story with sensitivity and humanity, getting wonderful performances out of his actors.

The film is showing at Midwest Movies 11 at Mill Run, 3733 Ridge Mill Dr. in Hilliard. However, the easiest way to see the film is to stream it at home, via the channels available at www.fatimathemovie.com, for \$19.99. The movie also is available to rent through various services through Oct. 5. The rental period is two days, so I watched the movie several times. Viewing it on my home TV (no special setup) was fine in terms of sound and picture quality.

Emily M. DeArdo of Columbus is the author of Living Memento Mori: My Journey Through the Stations of the Cross, published by Ave Maria Press.

Local news and events

St. Timothy hosts Blue Mass on Sept. 11

Columbus St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, and Knights of Columbus Council 14345 will host the diocese's annual Blue Mass at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11. Bishop Robert Brennan will be the celebrant and homilist.

The Mass is an opportunity to honor and pray for all active, retired and deceased police, firefighters and emergency service personnel and ask for God's blessing to keep them safe and to guide them in their duties. It also is an occasion to remember the 2,973 people who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Because of coronavirus restrictions, Mass attendance will be limited this year. The Mass will be livestreamed at the parish website, www.sttimchurch.org. St. Gabriel Radio will broadcast the Blue Mass at 8 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 13.

For those who attend the Mass, coronavirus guidelines will be followed, including the wearing of protective masks, keeping social distance, using only the pews marked for use, and cleaning and sanitizing beforehand and afterward.

The Blue Mass dates back to 1934 in Washington, where it was initiated

by Father Thomas Dade and the Washington Catholic Police and Firemen's Society. It has been a longtime tradition in the northeast United States and spread nationwide after the events of Sept. 11, 2001. Its name evolved from the mainly blue uniforms of police and emergency personnel.

ODU announces lecture series

The Center for Dominican Studies at Ohio Dominican University (ODU) will present a series of lectures this fall that focuses on "What It Means to be Human," the university's academic theme for the 2020-21 academic year. The series will feature four lectures presented by ODU faculty members.

Dates (all Thursdays), topics and presenters are:

Sept. 10 – "What Does It Mean to be Human? A Panel Presentation" with Robert Parks, assistant Professor of theology; Matthew Ponesse, assistant professor of history; Lawrence Masek, professor of philosophy; and Jessica Hall, assistant professor of biology.

See LOCAL NEWS, Page 8

St. Michael students return



Worthington St. Michael School students began returning to classrooms on Monday, Aug. 31 as part of a staggered start to the 2020-21 year. Photo courtesy St. Michael School

Leavening the loaf

As Catholics, we are called to allow the person of Jesus Christ to transform our minds and our hearts through our participation in His Church, in the Christian community, and in the world. Our desire to respond to the Gospel message and to be strengthened by the grace of the Sacraments is lived out in the ways we extend Our Lord's self-sacrificing love to help others in the community and in the larger world. The transformation of our minds and hearts by the power of God's grace is to be so complete that it can leaven the world. The Church through her teachings and her members is ever engaged in this work. One of the old definitions of Catholic social teaching is that it is the encounter of the evangelizing message of the Gospel with the needs and troubles of the day.

The Church is structured for this work through parishes and dioceses and enjoys the collaboration of national bishops' conferences. In the United States, we have the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), whose mission it is to support the ministry of bishops with an emphasis on evangelization by which the bishops exercise in a communal and collegial manner certain pastoral functions entrusted to them by the Lord Jesus of sanctifying, teaching and governing. And that includes acting collaboratively and consistently on vital issues confronting the Church and society. In

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.



practical terms, this at times takes the form of authorizing action alerts on legislative matters or public policy directives.

Currently, the USCCB has three action alerts that give us opportunities to bring the evangelizing message of the Gospel to bear on public issues. The first concerns federal executions. The federal government has resumed federal executions for the first time in 17 years. Section 2267 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) reminds us that in our day the due protection of citizens can be ensured without resort to the use of the death penalty. The CCC states: "Consequently, the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that 'the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person,' and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide." To send a message to Attorney General William Barr to stop the resumed federal executions, go to www.voterve.net/USCCB/Campaigns/75878/Respond.

The USCCB has a current campaign to press for the development of COVID-19 vaccines that are free from any connection to the exploitation of abortion. Among the dozens of vaccines in development, some are being produced using old cell lines that were derived from the cells of aborted children. To send a message to Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar II for ethically produced vaccines, go to www.voterve.net/USCCB/Campaigns/73486/Respond.

Lastly, the USCCB has an active campaign to tell Congress to support nuclear nonproliferation. Last month, we marked the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nuclear weapons make no distinction between combatants and non-combatants. The Catholic understanding of just war criteria requires that non-combatants are never targeted and also requires that indirect harm to non-combatants be minimized. Section 2314 of the CCC states: "Every act of war directed to the indiscriminate destruction of whole cities or vast areas with their inhabitants is a crime against God and man, which merits firm and unequivocal condemnation." To send a message to Congress to extend the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) between the United States and Russia, go to www.voterve.net/USCCB/Campaigns/75604/Respond.

St. Paul's words from prison provide sense of peace in anxious moments

By Michele Williams

You know when you're at Mass and something gets your attention like never before? It could be a song, one of the readings, or part of a homily, but it strikes your soul and stays with you for years. That happened to me in October 1993 and I remember it as if it were yesterday: the second reading. It has taken root in my heart and mind like no other, rising to my consciousness when I least expect but definitely need.

The second reading was Paul's letter to the Philippians 4:6-9. "Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. In everything, by prayers and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And then the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me, put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

Paul was in prison when he wrote that and it seemed strange for him to be so chipper. I remember thinking it would be so easy to fall prey to depression and discouragement or anger and bitterness. But Paul knew Jesus was with him despite the dire circumstances that gave him inner strength and joy.

There was a huge lesson for me in those two little paragraphs because within six months I would be in prison too. As it turned out, that was the last Mass I attended with my family. My life went from bad to worse to unbelievable to the Ohio Reformatory for Women. Many of my memories from that particular time are only images that flip by like a grade school filmstrip. Yet I remember that reading with perfect clarity.

Paul spoke of peace in prison, but prisons and jails are not peaceful places by their very nature. They

are overcrowded, hot, noisy, drug-riddled, and often violent. Peace and joy, along with rehabilitation and recovery, come from within each individual who has to work at it constantly. I know this because I have always wanted my attitude to be like his – positive! – despite the bad circumstances and environment. I have clung to Paul's words of encouragement my entire incarceration and they have given me untold strength and determination year after year.

I intentionally seek God's peace and joy every morning before the daily craziness begins.

A recent knee injury has prevented me from my usual 3-mile run, so I take a 3-mile walk around my housing unit's designated section of the grounds. As I walk, I pray the Rosary, drink coffee and watch the sunrise. I'm at peace, have joy in my heart, and know God is already working to see me through every up and down of prison life. It's also a way to store up spiritual pep talks for myself and others that I'll inevitably need later in the day.

On the flip side, I have dissected Paul's letter and struggled with parts of it too. "Dismiss all anxiety from your minds" – that's a tough one. Anxiety, stress and worry are staples of life inside razor wire fences. They might as well be issued with the uniform! When I was unloaded at the steel door to Admissions, the chains around my ankles scraped the sidewalk with each step and all attempts at bravery drained away. It was like entering Hell's Reception Center. Anxiety and fear gripped my being and almost strangled me. They didn't let go for a long, long time. My future looked pretty grim, I felt utterly alone and could not even breathe a prayer. God and His peace were absolutely nowhere to be found.

The first priest I met, Father Barry Bentz, loosened anxiety's death grip on me. Between puffs on his cigar, he told me God was indeed here whether I felt Him or not. Prison was not out of His reach, which meant neither was I. God loved me no mat-

ter what, He forgave me, He would look after my family and I would be OK. I chose to believe Father Bentz and it was a game changer. Peace was not instantaneous and everything was not suddenly super-duper, but I did feel a calm that had been missing and believed it was a sign from God.

Many years have come and gone since then, and Father Bentz has been in heaven a long time, smoking cigars and telling blonde jokes to angels. But his words echo in my heart often, sort of like my very own St. Paul. When times are tough, I try to think about things that are true, right, lovely, praiseworthy, etc. I pull out one of those spiritual pep talks from the memory bank and tell it to myself. I recall song lyrics, repeating their message over and over to remind me God really is in control. I read Scriptures and focus on His miracles, providence and love. I also call my family and friends more often to get my spirit renewed and sanity saved by their conversations and perspectives.

COVID-19 finally attacked ORW in full force and due to that, life has gone completely out of whack and my anxiety has gone occasionally off the charts. One particular day, there were over 200 women in quarantine, 30 positive cases, and the housing unit 50 yards from mine got locked down pre-quarantine. I was so stressed out I couldn't remember what St. Paul or Father Bentz said or any of my go-to songs or pep talks. So I called my big brother, Wayne, and had a good old-fashioned meltdown on the phone. He is a man of great empathy combined with no holds barred talk, and when I was done melting, he had the perfect advice: "Make peace with change." He summed up Paul's letter in four little words! It was exactly what I needed to hear, and I felt God's peace again. I couldn't do it on my own, yet I still got the message. St. Paul would have been proud.

Michele Williams is an inmate at the Ohio Reformatory for Women.

Discussing racism can lead to understanding, healing

Are ongoing conversations on racism still relevant?

The answer is “yes, absolutely.” Such conversations have been and are occurring. Understanding these efforts empowers our diocese and its people in combating the sin of racism and leading all in the Church toward recognizing one another as God’s children.

In 2017, the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism was established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in response to a resurgence of racism. In 2018, the bishops approved the most recent pastoral letter against racism, “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love.” I say “most recent” because several were written prior to this one:

- “On Racial Harmony,” A Statement Approved by the Administrative Board, National Catholic Welfare Conference, 1963.

- “Brothers and Sisters to Us,” U.S. Catholic Bishops Pastoral Letter on Racism, 1979.

- “What We Have Seen and Heard,” A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization From the Black Bishops of the United States, 1984.

- “The Racial Divide in the United States,” A Pastoral Letter by The Most Rev. Edward K. Braxton, Diocese of Belleville, Illinois, 2015.

- “Reconciled Through Christ,” On Reconciliation and Greater Collaboration Between Hispanic American Catholics and African American Catho-

UNITY IN COMMUNITY

Pamela Harris

Pamela Harris is the director of the diocesan Office for Ethnic Ministries.



lics, 2016.

This list does not include the many letters and statements from bishops across the nation calling for peace and reconciliation – a call that we all echo, to adopt a non-violent response to the racial injustices in our country. With this call is an opportunity to share our experiences and stories on how racism continues to impact our families and communities. We are invited to accompany one another effecting positive change in our society and Church.

The Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, in its work to promote justice and equality in the Catholic Church, conducted a listening session in the Diocese of Columbus in June 2019. The participants completed a survey that was submitted to the committee at USCCB for a national report. The diocesan report included the following recommendations:

- To provide diversity and inclusion training for all staff, clergy and seminarians.

- To promote solution-oriented sessions in which acts of racism and their causes are discussed.

- To foster the sharing of stories and personal experiences in venues throughout the diocese such as the Men’s and Women’s Conferences, youth and

young adult conferences and parish presentations.

- To offer training on how to talk with someone in the family, at work or in the parish about racism and cultural awareness

- To encourage all Catholics to boldly engage the community and encounter others in an effort to forge authentic relationships.

The diocesan Ethnic Ministries Office continues to collaborate with other diocesan offices, parishes and schools to promote the rich diversity of the Church, to foster peace and justice in our communities and to “be doers of the word and not hearers only” (James 1:22). We do this by conforming ourselves to the will of God and walking in the footsteps of Christ.

Right now, there is an urgent need to focus on the lives of Black people. We can address the needs of the African American community without ignoring the valid injustices of other marginalized groups. Our commitment to equality and a just society and our efforts to promote and protect peace will continue the healing needed in our communities and our nation.

I invite you to participate in the courageous conversations on racism. I also invite you to view the listening session diocesan report in its entirety on our webpage, www.columbuscatholic.org/cem. Let us together, as a people of God, be open to honest, meaningful and productive dialogue, so that we can have lasting healing in our community.

Religious freedom: bleached, blanched and rinsed out

Father Richard John Neuhaus put two Big Ideas into play in American public life. The first was that the pro-life movement (of which Neuhaus was an intellectual leader) was the natural heir to the moral convictions that had animated the classic civil rights movement (in which Neuhaus was also deeply involved). The second was that the First Amendment to the Constitution did not contain two “religions clauses” but one religion clause, in which “no establishment” (i.e., no official, state-sanctioned Church) was intended to serve the “free exercise” of religion. Neither of those Big Ideas is welcome in today’s Democratic Party, in which Neuhaus (then a Lutheran pastor) was once a congressional candidate, and of which he remained a registered member until his death in January 2009.

Those who point out that the 2020 Democratic platform has the most radical pro-abortion plank in American history, and that the same platform promises to hollow out religious freedom in service to lifestyle libertinism, risk being labeled “culture warriors.” Well, so be it. “Culture warrior” is snark masquerading as thought. Facts are facts. And one of the sad facts of this unhappy political moment is that Neuhaus’s efforts to rescue the Democratic Party through two Big Ideas was frustrated because those two ideas got linked – and then rejected, thanks to the corruption of rights-talk that preceded, made possible, and was then accelerated by *Roe v. Wade* and its abortion license.

While Neuhaus’ interpretation of the First Amendment on religion has gained some traction in the federal courts (including, it seems, the Supreme Court), it hasn’t dislodged the alternative view in much of the academic legal establishment or the media. That al-

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



ternative was baldly stated by Harvard law professor Lawrence Tribe in his constitutional law textbook. In the First Amendment, Tribe wrote, there is a “zone which the free exercise clause carves out of the establishment clause for permissible accommodation of religious interests. This carved-out area might be characterized as the zone of permissible accommodation.”

Ironically, Tribe agrees with Neuhaus on one point: there is one “religion clause” (even though the professor uses the conventional rhetoric of two such clauses). But in Tribe’s view, which has now been replicated in the 2020 Democratic Party platform, there is really just one “religion clause” – that which prohibits the state’s “establishment” of religion. Being tolerant to some degree, good liberals like Professor Tribe will try to find some wiggle room to “accommodate” religious “interests” – much like the liberally tolerant would “accommodate” the “interests” of Flat Earthers. But only up to a point.

That point was drawn close to the bone by the 2020 Democratic Party platform, which rejects what it called “broad religious exemptions” that “allow businesses, medical practices, social service agencies, and others to discriminate.” What that means in plain English is that, under a Democratic administration allied to Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress, the Little Sisters of the Poor will be compelled

to provide contraceptives, some of which are abortifacients, to their employees. That, and nothing other than that, is what the Democratic platform promises. That is also the policy the Democratic candidate for president has said he would support. Does anyone doubt that his running mate (who seems to think the Knights of Columbus are a hate group because they espouse the understanding of marriage espoused by Barack Obama in 2008) disagrees?

This is Tribe’s First Amendment theory, turbo-charged: the “religious interests” of the Little Sisters of the Poor (and evangelical Protestants, Orthodox Jews, Mormons, and all others who have religiously-informed, conscience-based objections to contraception, abortion, the redefinition of marriage, and the full LGBTQ agenda) do not fit within that “zone of permissible accommodation” that “the free exercise clause carves out of the establishment clause.” So those parties are out of luck – and out of legal protection, unless the Supreme Court comes to their rescue.

In this context, appeals to personal piety, rosary-carrying, and so forth ring hollow, however sincerely felt that piety may be.

It is fatuous to dismiss concerns over the rinsing-out of religious freedom as the overwrought fretting of culture warriors. The commitments in the Democratic platform are plain, and there can be no reasonable doubt that those commitments will be given legislative and regulatory effect by a Democratic administration in league with a Democratically controlled House of Representatives and a Democratically controlled Senate. Those are the facts. They are not the only facts to weigh. But those facts should certainly bear on conscientious Catholic voting for all federal offices in 2020.

The blessing of distractions at Mass

Back when our son was nearly two, I always felt like I should apologize when we took him to Mass.

He was — and still is, three years later — Mr. Social. There wasn't a person who will kneel in the pew behind us who will not be greeted, repeatedly, with a cheery "HI!"

There wasn't a female nearby who will not get a smile and a wave.

There wasn't a part of the pew that will be left unclimbed in his attempts to take over the entire church.

And yet, I found myself smiling back at the people he's blessing.

Because that's what I saw him doing.

Even as I was distracted and trying to pay attention, he was reminding the empty nester behind me of the way her son used to do the same thing.

He was giving the newly married bride a smile and hope.

The young dad nearby was marveling that we haven't taken him out yet and found himself commiserating, I think, with the fact that we were clenching our jaws at his antics.

That preteen two rows back? Enjoying every moment. And thinking maybe Mass that day didn't suck as much as usual.

FINDING FAITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Sarah Reinhard

Sarah Reinhard is a Catholic wife, mother, and writer in central Ohio. Get her Catholic take at SnoringScholar.com.



I saw the benefits in my own kids, too. Even three years later.

We now have two teen girls who find our energetic Mr. Social less amusing than they did when he was a toddler. They correct him, they guide him, they laugh behind their hands at him. I have never asked them to do this. They just have.

And the older brother of the group, who is Mr. Proper and a respectable fourth grader? Well, he demonstrates gentleness and not-putting-up-with-anymore-of-that-ness. His prayer form is second-to-none, and the five-year-old can't help but admire it (even as he tries to tickle a giggle out of said older brother).

Our pew at Mass has long been an interesting case study in distraction. I used to bemoan it, long for the concentration and silence of my pre-parenting days.

And then, I had that. When our oldest was two, a helpful aunt kept her and encouraged us to "go en-

joy Mass." It didn't help that we went to our usual parish and everyone asked about her. But mostly, I felt myself empty, aware that in the scrambling and wiggling, I was praying in a whole body way.

Now, with four of them in the pew with me — and none of them toddlers — I find the distractions are different. My concerns are wider, longer, deeper. I have so much more need for the graces I find sitting at the feet of my Master.

And I need them there beside me, reminding me that I am only part of a family. The distractions serve as a blessing, in so many ways. Each of those souls entrusted to me — and I can't help asking myself What was God thinking — is guiding me to heaven, putting me one small distracted step closer to sainthood. The gang of them unites me to that guy I married — What was HE thinking? — and helps us aim for true excellence, found not in this world, but in the next.

There were many wise people who told me to enjoy my children when they were young. And I did, inasmuch as I could. Now that they're getting older, I find myself enjoying the new aspects of parenting even more, appreciating the souls they are and have, growing closer to God the Father and Mary my Mother.

And at Mass? I'm still distracted. In the very best ways.

Patriots and matriots

September 11 is Patriot Day. It is hard to believe that it will be 20 years next year since the horrific attack on the United States in New York City at the World Trade Center, near Shanksville, Pennsylvania where the passenger jet crashed, and at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Nearly 3,000 lives were lost that day. Countless thousands more were injured and impacted. Those families and all of us will never be the same. So many first responders and other heroes sacrificed and risked their lives to help those who needed to be rescued that day and beyond. Those of us who felt so helpless, and wondered what might be coming next, felt a surge of patriotism ourselves. Evil and hatred temporarily won that day. While they will never go away completely, we strive to be sure that they can never triumph again. As we view our great country's landscape today, can we say that evil and hatred are still held at bay? Especially today, it is practically impossible to define evil and hatred, say where they exist, and certainly attempt to identify their sources. We are too political, or too apathetic. We are too polarized, or we do not care. We are very well off and comfortable, or we are struggling. We are thriving in our jobs or businesses, or we are unemployed and underemployed. We have strengthened our faith, or we have lost all hope. Whatever we struggle with, and however we struggle with our own unique challenges, we are all patriots. A patriot is simply anyone who is from the same country. We can go further and discuss synonymous terms like "countryman" and "fatherland." Especially these days, let us not mince words and debate parts of those words like "man" or "father." I think we can all agree that a patriot loves his or her country, and loves his or her fellow man or woman. It is far too easy to argue and take sides while trying to define what it means

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Rick Jeric



to love our country and to love one another. This is where we might consider being matriots.

The Latin root of patriot is "pater," which means father. The Latin root for mother is "mater." Hence the focus on matriotism. We can certainly say that the father part of patriot can be the blessings of our country from God the Father. But we typically do not make that immediate connection. So why not be a matriot? Here is the point to consider as Catholic Christians. The Blessed Virgin Mary is our mother. Now, more than ever, we need Mary's help and intervention. We need her to intercede for us, as she does so well. As Americans in the United States, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception is our national patroness. In the New Testament, Mary offers us strength and hope in her words and actions. At the Annunciation, she says, "I am the Lord's servant, may it be done to me as you have said." As Mary greets her cousin Elizabeth, she professes her most beautiful Magnificat. In finding the lost child Jesus in the Temple she says, "We have been anxiously searching for you." How anxiously are we searching for Jesus today? Possibly the most striking words spoken by Mary in Scripture are words we must completely take to heart: "Do whatever he tells you." Let us all strive to be matriots as we face the many challenges of today. Our faith cannot be shaken. Pray the rosary. Begin and end each day with a Hail Mary. She intercedes for us, and no one knows the love that her son has for each of us more than Mary. St. John represented all of us at the foot of the cross when Jesus said, "Here is your mother."

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR SITE ASSISTANT

St. Vincent de Paul St. Lawrence Haven, Columbus, OH

The Site Assistant will work with the Site Manager daily. The assistant is responsible for all intake, separation and inventory of donations. Daily set up for meal distribution along with occasional pickup of product in required.

Description of Job Duties:

- Intake donations.
- Interact with and direct volunteers.
- Collaborate with peers.
- Sort and inventory donations and supplies.
- Over-see community service volunteers.
- Drive box truck to obtain product.

Skills & Requirements:

- Ability to lift 25+ pounds.
- Able to work well with others.
- Exceptional communication skills.
- Adjusts well to change.
- Compassionate about the mission of the St. Vincent de Paul.
- Current driver's license required.

Salary Range: \$15 per hour

Job Benefits:

- Casual work environment.
- Paid time off.

Company Info:

The SVdP Haven is a ministry that assists those in need of food in Columbus. The Haven has been in operations for 75+ years. At the Haven, anyone can receive a meal, no questions asked. "For I was hungry and you fed me."

Send resumes to Heather Siger (hsziger@columbuscatholic.org) by Oct. 15.

In race to fulfill pastor's obligations, shifting gears helps

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Asked to describe what it's like to be a pastor, Father Craig Eilerman compared it with driving a car with a standard transmission.

"That's a comparison people may not be familiar with today because most cars have automatic transmissions," he said. "But if you've ever driven a car with a stick shift, you know you always have to be able to shift gears at a moment's notice and develop a sense of coordination about when to hit the clutch and the gas pedal. Things change quickly, but you learn to adjust."

"It's the same with being a pastor," he said. "One minute you're performing pastoral functions, and the next you're involved with personnel, planning, adult education, the liturgy, dealing with the parish school, talking to someone who wants to join the Catholic Church or something else. The key is to be able to make the shift smoothly; otherwise, you'll be grinding gears."

Father Eilerman, 63, has been pastor of Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption Church since 2011 and also has served as pastor of Columbus St. Cecilia and Columbus Christ the King churches.

He grew up in the Hilltop area of Columbus' west side as a member of St. Magdalene Church and is the oldest son of the late Cletus and Dolores Eilerman. He has an older sister, two younger brothers and two younger sisters, all living in the Columbus area.

"I was raised in Columbus but have a large extended family living in Shelby County, a very Catholic area in a part of western Ohio that's known as 'the land of the cross-tipped churches,'" he said. "We were the city cousins of people there."

"My father's sister, Sister Marge Eilerman, OSF, is a member of the congregation of Sisters of St. Francis that's based in Tiffin. She's 83 and has served for years at a mission in Booneville in eastern Kentucky. A second cousin, the late Sister Lucille Schmitmeyer, OSF, also was a Tiffin Franciscan and was a missionary in Mexico, and I know of two Eilermans, both deceased, who were members of the Precious Blood Fathers."

"So I came from a solid Catholic family and have attended Catholic schools all my life, starting with St. Mary Magdalene grade school. And being around Sister Marge showed me that people who were religious were ordinary folks, not people from another planet."

"I started thinking about the priesthood probably during junior high school. Sister Marge was an influence on my recognizing the call to be a priest, and so was the late Father Bill Maroon, one of my teachers at Bishop Ready High School," Father Eilerman said.

"As my senior year approached, I had a conversation with a priest at Ready about my future and told him I was interested in the priesthood but wasn't sure if that was I wanted to do. He told me I didn't

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

Answering God's Call profiles the life of a priest, deacon or professed religious sister in the Diocese of Columbus.

have to make that decision then, that all I had to decide was whether to go to a seminary and see what developed. As I grew older, the call became clearer."

Father Eilerman graduated from Ready in 1975. At that time, the Diocese of Columbus sent young men to either the Pontifical College Josephinum, St. Gregory Seminary in Cincinnati or St. Meinrad College in Indiana to begin discerning whether they were being called to the priesthood.

"I was one of the few who chose St. Meinrad," he said. "I'd never been there until some of us from the diocese visited the seminary with the late Father Tom Shonebarger, who was diocesan vocations director then. I hadn't known it was a Benedictine monastery and was impressed by the Benedictines' hospitality and the general atmosphere there."

After two years at St. Meinrad, he continued his studies for the priesthood at the Josephinum and Ohio Dominican College (now University), followed by four years at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. He was ordained a priest by Bishop James Griffin on June 6, 1987 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

His first assignment was as associate pastor at Newark St. Francis de Sales Church and chaplain at Newark Catholic High School. "Father Bill Johnson was pastor there. He was a humble man who cared about his people," Father Eilerman said. "On the pastoral staff was Sister Irma Walker, OP, who ministered to the homebound and the elderly. She was a great woman, and I learned a lot from her."

After four years in Newark, Father Eilerman spent five years as associate pastor at Zanesville St. Nicholas Church and chaplain at Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans High School and one year as associate pastor at Lancaster St. Mary.

His first pastorate was at Columbus St. Cecilia Church, where he served from 1997 to 2009. "For most priests, their first year after ordination is exhausting, and the first year as a pastor is equally so, because 'the buck stops here' and you need to figure out what's most important to the parish," he said.

"Once I got through that year, I began to really enjoy St. Cecilia's because it was near where I grew up, it was where my parents were, and I was always running into people I knew. It had a nice mixture of people and was not a pretentious place, a parish where people could feel a good sense of belonging."

Father Eilerman was pastor of Columbus Christ the King Church from 2009 to 2011. "That was clearly a parish in transition then, with a growing Latino community. I tried to bring the Anglo and

Latino communities together and create a sense that they all were part of one parish."

Father Eilerman said he recognized he didn't have the Spanish-language skills needed at Christ the King, and in 2011, Father David Schalk, associate pastor there, who is bilingual, became its pastor, while Father Eilerman was appointed to his current position. Father Schalk also is vicar for diocesan Hispanic ministries.

"I was concerned about going back to St. Mary's, where I had been 14 years earlier, but Bishop (Frederick) Campbell asked me to, so I felt I should say, 'Yes,' and I'm glad I did," Father Eilerman said.

"Not long after coming to Lancaster, I realized the parish had some significant events coming up – in 2014, the 150th anniversary of the current church building, and in 2017 and 2020, the 200th anniversaries of the first Mass in Lancaster and the founding of the parish," respectively.

"I spent part of my first year here thinking about how to celebrate those events, then we started planning to make sure the building was structurally sound and eventually began a major beautification program." The work began with replacement of the church's original slate roof and continued with extensive remodeling that brightened the church and made it look very much as it did when it was built.

Since Father Eilerman became pastor, the parish school has opened a preschool and the parish has hired a youth minister and a minister to the homebound and started men's, women's and youth groups. Two sons of the parish, Fathers Matt Morris and Nic Ventura, were ordained as priests of the diocese during that time.

The past few months have been difficult for St. Mary of the Assumption and for parishes everywhere because of the coronavirus pandemic. "One thing I'm pleased with is that, with the assistance of about 25 parishioners, we've called or tried to call all 1,200 of the parish's families to tell them we're thinking of them and ask if they needed help. They've been happy to receive the calls and to know of our concern. We've also increased our email list from 450 addresses to 900, and I write an email note weekly to update everyone on what we're doing," Father Eilerman said.

"In the midst of all this, the most important thing a pastor needs to remember is Jesus Christ – to focus on Christ even before thinking about yourself and the people and particulars of parish life. Take the broad view, seeing everything in the context of Christ and his message, and everything else fits in."



Father Craig Eilerman

LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 4

Sept. 24 – "A Psychological Perspective of What It Means to be Human" with John Marazita, professor of psychology.

Oct. 8 – "What Does it Mean to Be Human in Great Literature?" with Martin Brick, associate professor of

English.

Oct. 22 – "What Does it Mean to be Human in a Capitalistic Society?" with TJ Eveland, director of ODU's graduate programs in business

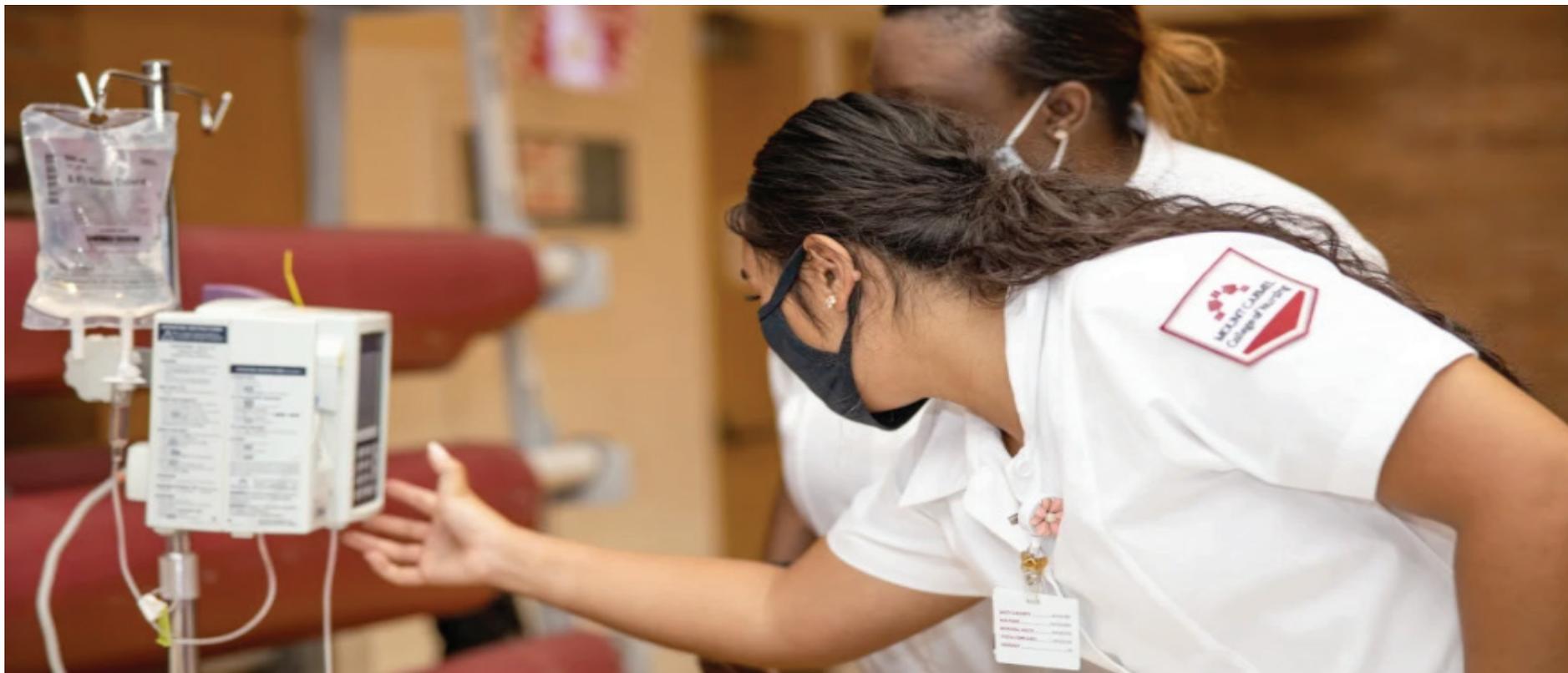
The presentations will be from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Sister Mary

Andrew Matesich, OP, Theater in Erskine Hall on ODU's campus at 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. The lectures also will be available via livestream at ohiodominican.edu/CDS.

Presentations are free, but seating is limited because of physical distanc-

ing guidelines related to COVID-19. Those who attend must wear a face mask. To reserve your seat for each session, contact Sister Diane Traffas, OP, director of the Center for Dominican Studies, at traffasd@ohiodominican.edu or (614) 251-4722.

OHIO CATHOLIC COLLEGES



At Mount Carmel, nurses' training has many levels

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

The need for well-trained nurses is growing as the health care system continues to change because of the Affordable Care Act and the aging of the baby boom generation. That need has become more apparent as the coronavirus pandemic continues.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) notes that the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that there will be 3.4 million registered nurses (RNs) in the workforce by 2026, representing an increase of 15 percent in 10 years.

The bureau also anticipates the need for more than 200,000 new RNs each year through 2026 to fill newly created positions and to replace retiring nurses.

Mount Carmel College of Nursing (MCCN) in Columbus is poised to meet that need, just as it has responded to constant health care challenges for the 117 years since the Sisters of the Holy Cross founded the institution in 1903 at the original Mount Carmel Hospital in the city's Franklinton

neighborhood.

The college remains an anchor for that area as it provides training for every level of nurses, beginning with those at the start of their careers who want to receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and including experienced nurses who desire to earn an additional degree and become nurse practitioners or teach nursing skills to others. Besides its Franklinton location, the college also has a campus that operates at Fairfield Medical Center in Lancaster for BSN students.

As the college's mission statement puts it, "In the spirit of the Catholic tradition, we welcome a diverse population of all faiths, to prepare them academically and professionally as competent nurse leaders, who are lifelong learners, and who possess the moral courage to continuously promote the health of individuals and communities."

Its vision statement says the college intends to "Be THE innovative academic center preparing nurses as the most trusted partners in health care."

"The words 'THE innovative academic center' in the vision statement

were one of the reasons I applied for the position as academic dean at the college in 2018 when it became available," said Dr. Kathleen Williamson, the college's recently appointed president and academic dean. "Mount Carmel is one of the nation's great innovators in the way it collaborates with its partner Mount Carmel Health System and other health care institutions and how it integrates emerging technology to help students at all levels be ready for continuing changes in the health care environment.

"What drives everything I do is a passion to provide enthusiastic support and to empower the students here with the knowledge and the confidence that will enable them to be the best at whatever they do and achieve as they pursue their careers as professional nurses."

Williamson, a Connecticut native, is the granddaughter and daughter of nurses and has spent a lifetime in the profession, receiving an associate degree from Vermont College, Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Wilmington (Delaware) University and her doctorate from the University of Delaware.

She taught in a comprehensive vocational program for nursing assistants in Delaware for 10 years before joining the nursing faculty at Florida State University in 2005. She also taught at Arizona State and Widener universities before coming to MCCN in January 2019 as academic dean from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, where she was chair and a professor at the Wilson School of Nursing.

She was appointed interim president of MCCN in May of this year after Dr. Ann Marie Brooks retired as president to return to her home in the Washington, D.C. area. Williamson received the title of president and academic dean in late August. She has two grown daughters who are educators and two grandchildren who she hopes might carry on the family nursing tradition.

She and her husband, who is retired, live in Columbus. She said what they enjoy most about the community is that "it's like a big city with a small-town feel. I enjoy golfing, and have

MOUNT CARMEL, *continued from Page 9*

opportunities to do that, and we've found several excellent places to eat. There's no shortage of things to do and we look forward to exploring the city more once the pandemic has ended."

Williamson said Dr. Ann Schiele, who came to the original Mount Carmel Hospital in Franklinton (also known as Mount Carmel West) as a nurse in 1961 and retired as the college's president in 2014, continues to be involved with the institution. "She's on my speed dial," Williamson said. "She's a key part of our history and will be a major player in our recently announced fundraising campaign, Our Legacy of Learning."

MCCN was known as a nursing school rather than a college for its first 87 years because its academic offerings were limited to nurses' training courses. It changed to its current name in 1990 when it began offering college courses, and it added a graduate program in 2003.

It had 36 students 30 years ago when it became a college and experienced steady growth for many years



Mount Carmel College of Nursing president Dr. Kathleen Williamson

Kent State University in terms of total enrollment.

Non-traditional students – those who have some experience in nursing or in another field – make up 56 percent of the student body, with 90 percent of the college's undergraduate students receiving financial aid.

Nearly all of its students are from the Columbus area. Because of the pandemic, all classes for the fall semester are being conducted online and its residence halls are closed.

MCCN remained in its Franklinton site after the Mount Carmel Health System moved the inpatient hospital which had been located there to Grove City last year. The move has allowed the college to expand next door, to the former Mount Carmel West medical



Students experience hands-on nursing at Mount Carmel College of Nursing in Columbus.

staff building. Mount Carmel Health also has opened a new emergency department in Franklinton and expanded its healthy-living facility there.

The college awards the BSN degree upon completion of one of four tracks: the traditional four-year course of studies; an 18-month advanced program for students who already have taken certain non-nursing courses; second-degree accelerated programs (SDAPs) of either 13 or 18 months for students with college degrees; and an online RN-BSN program for students who already are registered nurses.

Master of Science options are offered in four tracks: family nurse practitioner (FNP), acute care, nurse education, and leadership. These currently have a total of 80 students enrolled, with a little more than half taking nurse practitioner training, said Dr. Roxanne Oliver, director of graduate programs.

This January, the college began offering an 18-month online doctor of nursing practice (DNP) program for a group of eight students. Another eight-student group began the program this summer.

"The DNP is the highest level of academic presentation for clinical nursing practice," Williamson said. "It will enable those who receive it to become experts in clinical and leadership practice and enable hospitals



Mount Carmel College of Nursing director of graduate programs Dr. Roxanne Oliver

to move forward in evidence-based practices and policies."

"Evidence-based" is a term which describes looking at the best available current research and adapting it to a particular situation or patient.

The nurse practitioner field is one of the most rapidly growing parts of the nursing profession. Nurse practitioners have duties similar to those of primary-care physicians, allowing them to serve as a person's chief health care provider and to see patients of all ages.

"Their training allows nurse practitioners to view a patient in a holistic way, using their training to look at someone's physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health," Oliver said.

The AANC has said nurse practitioners can add critical mass to the health care workforce, especially in rural areas, where they already represent one in four health care providers. In Ohio, physicians and nurse practitioners work hand-in-hand because state regulations require a contract between a nurse practitioner and a collaborating physician.

Through Williamson's leadership, the college was awarded a \$2.5 million, five-year federal Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) grant for a nurse residency program to train family nurse practitioners after graduation and for a preceptor training program for FNP nurses who will assist in helping new FNP graduates develop into their roles as practitioners. The grant will allow graduates of FNP programs to be employed with partner organizations such as the Lower Lights Christian Health Center, Heart of Ohio Family Health and the Mount Carmel Medical Group for



Photos courtesy Mount Carmel

one year of training in a primary care community setting benefiting the underserved population.

The college also has partnerships with the Mount Carmel Health System (MCHS), offering students clinical experiences at MCHS hospitals, as well as other community partners such as Nationwide Children's Hospital, OhioHealth and the Ohio State University Medical Center. Other partners include Columbus State Community College, Ohio Dominican University and Wilmington College, allowing



Mount Carmel College of Nursing undergraduate dean Dr. Scott Dolan

students to take classes at those institutions and transfer to MCCN to complete a nursing degree.

Oliver said the college's newest Master's program in leadership will enable graduates "to act and think strategically and lead organizations through improvement and innovation efforts while participating in policy decisions. This will make its graduates more marketable."

Oliver, a nurse practitioner since 2013, has been at Mount Carmel since 2018. "The college's dedication to the success of its students is very evident," she said. "I'm impressed by how the staff here thinks of the next generation of nurses and the people

Students return to Ohio Dominican for fall semester

More than five months after the COVID-19 global pandemic forced colleges across the nation to quickly transition from in-person classes to an online-only format, students have returned to the classrooms at central Ohio's only Catholic university.

On Monday, Aug. 17, Ohio Dominican University (ODU) celebrated the first day of its fall semester – a semester unlike any other in its 109-year history. Students, faculty and staff wear face masks everywhere on campus. Signs encouraging social distancing are displayed across the university, including a 7-foot “Stay One Panther Apart” banner on the Oval; and classrooms feature creative seating layouts to help ensure that students remain a safe distance apart.

Dr. Robert Gervasi, the university's president, said that considering the circumstances, the fall semester couldn't have gotten off to a better start.

“We are very pleased with the response from our students and employees in terms of their willingness to comply with these measures. Our community realizes that these steps are necessary to help ensure the safety of our campus and the continuation of in-person classes,” he said. “Our students truly are excited to be back at ODU, and it's clear they are willing to do whatever it takes to make this a successful semester.”

Although many students have returned to the classroom, some have chosen to start the semester online – an option afforded to them through new technology available in more than two dozen classrooms. During the summer, ODU installed cameras and microphones in 31 classrooms and science labs to accommodate students who are unable or not yet ready to return to the classroom. That technology also has allowed the university to split some of its larger classes in half to allow for social distancing, with half of the class attending in person while the other half attends online, then vice versa.

“The availability of this classroom technology has been a game changer for us,” said Dr. Manuel Martinez, ODU vice president for academic affairs. “While we have offered online formats in our graduate and adult degree-completion programs for some time, this new technology has equipped us with what we need to ramp up our online offerings for our traditional students so that we can offer them ultimate flexibility. In fact, the vast majority of our undergradu-



Dr. Anjel Stough-Hunter, assistant professor of sociology, teaches a class on Monday, Aug. 17, the first day of Ohio Dominican University's fall semester. Photos courtesy Ohio Dominican University

ate in-person courses this fall are also available online.”

In addition to classes, ODU has conducted many events virtually, including campus traditions such as its recent fall convocation and Mass of the Holy Spirit.

The university also has made changes to its academic calendar to help ensure the safety and health of its students and their families by reducing the opportunities students have to travel home. For example, ODU eliminated its fall break and expanded its Thanksgiving break. Instead of returning to campus after Thanksgiving, students will remain at home, where they will attend any remaining fall classes and take their finals online. Students won't return to campus until January 2021.

The university also continues to offer its students opportunities for spiritual growth. Sister Diane Traffas, OP, ODU's vice president for mission and identity, said those events include socially distanced Mass on select weekdays and Sunday evenings, and an upcoming seminar series that supports the university's academic theme for

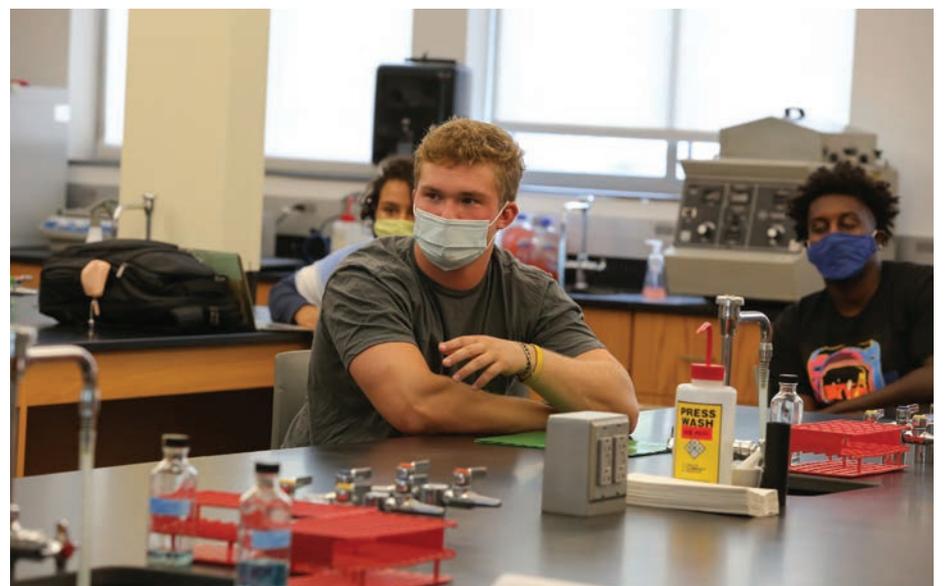
See OHIO DOMINICAN, Page 12



A 7-foot banner is displayed on the Ohio Dominican University Oval, encouraging students to stay 6 feet, or “one panther apart” from each other.



Ohio Dominican University's classrooms feature creative seating layouts to help ensure safe physical distancing.



Students attend science class in face masks on Monday, Aug. 17, the first day of Ohio Dominican University's fall semester.

OHIO DOMINICAN, *continued from Page 11*

the year, “What It Means to be Human,” which will take place in person and virtually.

“We are doing everything we can to help ensure our students continue to have access to opportunities that allow them to continue their faith journey,” Sister Diane said. “In addition to campus events and activities, we are actively seeking opportunities for

students and employees to volunteer in the community, which is perhaps more important now than ever before.”

Meanwhile, some of ODU’s spring graduates are anxious to attend their graduation ceremony, which was originally scheduled to take place in May, but had to be postponed. They will have that opportunity on Sunday, Oct.

4, when the university plans a special ceremony for them. The ceremony will take place in ODU’s gymnasium. Each graduate will receive two guest tickets to help ensure adherence to social distancing guidelines.

Gervasi says the university is excited to provide graduates with a proper sendoff.

“I have never been more eager

to celebrate a graduating class than this outstanding and resilient group of ODU graduates,” Gervasi said. “These students were dealt an incredibly difficult hand that disrupted the final year of their college experience. Despite the challenges, they rose to the occasion with tremendous grace and excelled in the face of adversity.”

Mercy College scores near top on investment return

Finding jobs with excellent starting salaries is highly likely for graduates of Mercy College in Toledo, according to a study released by Georgetown University. The college was ranked in the top 2 percent among 4,500 colleges and universities nationwide for return on investment (ROI) after 10 years and the top 5 percent for ROI after 40 years.

Dr. Susan Wajert, president of the college, said, “Our health care focus is what moved us near the top of the list. Mercy College’s degree and certificate programs prepare students for in-demand careers. Graduates not only

can easily find jobs, but they enter the workforce with higher salaries, with an average annual income above \$50,000.” While online programs have expanded Mercy College’s geographic footprint to 31 states, the majority of its graduates choose to remain in Ohio and Michigan.

Besides providing degree programs for those wanting to become nurses, health care programs at the certificate, associate, bachelor’s and graduate levels provide an array of options for those looking to enter or advance in health care careers.

Certificates in paramedic, ophthalmic assistant, medical

coding and polysomnographic technology programs usually can be completed in less than a year so graduates can enter the workforce more quickly. Online bachelor’s degree programs in medical imaging and health care administration and an online Master of Health Administration degree program also are available.

The demand for nurses has reached the highest levels in 80 years, and Mercy College graduates more than 200 nurses each year for Ohio’s job market. Mercy offers paths to becoming a nurse at the associate and bachelor’s degree levels, with an evening/weekend program for

those who have obligations during the day.

It also offers a chance for registered nurses to pursue Bachelor of Science in Nursing

(BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degrees and a BSN-to-RSN program.

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Fall brings new initiatives at Walsh University

Walsh University in North Canton understands the demands on students and families in 2020, and that is why this fall, the university announced bold measures to meet its students' needs. These include the addition of 10 new majors, a tuition freeze, and converting to a more flexible eight-week term, which enables traditional undergraduates to complete their degree in less than four years.

The new majors include programs geared toward student and industry needs, including eSports/gaming management; public health; actuarial science; data analytics; game development; information technology; web design; supply chain management; professional sales; and human resources management. In partnership with the LCMC Independent Colleges Consortium, all are available in a hybrid of in-person and online formats.

The new eight-week sessions provide more flexibility for students to earn their college degree at their preferred pace while pursuing internships, employment and other learning activities as they complete their degree studies. Students still will take a full load of courses, but will do so through two consecutive terms, rather than simultaneously.

In the midst of COVID-19 preparations on campus, the university has completed installation of nearly \$1.2 million worth of new analytical equipment in its chemistry labs through the SPARQ program. SPARQ (Shimadzu Program for Academics, Research and



Students and the school's Cavalier mascot greet other students returning to class at Walsh University in North Canton.

Photo courtesy Walsh University

Quality of Life) is an exclusive, invitation-only grant program to which few schools in the United States are accepted.

Renovations of the lab included work to accommodate new gas lines, exhaust hoods and electrical wiring, the proper disposal of old equipment and the installation of new items. SPARQ selected Walsh as an award recipient because of the university's

proven track record of outstanding science student preparation, potential for tremendous growth and commitment to mission.

With the start of the new academic year, several campus beautification projects are nearing completion. These donor-designated additions to campus were made possible through the generosity of Walsh's benefactors and were earmarked for these particu-

lar projects.

Founders Plaza is a new brick walkway entrance to campus with a clock tower, landscaping and a recently restored Founders statue, donated to the University from the Brothers of Christian Instruction in Canada. Work is also near completion on the new Larry Staudt turf field, which will be the home field for the Cavaliers' soccer, lacrosse and football teams. In addition, a new bonfire pit is being added next to the David Campus Center. These new outdoor facilities will help enhance campus life and provide opportunities for Walsh's students to gather while maintaining physical distancing.

In addition to traditional bachelor's degree programs, Walsh offers several options for adult students, including online degree completion and graduate programs in areas such as nursing, counseling, education, business, occupational therapy and physical therapy. The university also offers several professional development opportunities, including certificate programs, licenses and education endorsements.

Most recently, Walsh launched its skilled technical workforce program, which offers a customizable three-day online immersive training workshop for people who want members of their workforce to learn new skills so they can thrive in today's technology-based economy. Select workforce training courses are eligible for tuition reimbursement through the state of Ohio's TechCred program.

Walsh University president renews oath of fidelity during opening week Mass

In a week filled with activities to welcome students back to campus, one of Walsh's most sacred traditions is Opening Week Holy Mass. This year, the Walsh community joined together in prayer for the new school year on August 26 and celebrated Holy Mass amid COVID-19 precautions.

During Holy Mass, Walsh president Dr. Tim Collins invited all theologians, campus ministry and liturgical staff to join him as he renewed his oath of fidelity to the Magisterium, pledging to uphold the faith, morals and teachings of the Catholic Church as president of Walsh University. This promise is renewed annually at the Holy Mass of the Holy Spirit

"Today, we declare our readiness to serve the faith of the Church and accept our special role in serving the Church and in so doing publicly affirm that faith and reason both lead us to the Truth," Collins said. "Our com-

mitment to the uniqueness of Catholic higher education 'comes alive' in this public declaration and that sets us apart from government education by reminding our community that all branches of knowledge are taught at Walsh University – we exclude nothing in this search for truth and that is the path to happiness and discovering our life's purpose."

The Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a directive to Catholic colleges and universities in March 1989, requiring those directly connected with teaching Catholic doctrine to profess their adherence to the teaching authority of the Church.

"Our mission is to build men and women who will serve others and this public stance we make today serves as a commitment to the cause of truth," Collins said. "Faith and reason work together – never in tension – to lead us to finding truth."



Walsh University president Dr. Tim Collins (center) renews his oath of fidelity at an opening week Mass.

Photo courtesy Walsh University

Bishop Barron speaks to Franciscan graduates

More than 260 members of the Class of 2020 returned to campus to celebrate Franciscan University of Steubenville's 72nd baccalaureate Mass and commencement ceremonies on Friday, Aug. 14. The event had been postponed in May because of the coronavirus pandemic. It took place at the university's Vaccaro Baseball Field to allow proper social distancing.

Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron received an honorary doctorate in catechetics and evangelization before celebrating the baccalaureate Mass. In his homily, drawn from Scripture readings for the vigil Mass of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, he extolled Mary as the true Ark of the Covenant.



Father Dave Pivonka, TOR

He concluded with an exhortation to the Class of 2020. "This is a place where magnanimous people are formed and shaped and educated – 'great

souled' people," he said. "Can I urge you today, under the aegis of Mary assuming into heaven the Ark of the Covenant, to go forth from this ceremony with the great souls that have been formed here and under her banner, and to do the great work of the Church, which is so desperately needed in the world?"

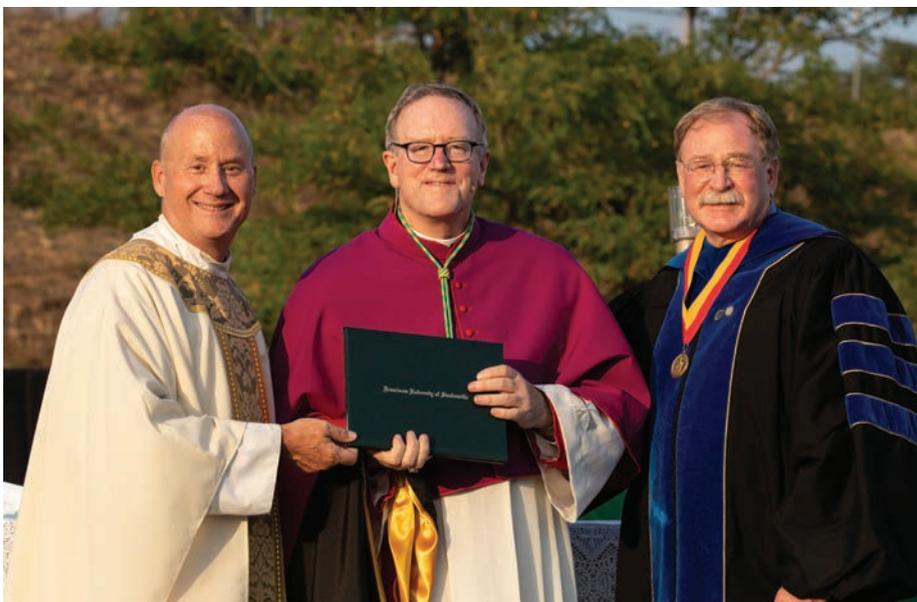
Families and friends who were not able to attend the ceremony because of social distancing guidelines celebrated the graduates' achievements from a nearby hillside or watched livestream video from home or nearby hotels.

The main commencement speaker was Sherry Weddell, co-founder of the international Catherine of Siena Institute. She urged members of the graduating class to discern their charisms.

"These are the supernatural gifts all the baptized have been given," she said. "They are what St. Thomas Aquinas called the gratuitous graces – the way you and I are supernaturally empowered by God to be instruments of his love, his beauty, his mercy, his healing and his provision for others."



Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron of Los Angeles received an honorary degree from Franciscan University of Steubenville on Aug. 14. Photo courtesy Franciscan University



At Franciscan University of Steubenville's commencement ceremonies on Friday, Aug. 14 were (from left): Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, university president; Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron of Los Angeles; and Dr. Daniel Kempton, the university's vice president of academic affairs. Photo courtesy Franciscan University



Franciscan announces five new online programs

Five new bachelor's degree programs from Franciscan University of Steubenville are available online. The programs were placed online in response to years of requests to make Franciscan's academically excellent and passionately Catholic education more widely available.

Each program includes the university's core curriculum and is created and taught by the same professors who teach on-campus classes.

Those who complete the new programs can earn one of five degrees: a Bachelor of Science degree in management or Bachelor of Arts degrees in philosophy, theology, catechetics or psychology.

"For years, we have heard from adult Catholics across the country and globe who love our mission and want to benefit from a Franciscan University degree in theology or philosophy, but could never come to Steubenville because of family and work obligations," said Dr. Daniel Kempton, the university's vice president for academic affairs. "Now these popular on-campus undergraduate programs also will be available online."

The online programs extend the university's mission to educate, evangelize and send forth joyful disciples, said Father Jonathan St. Andre, TOR, vice president of Franciscan life at the institution.

"Franciscan University's online learning environment reflects its Catholic identity and provides a solid, fervent education rooted in the Franciscan tradition," he said. "Students across the disciplines will be able to grow in faith, whether through conversations with online chaplains or other opportunities for fostering prayer and community."

For more information and to apply, go to online.franciscan.edu, or contact Tom Weishaar, director of online and graduate enrollment, at online@franciscan.edu or (740) 283-4410.

More than 260 members of Franciscan University of Steubenville's Class of 2020 participated in commencement ceremonies on Friday, Aug. 14. Photo courtesy Franciscan University

MOUNT CARMEL, *continued from Page 10*

they're going to touch."

Dr. Scott Dolan, the college's undergraduate dean, has been at Mount Carmel for seven years and also taught at Columbus State and was a critical care nurse. He is a Kent State graduate and at one time considered entering the priesthood and is an alumnus of the Pontifical College Josephinum.

"One thing that continues to keep me at Mount Carmel is its adherence to Catholic teaching," he said. "One of Mount Carmel Health's core values is service to the poor and the underserved, and that extends to the nursing school. We will take marginal, non-traditional students, as well as BSN students, and give them an opportunity to earn Master's degrees or DNPs or become teachers. I've often found that those from underserved backgrounds may not make the best students, but become great nurses."

"One of the great changes I've seen in my nursing career – one which has been accelerated by the COVID situation – is that this is truly an age of information technology," Dolan said. "It used to take a long time to teach students technical skills and the critical thinking they needed to perform. Now they have this tech at their fingertips, and you can teach them how to leverage it to provide safe, confident, evidence-based patient care."

"Next year, all our faculty and students will receive Apple iPads for their academic needs and for use in clinical settings. They're great tools and allow nurses to better meet the care needs of patients and to be the best nurses they can be."



Dolan said the college's second-degree programs provide great opportunities for students who have gained expertise in other areas and have come to realize that they have a calling to be a nurse. The college has offered the 13 month SDAP program for several years and recently began an 18-month second-degree accelerated hybrid (SDAP-H) program.

One of the college's SDAP-H students is Tamar Sarpong, whose family emigrated from Ghana about 15 years ago. She received a biology degree from the University of Toledo in 2015 and was employed at Nationwide Children's Hospital's research lab before she decided to attend MCCN.

"I enjoyed the work, but there wasn't a lot of interaction with people," she said. "It got to the point where I was giving names to the cells in my lab, and I knew I had to be among people. I had friends who went to Mount Carmel and were very competent, so I decided to give the college a try."

"I love how interactive the teachers are. It's their intention that everyone

does well. If you're struggling, they'll look for ways to improve your performance and try to figure out what your learning style is. In such an environment, it's hard not to do well."

Although in-person classes are not taking place currently at the college, Sarpong got a chance to be with other students in mid-August at a weeklong Remediation Skills Boot Camp.

"It was like speed dating for nurses," she said. "We learned some essential hands-on skills like inserting catheters and cleaning and applying certain dressings – the type of things you can't teach online. It was just nice to be with people, even for a short time," she said.

Sarpong is looking forward to receiving a BSN degree from the college

on June 18, 2021 and hopes eventually to become a nurse practitioner and a nursing leader. "I have ambitions, but ... one step at a time," she said.

The college will begin its Legacy of Learning campaign on Tuesday, Sept. 15, the 117th anniversary of its founding and the 30th anniversary of the date when it began offering college courses. To celebrate these anniversaries, the college is aiming to raise \$1 million so it can accommodate anticipated enrollment growth and can enhance the reputation of a Mount Carmel nurse as one who combines compassion with attention to quality standards. For more information or to make a gift, contact Alyssa Fry at (614) 234-4760 or afry@mchs.com.

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24th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Only in forgiveness will you be free

Sirach 27:30-28:7

Ps. 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35

Forgiveness is at the heart of the Gospel. You can tell someone has been deeply touched by the power of the Gospel more by the way in which that person extends the gift of mercy to others than by outward appearance or by words.

Peter asks the Lord, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" He thought he was being generous. The Jewish law called for fourfold restitution when a lamb was stolen. Seven times would be far more than that. Jesus' response takes it out of the human way of measuring. "Seven-seven times" points to a divine action. Forgiveness and mercy can flow only when God's grace is the source of it. Jesus is inviting Peter and us to a way of responding that lets go of measuring.

These days, many have fallen into the habit of measuring. Listen to conversations that are happening all around us. There is an increase of "blame" and of "demands" that others' actions correspond to our own way of thinking. When others act against us, there is a temptation to a "fourfold" exaction of repayment. This "flow" is backwards. The "flow" of the Gospel is rather an abundance of forgiveness and mercy. "The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion." When we open ourselves to the heart of God, our own way of responding to wrongs against us changes.

This is not at all a call to become a "doormat." True forgiveness does not give up one's dignity. Rather, it extends an invitation to a new awareness of the dignity of the human person. We are capable of great mercy because we share in God's own pow-

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary and St. Peter; and Waverly, St. Mary, Queen of the Missions.



er. Sirach suggests an attitude that comes from Wisdom, an enlightened self-interest for one who desires to be forgiven: "Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults." Covenant with God the Most High makes possible a look that comes from the divine perspective.

On the occasion of my first Mass 35 years ago, I asked for a special gift from those who participated. I asked each person there to think of someone who had hurt them in some way and, as a gift to me, to make a resolution to forgive that person. They did not have to tell me about it, but God would know and that would be enough. It surprised me when several individuals told me about the gift. Some did so that day. One person said, "I forgave the bishop that ordained you." Another commented, "Thanks for asking for that; I had carried it for a long time." Others mentioned it years later. One woman asked me if I remembered the gift I had requested; she said that it was her father that she chose to forgive and that there had been a renewed relationship after many years. He died after that, but the relationship had been a good one after the forgiveness was given.

The capacity to forgive is one of the most potent tools of the Gospel. When we choose to let go of vengeance and hurt, we allow God to lift a burden from us. There is room made available in our hearts for divine action. Love and mercy begin to flow into our lives

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

9/14-9/19

Luke 7:36-50

27,30,34-35,44
Luke 8:19-21

FRIDAY

1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Psalm 17:1b-d,6-7,8b,15
Luke 8:1-3

SATURDAY

1 Corinthians 15:
35-37,42-49
Psalm 56:10c-12,13-14
Luke 8:4-15

9/21-9/26

MONDAY

Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13
Psalm 19:2-5
Matthew 9:9-13

TUESDAY

Proverbs 21:1-6,10-13
Psalm 119:1,

MONDAY

Numbers 21:4b-9
Psalm 78:1b-2,34-38
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

TUESDAY

1 Corinthians 12:
12-14,27-31a
Psalm 100:1b-5
John 19:25-27
or Luke 2:33-35

WEDNESDAY

1 Corinthians 12:31--13:13
Psalm 33:2-5,12,22
Luke 7:31-35

THURSDAY

1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Psalm 118:1b-2,16-17,28

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF SEPT. 13 & SEPT. 20, 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 and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org.

10:30 a.m. Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church on St. Gabriel Radio (FM 88.3), Portsmouth.

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.

12:05 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. Saturdays, Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org. (Saturdays on radio only).

Videos of Masses are available at any time on the internet at these and many other parish websites: Mattingly Settlement St. Mary (www.stannstmary.org); Columbus St. Patrick (www.stpatrickcolumbus.org); Delaware St. Mary (www.delawarestmary.org); Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org); and Columbus Immaculate Conception (www.iccols.org). Check your parish website for additional information.

We pray Weeks II and III, Seasonal Prayer, Liturgy of the Hours.

and to make a difference in the world. As we experience all that is happening around us, let us resist the temptation to close in on our own way of

thinking and to react with bitterness and cynicism. Rather, let us learn to forgive "seventy-seven times" and to allow mercy to redeem the times.

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

All are called to work together in building up the kingdom of God

Isaiah 55:6-9

Ps. 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Matthew 20:1-16a

God is very close to us. He is to be found within the very fabric of our lives. When anything we find challenging or difficult happens, we can ask, "Why me?" Or we can open our

minds to God's presence, asking instead, "What are you saying to me, Lord?" If we are honest, we usually measure as the first workers in the vineyard did saying, "It's not fair!"

That's right. It is not fair, at least not this side of Heaven. A wise priest, while pointing at a crucifix, once told someone who had complained that something was not fair, "If you can ex-

plain to me why that happened to Jesus in a way that really satisfies, then I will explain to you why you have to go through your troubles." The worst thing to happen to anyone anywhere, at any time, has already happened, and that was definitely not fair.

A first grader asked, "Why did they kill Jesus that way anyway?" The only response that even comes close to an

answer is this: "Jesus died out of love for His Father and for us; He died showing His love to those who killed Him." So the answer to our experience of what seems unfair is to discover that we are all in this together. What is given to meet the needs of others is

Archangels Gabriel, Michael and Raphael, protect us

By MaryBeth Eberhard

As Sept. 29 approaches, I am welcoming in some old friends. Each morning, I brew my cup of hot tea, light the candle in my den and open my bible to pray with my friends. At 6 a.m., it is not customary to invite someone over for tea, so I invite my friends, the saints, to pray with me.

On my wall, I have the icons of our family's patron saints. I call them each by name and thank them for their intercession. This morning, I am welcoming in some old but good friends. For me, this is similar to having a phone call with a really good friend who moved out of town and you get the chance to reconnect. The memories, the laughter and the thanksgiving are all intertwined.

And so it is with my friends, the archangels. St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael. These holy protectors have carried not only me but the church through its entirety and their knowledge, wisdom and protection are a great asset to this momma's heart.

St. Gabriel is known as the messenger. He has been entrusted with key moments in church history, from Daniel to Zechariah, to the very incarnation of Jesus within the womb of Mary. I wonder what it is like to be an archangel to the Lord, to worship him on high, to be the voice and face of the living God.

I am often pondering the fierceness and gentleness represented by St. Gabriel. When we were expecting our third child, Gabriel was the name that came to our hearts. Born with Arthrogryposis, little did we know what a message he would be not only to us but to the world. We still are learning, but countless times I have reflected on the gentleness of Gabriel at the incarnation and the fierceness of Gabriel in the temple with Zechariah. My son Gabe reflects both of these traits from his patron.

I have come to know St. Michael, the defender, often referred to as the great prince of angels, as I have encountered suffering and strife in my life. Recognizing the need to stay close to the Lord and the option of just turning away from the path God has laid before me when it seems too daunting, invoking the protection of St. Michael has become a daily prayer.

St. Michael is the protector of my husband while at work and the guard-

WALKING WITH THE SAINTS



Archangels Shutterstock photo

ian of my children when they are away. He prays for my fortitude and stands beside me when temptation comes my way. As a mother and wife, temptation shows itself in many forms, from worry to a desire to control things to placing more temporal needs before God. St. Michael defends us in these battles.

Dear St. Raphael is the healer who tended to the wounds of Christ after he was tempted in the desert. St. Raphael is the constant friend who reminds me of self-care. He reveals himself in the pot of warm soup brought by a neighbor. He gently taps me on the heart and reminds me to go to bed when my to-do list is calling. He speaks upon my heart as I comfort the hurting and the broken in my own home. My time with St. Raphael helps me see and tend to the wounds of those whom I encounter.

With gentleness and great care, I listen when a friend shares a struggle. With wisdom and knowledge, I clean and dress bandages from surgeries. Many nights, I have been so exhausted I literally beg this dear friend of mine to guide my hands in serving. St. Raphael is quite dear to my heart as to heal requires serving. St. Raphael, guide me, I often pray.

Befriending the saints and welcoming them into our homes grows lasting friendships. Those who are in heaven worshipping the Lord desire to help us get there too. It is never a toll on them to ask for their prayers. It is only a joy for that is their calling. St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael, pray for us.

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SCRIPTURE, continued from Page 17

not really taken from us, even though it may seem so to us.

Can we not attend to the Gospel more carefully to discover that Jesus wants us to share His vision and His plans for us? Do we simply stand in line waiting for work? Are we working and yet somehow still watching closely and measuring those around us?

What are the dreams we might dare to dream if we stopped measuring as we do, "What's in it for me?" When our hearts are open, we will find that love begets love. To love as Mother Teresa did, for example, we have to pay attention to the needs of others, to be filled with the desire to satisfy Jesus' thirst for souls. Jesus invites us to share His vision and the plans He has for us to accomplish together.

"The Lord is near to all who call upon him." Let us "seek the Lord while He may be found." Where is God to be found? In life itself as it un-

folds for us, in time and in Eternity. Let us "call to Him while He is near."

God's way of reigning over us is to call us to work together, to respect the place each worker has, to cooperate with one another to build the kingdom. Idleness in the marketplace occurs when we are not able to relate because there is a broken relationship. The kingdom is for all; all are called to build it up.

God calls us to go into His vineyard and to open ourselves to a new way of seeing. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts. We are invited to see our lives from God's point of view. How do we respond?"

May we work together to share the only vision worth living for – the vision of the Gospel of Christ.

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

COUZINS, James M., 80, Aug. 28
St. Michael Church, Worthington

CUGLIARI, Rosalie (Reinhart), 90, Aug. 25
St. Joseph Church, Dover

DEFFET, Mark P., 54, Aug. 24
St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbus

DUNLAP, Maureen A. (Kinehan), 66, Aug. 22
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

ESPER, Nancy J. (Snow), 86, Aug. 23
St. Colman of Cloyne Church, Washington Court House

EVANS, Barbara A., 63, Aug. 21
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

HOTTINGER, Ruth E. (Karcher), 75, Aug. 21
St. Leonard Church, Heath

KAISING, Robert J., 79, Aug. 21
St. John Church, Logan

LEBOLD, Joseph A., 64, Aug. 22
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

LUCAS, Patricia A., 80, Aug. 23
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

LUCIOTTI, Francis M., 89, Sept. 1
St. Leonard Church, Heath

MASDEA, John F., 87, Aug. 29
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

MIRARCHI, Rechele L., 47, Aug. 26
St. Cecilia Church, Columbus

MONTENARO, Jean L. (Patterson), 97, Aug. 28
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

MURRAY, Mary E. (Sipos), 84, Aug. 19
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

PICKRELL, Laverne E. (Schockling), 93, Aug. 27
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

THOMAS, Dale J., 58, Aug. 24
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

UDECK, Robert J., 75, Aug. 29
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

VALENTINE, Veronica "Vera" (Masdea), 89, Aug. 21
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

WALKER, Mildred A. (Smith), 87, Aug. 26
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

WILLIS, Kevin D., 68, Aug. 21
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

ZIELINSKI, Thomas, 62, Aug. 17
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

Sister Miriam Dosch, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister Miriam Dosch, OSF, 84, who died Monday, Aug. 17 at Holy Family Convent in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, will be celebrated at a later date in the convent.

She was born on March 5, 1936 in Zanesville to Francis and Hilaria (Mehling) Dosch. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Silver Lake College in Manitowoc and a Master of Arts degree from Ohio State University.

She entered the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity in 1954 and professed her vows as Sister Hilaire in 1956.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was

a teacher at Delaware St. Mary (1964-1968) and Zanesville St. Nicholas (1987-1994) schools. She also was a teacher at schools in Wisconsin and the Diocese of Steubenville, a secretary in Illinois and a pastoral minister at Cambridge St. Benedict Church. She had been a resident of the St. Rita Health Center in Manitowoc since 2015.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and brothers, Paul, Harry (Virginia), Ralph and John. Survivors include brothers, Howard (Patricia), George (Linda) and Mark Dosch; and sisters, Martha Carpenter and Monica (Joseph) Tumeo.

DeSales establishes diversity office

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School has established an office of diversity and student equity, which will be led by Darrien Scott, a business teacher at the school and a 2013 DeSales graduate.

Scott will provide leadership for diversity, equity and inclusion-based programming, education and initiatives throughout the school. "I am most excited about having this new position at my alma mater because it is an opportunity to create positive change within the community that has given so much to so many," he said. "The position gives our school the opportunity

to listen, learn and grow together."

The school also has partnered with Seed the Way, LLC as part of its commitment to sustain more equitable and anti-racist policies, spaces and systems. "The partnership will have an enormously positive impact on students' ability to lead effectively in an ever changing world," a news release from the school said. "To that end, because diversity is always evolving, the Office of Diversity and Student Equity will mirror its dynamic nature, demonstrating that an equitable learning environment benefits everyone."

To have an obituary printed in The Catholic Times, send it to: tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

Diocesan Recreation Association announces fall sports changes

The Diocesan Recreation Association has announced several changes in the diocesan school sports calendar for the 2020-21 academic year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The football and boys and girls soccer seasons, which was scheduled for this fall, have been postponed, with hopes that those sports will be offered in the spring, said DRA director Marty Raines, noting that football and soccer have been classified as contact sports

by the state of Ohio. Baseball is being offered by the DRA this fall, along with the scheduled sports of boys and girls cross country and boys and girls volleyball.

The DRA had to cancel the spring seasons for softball, baseball and boys and girls track when the pandemic closed all Ohio schools in mid-March.

"Current developments and the uncertainty of what this pandemic will do in the future have caused a disruption

in the way we attend Mass, the ways schools will look when they reopen, and to sports," Raines said in a letter to diocesan athletic directors, school principals and pastors.

"We all know that sports are a valuable asset to the lives of children," Raines said. "Sports and teamwork contribute to the whole development of children. We know athletics provide for basic needs: spiritual, physical, emotional, moral and mental

health while teaching self-discipline and selfishness. ... (School administrators, athletic directors, coaches and parents) are trying to best provide athletics that are safe for all participants during a pandemic that has changed all of our lives."

Raines said the DRA is monitoring pandemic-related developments and reserves the right to change athletic schedules as necessary to ensure student safety.



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New diocesan missions director is a missionary herself

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

The new director of the diocesan Missions Office knows what it's like for a missionary to be sent to an unfamiliar land to spread the message of the Gospel – she has had that experience herself.

Sister Zephрина Mary Gracykutty, FIH, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, came to the United States from her homeland of India 20 years ago to live in one of the four convents where her order serves in the Indianapolis area. She has been in this country ever since.

After 17 years in convents at St. Michael and St. Luke churches in Indianapolis, she came to Ohio in 2017 to serve in a convent that the order established three years earlier at Chillicothe St. Peter Church.

She and Sister Saima Mary Jessy Isaac, FIH, who also had been in Chillicothe, are the first residents of a convent that their order has established in the former rectory of Columbus St. Aloysius Church in the city's Hilltop neighborhood. The convent was blessed on Sunday, July 26. Sister Zephрина will spend most of her time at the missions office and Sister Saima will focus on hospital work. Three other sisters remain in Chillicothe.

“The word ‘mission’ comes from the Latin *missio*, meaning ‘to send forth,’ and that is what our order has done by coming to America,” Sister Zephрина said. “We came from India to this land, not knowing anything about this place, its background or its culture in the beginning, but wanting to proclaim Jesus’ message through our simple life and our work, just as missionaries do throughout the world.”

Sister Zephрина succeeds Leandro “Lany” Tapay, who retired in June after 13 years as diocesan missions director. Tapay also came to the United States from overseas, arriving in 1967 from the Philippines and serving as a guidance counselor at London High School in Madison County for 35 years before being employed by the Diocese of Columbus.

Sister Zephрина said Father Stash Dailey, pastor of Columbus Holy Family Church and diocesan vicar for religious, called her to say Tapay was retiring and to ask if she was interested in leading the missions office.



Sister Zephрина Mary Gracykutty

She said Father Dailey told her that Bishop Robert Brennan had asked him who would be a good candidate for the missions director's post, and he thought of her. Father Dailey has been instrumental in bringing several orders of sisters and priests based in other nations, including Sister Zephрина's order, to the diocese.

The Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary were founded in 1844 in India by Father Louis Dupuis, a French missionary, and were the first Catholic religious order of indigenous women in Asia. They came to the United States in 1998 and have convents in Chillicothe; Columbus; Indiana; and New Rochelle, New York. The order has about 530 members worldwide.

Sister Zephрина studied at Fatima Mata National College in the Indian state of Kerala and Marian University in Indianapolis. Her service includes teaching, prison ministry, spiritual direction and charitable works.

“What I enjoyed most in Chillicothe was ministering in the prisons in that area,” she said. “It also gave me great satisfaction to be able to visit the sick and the homebound and people in nursing homes, giving them Communion and just listening to them. I hope to be able to continue to do some of that.”

“It's a great privilege for me, as a mis-

sonary from India, to work here and promote missions around the world. It's also helpful to the members of our congregation in India to learn from the experiences of the sisters here in America and Germany, Italy and Jordan,” where the order also has convents.

“One thing I've learned from being in America is that people here seem to be more charitable, kind and generous than those of other nations. They're always willing to open their hearts to missionaries, and I look forward to working fully with parishes in the diocese once the coronavirus pandemic ends,” she said.

“Lany told me when I took his place that this was a wonderful job and that I would be very rewarded for working here. I'm ready to learn and to get to know the people of the diocese and missionaries from all parts of the world.”

The diocese's Missionary Cooperation Plan, during which representatives of various missionary orders visit parishes between April and September to talk about their work and ask for donations, had to be limited this year because of the virus. No in-person visits took place, with appeals coming through letters from the missionaries read by parish pastors, as well as video presentations and notices in parish bulletins or websites. Most of the diocese's parishes usually take part in the appeal.

New vice chancellor aims to serve bishop, priests

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Father Michael Hartge says that as vice chancellor of the Diocese of Columbus, he's ready to provide assistance to Bishop Robert Brennan and the diocese's priests wherever it's needed.

Bishop Brennan appointed Father Hartge to the position in June, and he assumed his new role on Tuesday, July 14. He will be part of the diocesan Chancery staff and will be in residence at Columbus St. Peter Church.

Father Hartge, 35, had been pastor of the Perry County Consortium of Parishes in New Lexington, Corning, Crooksville and Junction City for two years. He fills a position that has been vacant since Deacon Thomas Berg Jr., who had been vice chancellor, was appointed diocesan chancellor in 2012.

“When Bishop Brennan told me about the appointment, he said he needed more help administratively and thought it would be good for a priest to fill that role,” Father Hartge said. “I'll be doing a variety of things

related to the day-to-day life of the diocese and know I'll be working closely with my brother priests, because the bishop has stressed making this office a resource for priests.”

The Church's Code of Canon Law says the principal function of a diocesan chancellor “is to take care that acts of the curia (the diocese's principal officers) are gathered, arranged and safeguarded in the archive of the curia. If it seems necessary, the chancellor can be given an assistant whose title is to be vice chancellor.”

Father Hartge said that when he asked Bishop Brennan about specific duties of his new position, “he quoted from the passage in the Gospel of John where Mary tells the wine stewards during the wedding feast at Cana, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ I'll be like the stewards and do whatever the



Father Hartge

bishop wants me to do.”

Although he will be living at St. Peter Church and usually celebrates Mass there on Friday mornings, Father Hartge is available to assist pastors throughout the diocese at times when they need another priest for Masses in their parishes. He already has filled that role at Worthington St. Michael Church, the Scioto County Consortium of Parishes and Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

Father Hartge was ordained a priest on May 30, 2015, by Bishop Frederick Campbell. He served as parochial vicar for the consortium consisting of Chillicothe St. Peter, Waverly St. Mary, Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne and Zaleski St. Sylvester churches for three years until being appointed to the Perry County pastorate.

“I was thrilled that Bishop Campbell assigned me to Perry County,” he said. “The people there embraced me with open arms, and we got to know each other very quickly. It was a very good experience, and that made it that much harder to leave after only two years because my new appointment

came sooner than my former parishioners and I expected.

“This is an unusual time in the history of the Church,” Father Hartge said. “Not that long ago, someone who had been a priest for five years still would have to wait a few years before becoming a pastor. With the smaller number of priests, that's no longer the case, so now I'm doing something I never would have expected to do at this stage of my priesthood a few years ago.

“I've enjoyed my friendships with many priests in the diocese, starting at my home parish, Gahanna St. Matthew, when Msgr. (Edward) McFarland, Father (Paul) Noble and Father (Theodore) Sill, the current pastor, were pastors there,” he said. “Msgr. (Stephan) Moloney (now diocesan vicar general) was in residence at St. Matthew's for many years and also was a big influence, and so was my great-uncle, Father Russ Tikalsky, who was a priest in the Milwaukee

At fictional soup kitchen, hope is the ticket

By Sarah Reinhard

The Sad Kitchen
John Paul King
2020, Galaxy Galloper Press
\$16

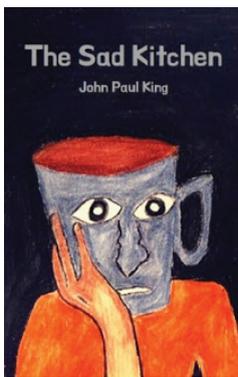
“The Sad Kitchen is a friendly place. It is a diner where people who are sad come in the nighttime, and I am their waiter. Back in the kitchen my wife does the cooking and makes the tickets. She’s the angel of this operation. Helen. We serve only breakfast at the Sad Kitchen and are open all night.”

With that, the reader is taken on an adventure of hope and a lesson in perseverance. In *The Sad Kitchen*, Columbus St. Charles High School graduate and central Ohio native John Paul King weaves the story of Helen and Vern. Helen Sampson is the founder of a soup kitchen located in a former diner. Each night, it’s filled with people who “seek refuge when they are kept awake by a guilty conscience.”

Helen, who’s the cook, gives every patron a “ticket” with their food: *Pray a rosary. Give a plate of food to a hungry person. Call your daughter even though she says she hates you and is ashamed of you.* As for Vern, the tick-

ets have to do with him writing a book. Vern, a regular at the Sad Kitchen, had an experience that no one believes. No one, that is, but Helen. She encourages him to share it, and he writes a children’s story, illustrating it with stick figures in crayon. He lands a book contract, and the work goes viral.

In the meantime, the Sad Kitchen garners the attention of the police. What can be good about a nighttime



establishment that’s attracting less-than-stellar patrons? Cue protests and suspicious citizens. And prayer. Helen is a woman of prayer, and her husband, Bubba, is awed by her persistence.

Throughout the book, we’re faced with incomprehensible choices. If you pause while reading it, you might find yourself wondering what you would do ... if your son was murdered, if you spent every night as a short-order cook, if you were hopeless and in despair.

Helen’s actions are impressive, made even more so when you find out that her son was murdered.

“Helen is loosely inspired by a real person who made a similar heroic act of forgiveness,” King said in discussing the book, and that “gave me confidence to keep writing when I felt like I was losing touch with reality. ...

“As I was writing the book, I kept thinking I had to make Helen’s merciful ways ‘make sense,’ but the whole point of forgiveness is that it doesn’t make sense from the perspective of a

grasping, overly analytical mind. Pope Francis has called God’s mercy ‘an abyss beyond our comprehension.’”

Helen shows mercy in a way that makes Bubba – who narrates the story – continually marvel. Some of their conversations are so real and raw that you feel as though you’re a voyeur. Or maybe as if you’re reading your own thoughts on the page.

King said, “One thing that makes fiction seem worthwhile from a Catholic standpoint is that Christ’s mission seems to involve a process of comforting disturbed people, while simultaneously disturbing the too comfortable. That’s exactly what good fiction does.”

As for *The Sad Kitchen*, King said he hopes to reach anyone who feels alienated from the community or from themselves because of guilt.

King is originally from Hilliard and attended St. Brendan the Navigator Church, graduating from St. Charles in 2010. He has recently returned to the Columbus area with his wife and daughter.

Children’s tale brings miraculous event to life

By Elizabeth Pardi

Giorgio’s Miracle
Laurie Schmitt
2020, Marian Press
96 pages
\$11.95

What’s the best way to teach children something complex, such as an event in history or the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist? One way is to make it into a story.

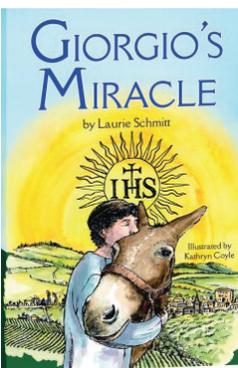
By creating a work of historical fiction, Laurie Schmitt seeks to introduce to children the powerful Eucharistic miracle that occurred in Turin, Italy, in 1453. Rebellious soldiers entered a church and stole valuables, including a monstrance holding a consecrated host. One thief packed the stolen goods upon a donkey and set off, but upon reaching the bustling town square in a neighboring city, the animal collapsed. The bundle of booty broke open, and, miraculously, the host rose into the air, remaining suspended until a bishop came with a chalice into

which the host descended.

In *Giorgio’s Miracle*, Schmitt, a mother of nine home-schooled children, creates characters for the thieves, the donkey, the animal’s owner and his family, making the events easier for children to understand.

Giorgio is a boy living in Turin with his beloved but mischievous donkey, Franca. As the son of a blacksmith, Giorgio works hard running errands and making deliveries for his father, Alessandro, with Franca alongside him, often pulling a cart. Since the tragedy of Giorgio’s mother dying shortly after his birth, Alessandro has become bitter, neglecting both his relationship with his son as well as his Catholic faith.

Fortunately for Giorgio, his Aunt



Gemma and the parish priest, Don Bartolomeo, provide the love and faith formation that Alessandro does not. Giorgio has found comfort in the Church and his faith.

Schmitt’s numerous, endearing descriptions of the church building portray it as a peaceful place of worship and refuge. “The church offered security and rest to Giorgio and to anyone else who would enter it,” she writes. “It beckoned him to enter in. The tall arches and high cupolas pulled his thoughts heavenward. ... Here, it was all stillness and peace.”

Alessandro’s hardness as well as the fading faith of the people of Turin motivate Giorgio to pray for a miracle that will change hearts. Then, one evening, while he’s enjoying a lengthy discussion with Don Bartolomeo, Franca wanders off. She’s made it far from Turin when two thieves spot her. They make her carry their stolen goods, unknowingly leading her back to Giorgio.

One of the telling features of Schmitt’s writing is her intense, scenic detail. Her intricate descriptions

make scenes come alive and offer opportunities for young readers to absorb new vocabulary words:

“At this midmorning hour, the verdant pastures were dotted with sheep and goats, which were nonchalantly rambling among clumps of meadow grass, feeding as they meandered there. Well-ordered vineyards curled around the slopes and over small hills like smooth green ribbons. The fruit trees that grew in the orchards stood lined up in orderly rows, decorating the foothills for miles and leading Franca’s eyes to take in the vista that beautified the far distance.”

When I asked my 9-year-old niece for her opinion after she scanned some pages, she told me, “It’s very detailed.” But I wouldn’t say Schmitt risks losing her readers’ attention in the rich descriptions. With its lively dialogue and meaningful personal relationships, *Giorgio’s Miracle* is a sweet, refreshing read that left me touched by the friendship between a boy and his donkey and reminded of the power of the Lord’s true presence in the Eucharist throughout the ages.

VICE CHANCELLOR, continued from Page 20

Archdiocese for 64 years before he died this past February. They’ve all been great mentors. Knowing them gives me confidence that I’ll be able to serve all of the diocese’s priests as vice chancellor.”

Father Hartge is the son of Frank Hartge, business manager of Colum-

bus St. Patrick Church, and Judeen Hartge, who has been a teacher at Gahanna St. Matthew School for 25 years. He has two brothers, Frank, 37, and Joe, 26, and a sister, Molly, 33, who is a theology teacher at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School.

He is a graduate of Columbus St.

Charles Preparatory School, received a Bachelor of Science degree from Ohio University in 2007, and then was a newscaster and disc jockey at WAIS radio in Nelsonville and a public radio station in North Carolina.

He said he had always thought about being a priest and that he felt

promptings from the Holy Spirit grow stronger during his radio career, so he decided to enter the seminary in 2009. He spent the next six years at the Pontifical College Josephinum, receiving Master of Divinity and Master of Arts degrees in theology from the institution just before his ordination.

Local Travel

Hocking Hills: Ideal getaway for nature lovers

By Aaron Leventhal

With the coronavirus pandemic in full force, my wife Beth and I decided our summer vacation should be close to home. Fortunately, just 60 miles southeast from our German Village home lies the exquisite natural beauty of Hocking Hills State Park. In August, we rented a lovely cabin in the woods just off State Route 664 South and enjoyed a long-weekend, family getaway that wonderfully combined relaxation with adventure, fun and quality time together.

The scenic wonderland offers extraordinary sandstone gorges, lush green hillsides, abundant wildlife and a serene solitude that has beckoned visitors since the Adena and Hopewell mound builders inhabited the land thousands of years ago. We delighted in the myriad recreational options — wooded hiking trails through splendid sandstone caves, canoe liveries, fishing in well-stocked rivers and lakes, hilly golf courses and a number of premier attractions.

We began each day with a hike through one of the nearby sandstone caves — Old Man's Cave, Ash Cave and Cedar Falls. There are nine trails in Hocking Hills State Park ranging from 1/4-mile and handicap-accessible route to a challenging six-mile hike. After lunch, we selected an activity for our entire family.

The attractions listed below are all owned and skillfully managed by locals, demonstrating that small business entrepreneurship is alive and well in and around Hocking Hills. They take pride in their beautiful, natural surroundings and Appalachian heritage and have instilled in their staff the importance of providing visitors with quality service. All are fun-packed for both young and old at a reasonable cost.

High Rock Adventures offers ecotours on the pristine, private property of founder, director and trainer Steve Foley. He is a graduate of Franklin University and was the director of Hocking College's Ecotourism and Adventure Travel. On the ecotours, all of his guides combine nature education with challenging, low-impact experiences, including cliff and canyon

rappelling, climbs through natural sandstone canyons and information on edible and medicinal plants.

Tours last approximately three hours and are available March-November; reservations are required. 740-385-9886, www.highrockadventures.com, on State Route 374 in Rockbridge.

Hocking Hills (aka Fox's) Canoe Livery delivers one of the region's most popular outdoor recreational activities. Established in 1996, the livery is owned and managed by Cindy and Aaron Fox. Visitors are transported by bus about five miles north and then paddle canoes, kayaks and rafts down the Hocking River for about two hours back to the livery. Primitive campsites and rustic cabins are available on the premises. Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are recommended, especially on weekends. Open April-October. 740-385-0523, www.hockingriver.com, at 33 East and State Route 664 in Logan.

Butterfly Ridge Conservation Center is owned and operated by Christopher Kline and wife Chris on 21 acres they have designed as a natural butterfly habitat, where their motto is, "Making the world a little better place, one butterfly at a time." Visitors can explore the mile-long, scenic trail through wetlands, prairies and pine forest groves that are home to species ranging from Swallowtails, Blues and Skippers to Sulphurs, Whites and Brushfoots. Chris spent several years at Franklin Park Conservatory working with its "Blooms and Butterflies" exhibit, where he was affectionately known as "The Butterfly Guy." He decided to devote his life to creating a unique butterfly sanctuary and in 2017 opened Butterfly Ridge on property owned by his family since 1863. Visitors can join professionally guided tours or hike the trail on their own. Open April 15-October 15, Thursday-Monday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is only \$5, and dogs and picnic lunches are welcome on the grounds. 740-204-5372, www.butterfly-ridge.com, on State Route 374 in Rockbridge, between Conkle's Hollow and Rock House.

Due to limited time, we were unable to experience many other popular attractions, including: **Hocking Hills Canopy Tours** for zipline thrills;



Dani Leventhal ReStack rappels down a cliff on a High Rock Adventures ecotour.

Photo by Sheilah Wilson ReStack

Jack Pine Studio, where Jack and other skilled crafters create exquisite, blown-glass designs and offer live demonstrations; **Blue Moon Acres**, for guided trail horse rides; **John Glenn Astronomy Park**, where visitors can observe "zillions of shimmering stars," 24/7, 365 nights a year; and **Main Street in Downtown Logan**, where dozens of shops, galleries eateries and attractions line the quaint, small-town avenue.

Dining: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we ate most of our meals in our cabin or at a picnic table in the

back yard surrounded by towering pines and sandstone ridges. We went only to restaurants that had patio seating and welcomed our Labrador retriever Lily. All were open for lunch and dinner.

Millstone Southern Smoked BBQ prides itself on being a locals' favorite, with exceptional BBQ, ranging from Kansas City baby back ribs to Texas beef brisket, along with meatloaf, Portobello mushrooms, char-grilled ribeye steaks, smoked chicken and

LOCAL TRAVEL, continued from Page 22



Christopher Kline, owner and guide, shares fascinating information at his Butterfly Ridge Conservation Center. Photo by Shayne Leventhal

shrimp, and a variety of salads, sides and desserts. In addition to patio seating, there is a large grassy area with picnic table seating. 740-385-5341

Urban Grille Pub, overlooking the 18-hole Hocking Hills Golf Club, offers exceptional food and service at very reasonable prices. The menu includes dozens of appetizers, fresh

salads and sandwiches, flame-grilled steaks and burgers, seafood and chicken, along with homemade desserts and dynamite cocktails. Prime rib is available Friday and Saturday after 5 p.m. 740-385-8766

Hocking Hills Visitor Information, 800-462-5464, ExploreHockingHills.com. Your first stop should be



Beth Ervin Leventhal and granddaughter Rose kayak down the Hocking River with kayaks supplied by Fox's Canoe Livery. Photo by Sheilah Wilson ReStack



Exploring Old Man's Cave is fun for young and old. Photo by Beth Ervin Leventhal

at the Welcome Center on State Route 664 South for maps, brochures and personalized staff recommendations.

Travel writer Aaron Leventhal from Columbus is a frequent contributor to The Catholic Times.

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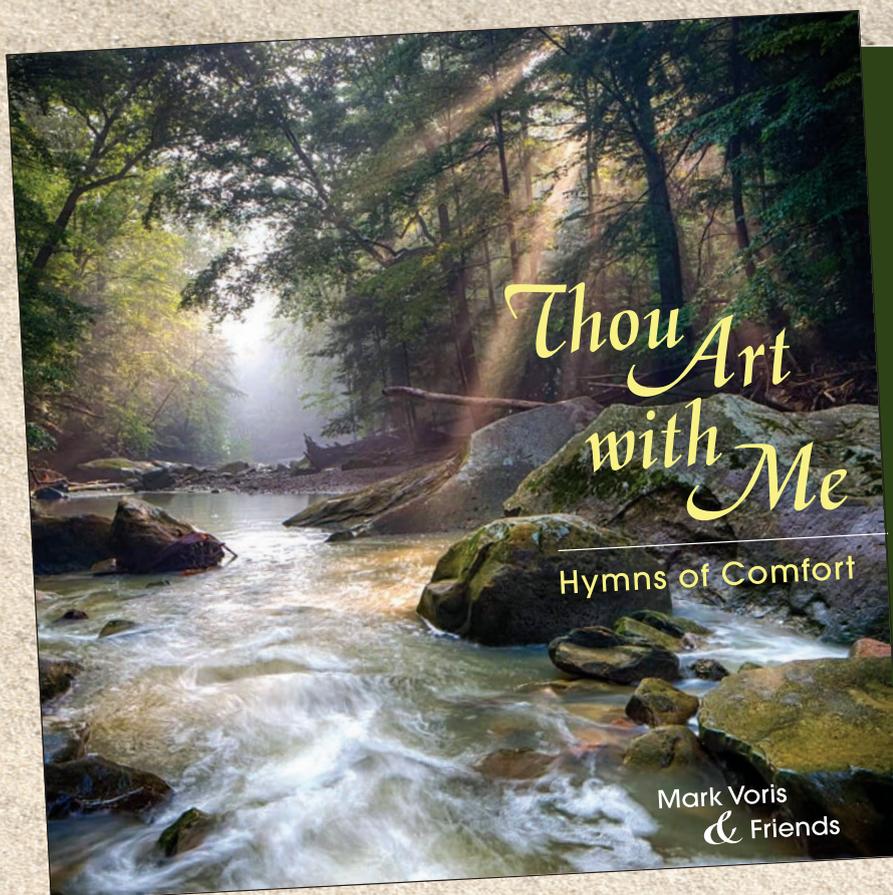
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5. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow.....3:56
6. Jewels.....3:14
The Ladies of Longford
7. All Creatures of Our God and King.....4:10
8. Beyond the Sunset.....4:06
Featuring Dan Cade on fiddle
9. Here's My Heart O Take and Seal It.....3:58
10. Nearer My God to Thee.....5:15
Catherine Voris, vocalist, featuring Arkadiy Gips on violin

Thou Art with Me

Hymns of Comfort
Mark Voris & Friends



Our hope is that these song arrangements will bring you comfort, rest, and healing every day, but especially in your time of need.

Recorded and mastered by Chaz Mechenbier
Graphics by Chameleon Designs

Special thanks to Ss. Simon and Jude Parish in West Jefferson, Ohio
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May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13

In these uncertain times that we all have been facing together, we need a place to go to quiet our souls and to pray to our heavenly Father! Emotive Instrumental Music helps calm your soul and brings peace to your private space whether in your car or a special place at home. *Sweet Hour of Prayer* and *Whispers of Mary* CDs will also bring you that centering time we all need each day.

Thou Art with Me Hymns of Comfort can be purchased at the following locations:



Columbus, Ohio • 1-614-451-7155

Our Lady of Consolation Shrine

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The talented musicians and vocalists of *Thou Art with Me Hymns of Comfort*



Arkadiy Gips and Chaz Mechenbier



The Ladies of Longford



Catherine Voris



Chaz Mechenbier, Stephanie Doyle, and Nicki Joe Baker



Hilda Doyle