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**SUNBURY ST. JOHN NEUMANN:  
A THRIVING PARISH IN A GROWING AREA**



The Editor's Notebook

# The Promise of Spring

By David Garick, Editor

*For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land. (Song of Solomon 2:11-12)*

Spring is upon us. Well, it won't be official for another fortnight, but let's not quibble. The days are warming up, buds are showing up on some trees and bushes, daylight saving time returns this Sunday. (Don't forget to set your clock forward one hour Saturday night or you'll be late for Mass!)

Down at Garick Acres, the turkey vultures have returned to their roost at Harrisburg. My wife and I always look forward to that. The vultures may not have the good public relations of the swallows returning to Capistrano, but we always welcome them back from wherever they winter down south. The sight of them soaring in lazy circles in a clear blue sky is a great sign that summer is not so far away.

Actually, winter has not been so bad this year. My snow shovel never left the garage this winter. I'll take that any time. But while this winter was relatively mild and snowless, it still was long and gray. What a relief it is to see the earth springing back to life after its time of slumber.

This annual renewal is part of God's great design. Just as it applies to the created order around us, the renewal is also essential to our spiritual life. We should all be feeling some of the energizing effects of a spiritual reawakening right now. The season of Lent uses prayer, penitence, and almsgiving not as some kind of punishment, but rather as tools to awaken our spirits to

our proper role in creation and our destiny as children of God. The word "Lent" actually comes from the German word for spring. It points us toward the Resurrection and the ultimate renewal that awaits us in everlasting life.

St. Paul calls us to "Put off your old nature which belongs to your former manner of life ... and be renewed in the spirit of your minds." This is the task that lies before us. Just as the warm winds and longer days encourage us to do that spring cleaning and prepare the land for the summer to come, our hearts must turn to the exciting task that lies ahead of us in living out Christ's mission to our world. Each of us has a part to play in overcoming the darkness of the world that creeps over us, letting forth the glorious light of Christ to shine upon those around us and leading the world into the perfect Eden that God intended for all of us at the Creation and that he promises us in the end. Again, St. Paul tells us, "Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation; namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."

This week's *Catholic Times* takes a close look at St. John Neumann Parish in Sunbury, a church where energetic renewal and growth of the people of Christ goes on, not just in Lent, but all year long.



## CHURCH PLANS TO REDOUBLE EFFORT FOR LAW TO PROTECT RELIGIOUS CONSCIENCE

By Catholic News Service

U.S. church leaders pledged to redouble efforts to support religious freedom after the Senate voted to table the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act on March 1.

Introduced as an amendment to a highway funding bill, the bill was tabled by a 51-48 vote, effectively killing it.

Known as the Blunt amendment because its chief sponsor was Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., the bill was defeated largely along party lines. It drew the support of three Democratic senators — Robert Casey of Pennsylvania, Joe Manchin of West Virginia, and Ben Nelson of Nebraska. Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine was the lone Republican to vote against the measure. Ohio senators were split on the amendment. Sen. Rob Portman supported the amendment, while Sen. Sherrod Brown opposed it.

Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty, said in a statement after the vote that the bishops will continue their strong defense of conscience rights for all people.

"The need to defend citizens' rights of conscience is the most critical issue before our country right now," Bishop Lori said. "We will continue our defense of conscience rights through all available legal means. Religious

freedom is at the heart of democracy and rooted in the dignity of every human person.

"We will not rest until the protection of conscience rights is restored and the First Amendment is returned to its place of respect in the Bill of Rights," the statement continued.

Bishop Lori also expressed his gratitude to Blunt and the other senators for their vote in favor of the amendment.

"We will build on this base of support as we pursue legislation in the House of Representatives, urge the administration to change its course on this issue, and explore our legal rights under the Constitution and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act."

Blunt proposed the bill on Feb. 9 amid controversy surrounding rules from the Department of Health and Human Services under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that required all employers to provide coverage for contraception and sterilization services in any health insurance plan. After a three-week national debate, the White House on Feb. 10 revised the rules to shift the payment of contraception and sterilization coverage from religious employers to health insurance companies for any women who sought such services.

The bishops and other religious leaders opposed the change as well, say-

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**CATHOLIC TIMES**

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## ANNUAL DIOCESAN CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE



Richard Lane



Scott Hahn



Msgr. Eugene Morris

Catholic evangelist Richard Lane gave more than 2,000 men a challenge to be people of grace in his keynote speech at the 15th annual diocesan Catholic Men's Conference.

Using the five letters in the word "grace" as his theme, Lane told those in attendance that they need to practice the qualities of Greatness, Righteousness, Availability, and Commitment, and remember that God gives us Everything.

Lane's talk was given in a call-and-response style which brought occasional shouts of "Amen" from the crowd, the largest ever for the event. The Detroit native, who now lives in St. Louis, quickly engaged the audience at the Lausche Building of the State Fairgrounds by noting his Michigan roots, bringing an "OH-IO" cheer in response. He followed that with a list of the 25 greatest Ohio State football players and quoted the Woody Hayes maxim that "proper preparation prevents poor performance."

Lane is the son of NFL Hall of Fame cornerback Dick "Night Train" Lane and used football analogies throughout the rest of his talk, which contained several quotes from Hayes and Vince Lombardi and included a brief litany invoking "saints" Hayes and Bo Schembechler to "pray for us."

"Many of us are content to be defenders of the faith, and we have to go on offense," Lane said. "We have to smack the devil and smash him in his mouth."

Most of his talk was based on Mat-

thew 7:13, which says "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many." Lane compared that "narrow gate" to the six inches of daylight a running back usually has as he attempts to break free for a long gain.

He also spoke of his father, who was born in Austin, Texas, to a prostitute and was left for dead at the age of six months in a garbage can, where he was found by a woman named Ella Lane, who raised him. Lane said his father, though he gained athletic fame and set an NFL seasonal record of 14 interceptions which still stands after 60 years, died broke financially and bodily, but not spiritually. "He had nothing left but one person, Jesus Christ. Like Jesus, my father gave his body so he could leave a legacy for someone else," he said.

"Get in the game!" he exhorted. "We are all big-time players. We are at war with this world. God is calling his Catholic men to rise up and get in the game" through Mass, confession, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and Bible study. "Every day is game day and your life is on the line."

The day's other speakers included Scott Hahn, professor of Scripture and theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville; Msgr. Eugene Morris of the Pontifical College Josephinum; and Father David Schalk, pastor of Columbus Christ the King Church. A Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell, with several diocesan

Story by TIM PUETT, Photos by KEN SNOW

Father David Schalk



priests as concelebrants, concluded the program. Hundreds of those in attendance stood in line during the lunch break to have their confessions heard by more than 50 priests administering the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Hahn described the Eucharist as "not a reward for righteousness, but a remedy for sin," and said the Eucharist is "the original New Testament" — one which existed long before the books of the Bible which came to bear the New Testament name.

Hahn was a Protestant minister who came to the Catholic Church after studying the Bible and the works of the early Church fathers in an attempt to show people the "errors" of Catholicism, and instead convincing himself of the truth of Catholic teachings.

His curiosity about the Church led him to attend his first Mass in a basement chapel at Marquette University in Milwaukee. There, in the words of consecration, he had an experience he described as being like that of Thomas the apostle following the Resurrection, when Thomas was told by Jesus to touch his nail marks and believe.

Hahn said his response to the consecration echoed Thomas' words. "My Lord and my God! That's you! That's not bread any more!" were Hahn's thoughts at that moment, he said. From there, he has gone on to a career as a nationally known Catholic teacher, speaker, and author, and frequent guest on radio and television.

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Front Page photo:

The sanctuary of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, which was dedicated in 2004. The original church building, dedicated in 1983, serves as a social hall. A new parish center now under construction will be dedicated later this year

CT photo by Tim Puett







*A quick note from:*

THE OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

## THE SCRUTINIES



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process that provides the opportunity for someone who has not been baptized to learn about God and the Catholic faith and to grow in his or her own faith and knowledge about the Trinitarian God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). There are also provisions for those who have been baptized in other Christian faiths to learn and embrace the Catholic faith. The process has four periods, with rituals that mark the end of one period and the beginning of the next. We have just celebrated the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion - the completion of the second period. For those who are to be baptized on the Easter Vigil, this is a period of purification. During the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, they will participate in three different scrutinies.

The Scrutinies are rites of self-searching and repentance. The unbaptized have completed their catechetical formation and are now enrolled among the “elect” (called by God to be baptized). Three times during Lent, the community prays the scrutinies to encourage a spirit of repentance among those who seek a worthy celebration of baptism.

These same scrutinies were celebrated in the fourth and fifth century by St. Ambrose and St. Augustine to mark the spiritual progress

of their catechumens. The moral preparation of catechumens included prayers of exorcism to drive out the spirit of evil which kept them from embracing Christ as their light. The early Church Catechumens entered the church, stood barefoot on goatskin, and renounced evil influences throughout the night. The church discerned if the exorcisms had achieved their effect. Those deemed worthy were baptized, and those deemed unworthy had to wait another year to be baptized.

Although the scrutinies we celebrate today still include an exorcism, they seem less intense. We pray, along with the presider, that the spirit of evil may be replaced by the spirit of good. The purpose of the scrutinies is not to examine the candidates’ mental readiness, but their spiritual readiness. Scrutinies offer the catechumens the support they need to approach the waters of baptism worthily.

The scrutinies invite us to embrace the same spirit of self-searching and repentance. At Easter, we will renew our baptismal promises as we see the catechumens baptized. In the same manner, during the season of Lent, we renew our repentance as we see the catechumens scrutinized. The scrutinies remind us of the seriousness of our Christian life and inspire us to turn from evil and pursue good. They enliven our recommitment to Christ at Easter.

## Coming back to sacraments after second divorce; intinction



### QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE

*Catholic News Service*

**Q.** What can I tell a woman who has decided that she is going to hell? She was married in the Catholic Church and raised two children. Her husband decided that the grass was greener elsewhere, left his wife, and married another woman.

My friend married again in a non-Catholic ceremony (with no annulment or permission from the Catholic Church). They later divorced, and that second husband has since died. My friend no longer goes to church because she is under the impression -- due to the divorce and remarriage -- that she has separated herself from the Catholic Church and is going to hell.

What does she have to do to come back to the sacraments? Is confession sufficient or would she have to get an annulment, even though her second husband has died? (Leominster, Mass.)

**A.** The sacrament of penance would be sufficient, since she no longer is living in a marriage considered invalid by the church. The key element is not that the second husband has died, but that her relationship with him had already ended.

The fact that your friend was divorced from her first husband did not by

itself affect her status within the church. (Many Catholics misunderstand that. In this case, as happens often, your friend was not the cause of the divorce, but the unwilling victim.)

The problem came when she remarried without a church annulment. Once that second marriage ended, she was free to confess to a priest and return to the sacraments.

What she probably should do now is make an appointment with an understanding priest -- to have the chance to explain in an unhurried way her marital history, make a confession of sins, receive absolution, and be assured that she certainly is welcome to return to the Eucharist.

**Q.** My family went to Mass recently in Minneapolis. We noticed that, during Communion, people were dipping their host into the consecrated wine instead of drinking from the cup. The next weekend, when we returned to Mass at our own church in northeastern Wisconsin, my mother received the host in her hand, then moved over to the chalice and began to lower the host into the cup.

The deacon who was the minister of the chalice stopped her and told her that was “unacceptable.”

Who is right, and what are the rules? (Armstrong Creek, Wis.)

**A.** The deacon is right. *Redemptio- nis Sacramen- tum*, the instruction issued in 2004 by the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, clarifies that holy Communion by intinction is permissible only if the minister of the Eucharist dips the host into the consecrated wine and then places it on the tongue of the communicant.

As the instruction notes in Section 104, “The communicant must not be permitted to tinct the host in the chalice nor to receive the intincted host in the hand.”

The key value underlying the rule is reverence for Jesus present in the consecrated species. Even when it is the minister who distributes Communion in this way, there is the possibility of dripping the precious blood of Christ -- so as a precaution, a server would place a Communion paten under the chin of the recipient to guide the transfer.

Many dioceses discourage the use of intinction, and nearly every liturgist, opposes it since the link to the Last Supper is not as clear as with drinking from the cup. (Jesus, they point out, said, “Take and drink,” not “take and dip.”)

*Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, NY 12208.*

## Franciscans at Carey minister to parishioners and pilgrims for 100 years

Throughout 2012, the Conventual Franciscan Friars of the Province of the Immaculate Conception will be marking their 100th anniversary of ministering to parishioners and pilgrims at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in the northwest Ohio community of Carey.

Bishop Joseph Schrembs, first bishop of the Diocese of Toledo, invited the friars to come to Carey in 1912. The future of the shrine was uncertain at that time. The Franciscans were asked to come for five years, then make a prayerful decision about whether to continue or look for ministry elsewhere. Father Aloys Fish arrived in June 1912 and discovered a tremendous faith in the pilgrims who visited the shrine, along with many signs of the presence of God and the intercession of Mary, consoler of the afflicted.

The shrine had been in existence since a statue of Our Lady of Consolation had been brought to Carey from Lux-

embourg in 1875 under the direction of Father Joseph Peter Gloden. Plans were made to carry the statue in solemn procession on May 24, 1875, from St. Nicholas Church in Frenchtown Township to Carey, where it would be installed in the new church. This was a seven-mile journey.

As the procession was organizing, the entire area was hit by a severe thunderstorm. The driving winds, lightning, and huge amounts of rain made many people think the procession should be postponed. However, Father Gloden, being a man of great faith, urged the people to begin the procession. At once, the clouds above the church in Frenchtown parted and the procession moved ahead.

Though all in the procession could see the drenching rain, wind, and thunder on either side of them, not a drop of rain fell on anyone in the procession or on the statue. As the statue was brought into the church in Carey and those in the procession followed into



the church, the storm broke outside with tremendous fury.

To this day, the statue has served to inspire devotion to Mary for thousands of pilgrims, especially around the Feast of the Assumption in August. When a larger church, now a basilica, was completed in the 1920s, the statue was moved there. The shrine has grown to include a 30-acre park, complete with outdoor Stations of the Cross and a large memorial altar. The area around the basilica includes a cafeteria, gift shop,

and retreat house.

Over the years, grateful pilgrims have left a collection of crutches, canes, braces, and other items attesting to the power of their prayers to Our Lady of Consolation. Many of these items are on display in the lower portion of the shrine, which also houses a chapel of holy relics and is an important place of prayer.

Pilgrimage devotions are celebrated every Sunday at 2:30 p.m. These include Benediction of the Blessed Sacra-

ment, a rosary procession carrying the statue of Our Lady of Consolation (from the first Sunday in May to the last Sunday in October), and special prayers for healing, with the friars praying individually with the pilgrims.

Some of the special events celebrated this year at the shrine will be: Friday, May 4, Mass for cancer victims and survivors; Sunday, May 20, Italian Day; Friday, May 25, Feast of Our Lady of Consolation; Sunday, June 10, Indian Heritage Day; Saturday, July 14; Filipino Heritage Day; Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 14 and 15, celebration of the Feast of the Assumption; Sunday, Sept. 16, Latino Heritage Day; Sunday, Sept. 30, Family Day; Sunday, Oct. 14, Feast of St. Gerard Majella; and Tuesday, Oct. 16, Mass for hope and healing.

The shrine is 65 miles south of Toledo and 80 miles north of Columbus, just off U.S. 23. For more information, call the shrine at (419) 396-7107 or visit [www.olcshrine.com](http://www.olcshrine.com).

## Msgr. J. Colby Grimes Scholarship

For the tenth year, the Shamrock Club of Columbus is honored to award five \$1,000 high school scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic school year in memory of the late Msgr. J. Colby Grimes. Msgr. Grimes was the Shamrock Club’s chaplain before his death, and a huge supporter of Catholic education.

These scholarships will be awarded to one student from each of the five Columbus Catholic high schools who is a current freshman, sophomore, or junior and who has a parent or relative belonging to the Shamrock Club or is recommended by a member of the club. If you do not belong to the Shamrock Club or don’t know anyone who does, feel free to visit the club and introduce yourself and we will see that someone signs your application. For hours of operation, go to the club’s website at [www.shamrockclubof-columbus.org](http://www.shamrockclubof-columbus.org).

The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic success, leadership

skills, and community service, among other criteria.

The Shamrock Club’s scholarship selection committee will interview two students from each school, as determined by the committee, on Saturday, April 21, with the top student from each school receiving a \$1,000 scholarship. The other students who are interviewed will each receive a \$200 scholarship from the tuition assistance fund of the diocesan Office of Catholic Schools. All scholarship money will be sent directly to the student’s school, to be credited to his or her tuition account.

The deadline for application is Sunday March 25. Applications are available in the guidance office at each high school or may be downloaded from the Shamrock Club’s website, along with a cover letter explaining the application process. For additional information contact Francis Doyle at (614) 766-8184 or e-mail him at [fdoyle@columbus.rr.com](mailto:fdoyle@columbus.rr.com).



**Sarah Appleton of the Portsmouth Notre Dame High School class of 2008 returned to the classroom she attended in first grade to share her 2011 summer experiences exploring Alaskan glaciers with a team from the geology department of The College of Wooster, where she is a senior. She showed samples of 3,000-year-old trees that had been encased in glacial ice. She also showed current first- graders at Notre Dame Elementary how to count tree rings and demonstrated how to core a tree for sampling of the rings without killing the tree. Each child made a necklace using a piece of a 100-year-old Scioto County red oak tree that had fallen in the woods**

*Photo courtesy Notre Dame Schools*



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Answering God's Call

"I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST, WHO STRENGTHENS ME"



Sr. Christella Ritchey, OSF

by Tim Puet

In expressing her gratitude for a life of abundant blessings, Sister Christella Ritchey, OSF, said, "I've always been spoiled."

"My family always spoiled me because I'm the youngest of five children, and I continue to be spoiled by good health and a good community. I keep telling God, 'You're doing a good job,'" she said.

Sister Christella, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, familiarly known as the Stella Niagara Franciscans, has been best-known for the past seven years as "the voice of JOIN," the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs.

She answers the phone at JOIN's office near downtown for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon every day, then sees clients. "I let people know what we do and what they need to have" so they can use JOIN's many services, which cover every aspect from birth to death, she said.

"Working with people and knowing you're giving them the help they need is the best part of my job," she said. "The worst part is that so many people didn't have the type of love I did while growing up."

Sister Christella, 69, born Carolyn Ritchey, grew up in the former Columbus Holy Rosary Church and moved to Christ the King Church when the interstate highway system took her home. Her father, George, was a buyer for the former Robert's Cloak House at Gay and High streets. Her mother, Clara, stayed home to raise her, three sisters, and a brother.

"I never had a dramatic 'St. Paul' type of moment to make me decide to be a sister," she said. "I thought I'd be married with 10 kids, but it slowly came to me that this it wasn't God's plan and that being a sister was what God was asking me to do."

She joined the Stella Niagara Franciscans on graduating from Columbus Rosary High School in 1960, choosing that order because its sisters taught her throughout her grade school and high school years. She said two of her teachers at Rosary, Sister Marlene and Sister Evelyn, were particularly influential in her decision. "They struck me as being really down-to-earth people," she said. "They were jovial, but you knew when they said something, they meant it."

Sister Christella professed her first vows on Aug. 18, 1963, and her final vows five years to the day later. Although she has spent most of her career in her hometown, she never returned to Columbus for most of the eight years between high school graduation and her final vows, as was customary then.

Her first assignment, at St. Mary School in New Monmouth, N.J., lasted from 1965-76. She taught second grade for the first six of those years, then became a teacher of religion for grades one through eight.

"This was the period of Vatican II, when there were many changes in our order," she said. "For most people, the biggest change was in our dress, as we no longer wore the traditional habit. But for me, the biggest change was that we were allowed to enter into decisions related to our assignments. I was able to change from teaching all subjects to teaching

religion, and after 11 years, I was able to ask to be reassigned to my hometown."

She has been in the Columbus area ever since, serving at St. Anthony School as a teacher (1976-77), at the former Teens Encounter Christ Center (1977-78), at Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in parish ministry (1978-82), at St. Anthony Church as a parish minister and religious education director (1982-83), and at St. Catharine Church for 22 years as religious education director (1983-91) and parish associate (1991-2005).

"I was at Seton with Father (now Msgr. Edward) Fairchild when the parish started and we rented an elementary school auditorium for Mass," Sister Christella said. "It was a wonderful gift to be on the ground floor with people who were so interested in the idea of community and understood what it meant. The parish grew so quickly that the church building was already too small when it was dedicated."

"I had a wonderful 21 years at St. Catharine's and have many great memories from there," she said. "One of the great gifts that Father (now Msgr.) Dave Soroan gave me was allowing me to start a retreat team and work with it for 13 years. We planned a retreat at St. Therese's (Retreat Center) for nine or 10 months a year. The first time was hard, but after that, people were eager to find out who was conducting the retreat. We had a different set of people form the retreat team every year. I worked with about 90 altogether – all different, each with unique gifts and talents the retreats brought out.

"Father Soroan was someone about whom you could say you never worked for him, but with him," she said. "After 21 years, I felt it was time to leave. One day Ruth Beckman at JOIN called me, said she had a job and asked if I'd be willing to take it, so I agreed, and I've been here ever since. I'd always wanted to work with the poor, and this has been a great opportunity."

Sister Christella said one of the highlights of her 48 years in the Stella Niagara community was her election to the Franciscan general chapter, an assembly which meets every five years, and the opportunity it gave her to go to Rome and Assisi and meet sisters from other nations. When not working at JOIN, she enjoys music, reading, visiting friends, following college football and basketball, and serving as state chaplain for the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

"People sometimes ask me what the difference is between the life of my sisters, who are laywomen, and my own life," she said. "One big difference is that I have a greater opportunity to make time for prayer. I choose to live in community, so I have to be willing to do things for other people and to be involved in a lot of giving and sharing."

Sister Christella said her favorite Scripture verse is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me."

"I grew up with my parents often repeating this verse," she said. "My dad always said 'You can do anything, but you have to do it with God's help.'"

LIVING Faith

Where do we seek wisdom?

This Thursday's gospel reading about the rich man and Lazarus is familiar to most of us. Lazarus is a poor man who lies at the door of the rich man, hoping in vain for a scrap from his table. After a life of leisure and abundance, the rich man dies and finds himself tormented in the nether world. Lazarus also dies, but he is taken to heaven and cradled in the bosom of Abraham. I often think of this reading as a reminder of the importance of caring for the needy among us, not only those struggling to survive materially, but also those impoverished of spirit. Today, however, I am struck by another message.

Once resigned to his fate, the rich man asks that someone be sent to his brothers who still live, that they might be warned and change their ways. Abraham says that cannot be done. He reminds the rich man that his brothers have Moses and the prophets to warn them. The rich man persists, saying that if Lazarus could go to his brothers, they would surely listen to someone come back from the dead. Again, Abraham says "No." Even if someone were to rise from the dead, they would not listen.

I pondered this section of the gospel and thought about where the rich man's brothers looked for wisdom. Or did they? Did they assume they knew what was best? Was immediate reward what drove them? What about



GRACE IN THE MOMENT

Mary van Balen

me? Where do I look for wisdom? Where do people in the modern word find it? We are bombarded with information, analysis, and advice from TV pundits, celebrities, the Internet, television, and other media.

Recently, I watched motherly wisdom handed down from one generation to the next. A young woman, overwhelmed with the demands of her new child and unsure how to meet them, turned to her mother, who had done a good job with three. Sometimes, wisdom is obtained from those we trust and love.

Where we look and whom we ask depends on what kind of wisdom we are searching for. The rich man's brothers probably thought they had a good handle on how to live life. Their goals may simply have been wealth and comfort. Turns out they were as short-sighted as the brother who had died first. Where we look for wisdom depends on our goals.

Lent is a time that reminds us to consider our goal.

Walking with God

By J. P. Leo Thomas

Imagine an occasion when you walked along a soft, sandy beach with your mother in hand. Do you remember how it felt? Do you remember the gentle breeze and the night sky, and how you waited in anticipation for that time to come again? This is what Christ gives to us this Lenten season. It's like taking along an old friend with you on a quiet journey through time – a journey of discovering the meaning of your life and the adventure it can surely be. We touch, we feel, we see with our minds, our hearts, and our souls the beauty of such a moment. Many of us try to capture and hold onto these memories, but, as with all things, they fade away with time. But God is constant; He lives on in us in the past, present, and future. He is the one thing that is unchanging, unalterable, and genuine.

During the coming months, we need to focus on what we can do as Chris-

tians to bring others into our frame of mind – not just attending church, but celebrating the Mass as it was intended. When we accept Him as our savior and take Him in, we are transformed into beings of light. Don't shy away from your responsibilities as His children, for He calls us each in very unique and wonderful ways. Allow Jesus to work in you and see what He can create. Do not be afraid of the unknown, because He will always follow us on our path as a true and trusted guide.

Mary was convinced and confident of her way through life, as well. Told about her conception in a dream, she was intent on following God's will. It is not for us to second-guess His nature and why He does the things He does. There is a reason for everything and a time for every purpose under the heavens.

Understanding this is like reaching an agreement to not understand, to take a leap of faith into the unknown. We can-

not know what will happen today, tomorrow, or even the next moment. We live our lives in the here and now. Only Christ lives in all three, direct and simultaneously. Mary knew that when she accepted her fate. She and all of us are shaped by the events that life places before us. It is for all of us to try and find that same courage within ourselves. Stand up for what you believe and fight for the innocent. Be mindful and forgiving of others' mistakes, be thankful for what you have, and share your bounty with both God and man.

We tend to lose sight of such things during this season, the season of the Lamb. Let us feast on His presence in the holy Eucharist and in our daily lives. Proclaim to the world yet unborn that we intend to protect what is ours, what is created by God's own hand, and given to us in the birth of each and every child. Yes, Mary held the son of God in her womb, but all mothers carry the scent of His

spirit, because of Mary's sacrifice, in every newly conceived child. We have lost our way in this secular society, but God is patient. He awaits our return with the anticipation of a newborn infant. Resurrected from the ashes, we become as we are destined to be, children of God and life eternal. Remember, we are not from this world; we are from an age beyond age and from a time beyond time. Walk with Him along the shore, hold Him in your heart, and say to the world that the traveler has awakened. We are watchful now and will defend life, all life. Resurrection is at hand, call to the Gospel, atone for your sins, and wait in joyful hope of the coming of Jesus Christ.

May the gentle wind of the Holy Spirit be with you all, may He guide you in your decisions, and may they be the right ones. Celebrate life. May God bless you and keep you, His child, always.

*J.P. Leo Thomas is a parishioner at Gahanna St. Matthew Church.*





## A GROWING PARISH OFFERS MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP

BY TIM PUET, *Catholic Times* Reporter



**Left: Staff members and active parishioners at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church include (from left): first row, Jackie Sutton, development director; Libby Muhoberac, office manager; Tina Burtch, youth minister; and Jill Newell, adult education teacher; second row, Bob Scott, business manager; Jim Stefaniak, men's faith sharing groups; and Father David Sizemore, pastor. Center: Participants in the annual parish youth retreat at the Heartland Center in Marengo. Right: The parish picnic takes place in a pavilion on the church grounds** CT photo by Tim Puet (left); photos courtesy St. John Neumann Church



In 1977, the village of Sunbury in Delaware County was a quiet community of about 2,800 people, with an attractive town square surrounded by farmland, much as it had been for the previous 100 or so years.

But Msgr. George Schlegel, the pastor of Westerville St. Paul Church, which served the Sunbury area, knew that was about to change because of the rapid growth of Columbus, just 20 miles to the south. He knew developers were viewing that farmland as an attractive place for new housing, so he decided to form a mission church in the community.

The mission's first Mass was in an American Legion hall on Sept. 4, 1977. Within five weeks, large crowds quickly made it necessary to schedule additional Masses and move them to the Big Walnut Middle School gym. The mission, which became St. John Neumann Church, has been growing ever since.

The village square remains as a reminder of the community's rural roots, but Sunbury now has a population of nearly 4,500, with an additional 5,000-plus in nearby townships. St. John Neumann has become one of the largest, most active parishes in the Diocese of Columbus, with a membership of 1,100 families that has doubled within the last six years.

Father David Sizemore, pastor since 2005, said the parish contin-

ues to add about 100 families per year as more new homes are built. Its facilities at State Route 37 and Carters Corner Road have kept pace with the growth. The original church building, dedicated in 1983, now serves as a social hall. The current church building was dedicated in 2004, and a new parish center is rapidly rising next to it.

The two-level, 21,000-square-foot building, which is expected to be completed in May, will have 10 religious education classrooms and a choir practice room on the lower level, with a banquet and fellowship hall seating 300 people, a nursery, and a commercial-size kitchen on the ground level.

Once the center is completed, work will begin on renovation of the current social hall. The building will be almost completely taken apart and reconfigured to provide space for the church offices (which temporarily are in an office building away from the parish property) a work room, a conference room, five more classrooms, a room for counseling, and another kitchen. That work is expected to be completed in the summer.

Nearly as important as the building expansion is the addition of space for more cars, which will increase the number of parking spots from 193 to 417. All this is being paid for through a capital campaign which was completed last year with \$4.6 million being pledged, about \$3 million of

which has been collected. A 10-year master plan which stretches through 2019 also calls for expanding the capacity of the church building from 500 to 1,000 and connecting the three buildings with a walkway.

The additional space is badly needed to house the more than 90 groups which meet regularly at the parish. These range from the types of organizations found in most parishes to clubs for euchre players, bicyclists, and motorcyclists.

"We have a lot of activities because Father Dave is very open and supportive to all suggestions," said Jackie Sutton, parish development director. "But you'd better not suggest anything unless you plan on carrying it out," added Jill Newell of the parish adult education staff. "There's just no way Father can be actively involved with so many groups, but he provides an atmosphere that encourages you to try things."

"This is a growing community, and that's why we have to have a parish center," said parish business manager Bob Scott. "One of the best places to see that people here have a real sense of wanting to be involved in the parish is after the Saturday evening Mass and the two on Sunday. The gathering space is full of people talking with each other about the coming week's activities. They stay around and there doesn't seem to be a hurry to leave."

"There's a sense that people are being spiritually fed here, and that keeps them coming back," Father Sizemore said. "That's helped a great deal with what we've accomplished in terms of growth and the new building, because if people feel their lives are being transformed, the finances will take care of themselves. The parishioners have put some great organizations in place, and it's because of them that all this has come about."

As a parish with many young families, one of St. John Neumann's strengths is its Life Teen Youth Ministry, directed by Tina Burtch, which has programs on most Sunday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m.

The first and third Sundays of the month are Life Nights, which include activities such as skits, music, videos, "hang-out time," food and prayer, with the second and fourth Sundays being for small-group Scripture studies or discussions of contemporary issues. This year, those studies are focusing on the Book of Acts.

On the first Sunday of each month from October to April (except February), the youth program begins with a 4 p.m. praise Mass, with young people serving as lectors, greeters, and Eucharistic ministers, and music by the Station 14 praise band. The Mass is followed

**Jesus' baptism is depicted in one of the church building's two large stained-glass window groupings** CT photo/Tim Puet

by dinner, prepared by parents.

The youth program also includes special events during the year, including nights set aside for "dudes" and for girls, a Halloween hayride, a lock-in, a three-day retreat, and appearances by youth-oriented speakers. A youth variety show is scheduled for this Friday, March 9.

Burtch said a core team of 20 to 30 youths works with her to encourage their peers to come to these events. "This is the era of social media, and teens are social beings," she said. "Face-to-face contact that doesn't involve a computer screen is just as important as ever because it shows

young people how much you care about them."

Besides Life Teen for high school students, the parish offers Life Teen's EDGE program for middle-school students, directed by Kerrie Ritchey and meeting on Wednesday evenings. "This is a three-year curriculum that scraps the old talk-and-workbook model for a more fast-paced, interactive combination of large-group presentation and small-group discussion," she said. "I've heard consistently from parents and children how much they've enjoyed the change, and it's brought more people into the program."

The EDGE program meets at the

same time as the Parish School of Religion, which has about 500 students, directed by Bob Steinbauer, and is one of the largest in the diocese. Because the parish doesn't have a school, this is how most of the church's young people receive their religious education. However, PSR classes do take place in a school building – the General Rosecrans Elementary School in Sunbury, which the parish rents for the evening because the program has grown too big for current parish facilities.

"We scrapped the old PSR model of spending the entire period in

See **CHURCH**, Page 12





**CHURCH**, *continued from Page 11*

one classroom a couple of years ago,” Father Sizemore said. “We start in a big assembly every week and sing Bible songs, do skits, or show faith-based videos, then we break off into grade levels.

“While the children are in class, their parents are meeting on their own as part of what we call our Faith and Family activity, using the Franciscans’ Journey Through Scripture program. We decided a few years ago that while the children are growing and being formed in their faith, why not have the same thing for the adults?”

The parish RCIA program, directed by Rosemary Halter, has about 25 catechumens and candidates this year and, for the second straight year, is taking place two times a week. One session, geared toward families, is at 9:30 a.m. Sunday and the other is at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

“Last year, we had several whole families who were joining the Church together, or situations where one family member was Catholic and another wanted to become Catholic, so we decided to have the family class. This year, there was more of the same thing, so we decided to do it again,” Newell said.

The parish also offers several additional adult education opportunities. Five parishioners went to Franciscan

University of Steubenville last summer to receiving training for the Journey through Scripture program, which is being currently used by PSR parents and will be introduced to the rest of the parish in the fall. Additional training at Steubenville for other programs will take place this summer.

Other adult education groups include weekly Bible studies for men and women, the EPIC church history series, a weekly Lenten speaker series, the Catholics Returning Home program, Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University, marriage and marriage preparation ministries, and a Natural Family Planning ministry. Catholic writer and educator Jake Tawney, author of the *Catholic Times* series on the new version of the Roman Missal, recently completed a series of talks on Pope John Paul II’s Theology of the Body. The series opened with an introduction by Bill Donaghy of the Theology of the Body Institute.

In addition, four times a year, Father Sizemore hosts a program titled Adults Seeking Knowledge, at which he answers questions anonymously submitted to him. “People can ask anything about the faith, and I have no idea what the questions are going to be until I hear them,” he said. “It’s a lot of fun



**Youth from Sunbury St. John Neumann Church gather in front of the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington D.C. during the January 2012 March for Life.**

and always draws a good crowd, and is a great informal way to deepen people’s appreciation of church teaching.”

The parish has two large groups for men – a men’s club which was organized more than 20 years ago and Knights of Columbus Council 14457, which began in 2008.

“The two are really complementary,” said parishioner Jim Stefaniak. “The

Knights have become the larger organization, with about 115 members while the men’s club has about 20 or 30, but it’s really hard to tell where one ends and the other begins because both are involved in many of the same things.”

These include weekly Lenten fish fries, spaghetti dinners, a New Year’s Eve dance, pancake breakfasts, high-

*See CHURCH, Page 13*



**Nearly 40 women of St. John Neumann Church, plus members of the Sisters of Reparation to the Most Sacred Heart, took part in the parish women’s retreat Photos/St. John Neumann Church**

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**CHURCH**, *continued from Page 12*

way cleanup, submarine sandwich sales, two flea markets a year, a blood drive, and support for St. Gabriel Radio and the diocesan Catholic Men’s Conference.

Coming in April will be a “boot camp” day providing a free breakfast for all military veterans, along with a speaker and assistance with obtaining benefits. Stefaniak said 20 to 30 veterans attended a similar event last year.

The parish also has a women’s club which meets once a month and sponsors activities including a women’s night out, a Christmas party, and preparation and serving of funeral meals and meals for new mothers and sick families. Its major fund raiser is a craft bazaar in November.

The parish has a number of faith sharing groups for men and women. Stefaniak said Father Sizemore’s encouragement led him to start such a group three years ago, and it has grown to the point where there are now five such groups meeting at various times, with 30 to 50 men involved. Sutton said women’s faith sharing groups began in the parish about eight years

ago and there are now eight of them, meeting at the parish and locations in Lewis Center, Sunbury, and Galena.

The Heartland Retreat Center in Marengo will host the parish’s sixth annual retreat for women in October and a day of reflection for men in November. “We used to have weekend retreats for both men and women, but the men seem to prefer the one-day format, while the women enjoy a longer chance to get away from their families and recharge their batteries,” Father Sizemore said. “Maybe it’s because the male attention span is shorter.”

The parish’s social action programs include an active St. Vincent de Paul Society conference which helps hundreds of people in the course of the



**The “boot camp” for military veterans at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 14457, includes a free breakfast**  
Photo courtesy St. John Neumann Church

year, plus participation in the Big Walnut Friends Who Share program, for people within the Big Walnut School District, and the Andrew’s House program, which feeds the needy in the city of Delaware. In addition, it has a health ministry team and provides space for the Spirit of Peace faith-based counseling program three days a week. More counseling space will be part of the new parish center.

The three weekend Masses each have their own choir, with the 4 p.m. Saturday Mass featuring contemporary music, the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass being more traditional, with piano and voices, and the 11 a.m. Mass similar to the

one on Saturday, but with more instruments. Andy Wallace is the parish music director.

Other key staff members are Deacon Carl Calcara; Sister Julie O’Sroske, OSF, who ministers to the sick; and office manager Libby Muhoberac.

“This parish has something for everyone, and if there’s something anyone doesn’t see and would like, I’d be happy to help them start it,” Father Sizemore said. “I think all of this is happening because the Holy Spirit is at work here, and so many people appreciate it when their spiritual needs are taken care of. It transforms lives and it transforms parishes.”

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Third Sunday of Lent (Cycle B)

Jesus takes on the money-changers



Exodus 20:1-17  
1 Corinthians 1:22-25  
John 2:13-25

In John’s Gospel, Jesus takes on the money-changers early on in the Gospel. The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) place the incident on Palm Sunday or Monday, just before the arrest and the crucifixion. Their arrangement makes for an orderly and somewhat chronological Holy Week.

Thus, Mark carefully arranges things so that Passover will begin on the evening when Jesus celebrates the Last Supper with his disciples. Jesus arrives in Jerusalem on what we now call Palm Sunday. On Monday, he throws out the money-changers from the Temple. On Tuesday, he encounters a number of leaders within Judaism as he teaches many things. Then Mark notes it was two days till Passover, which would take us to a Thursday evening.

Matthew is not as careful as Mark is in counting the time between Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem and the beginning of Passover. He has Jesus throw out the money-changers on the same day that he arrives in Jerusalem. Luke agrees with Matthew in locating the money-changer incident on Palm Sunday as he arrives in Jerusalem. Luke then allows any number of days to have passed after Jesus arrived in Jerusalem before the Last Supper happens.

Now returning to John, Jesus arrives in Jerusalem on this Passover without fanfare and immediately challenges the money-changers in the Temple. This will spark a continuing controversy with Jerusalem authorities throughout the rest of John’s Gospel. So when He arrives in Jerusalem for a third Passover in Chapter

12, there will have been two years of constant interplay between Jesus and the Jerusalem authorities. This heightens the drama of his final arrival as the crowds hail him as king of Israel. Because Jesus had been to Jerusalem at least three previous times in John, he would not have been a complete stranger. That would have helped the crowds to recognize him.

Yet here we are in Chapter 2 at a Passover setting when the crowds would have been huge – as many as 100,000 visitors, by some counts. The Temple scene is more thoroughly described than in the Synoptic accounts. The various animals mentioned were all possible sacrifices, depending on one’s ability to pay. Also, Passover drew Jews from all over the Mediterranean region, bringing with them Roman coinage that would have to be changed into acceptable Judean coins, which explains the money-changers’ presence there.

For those who have ever traveled, it calls to mind the presence of the Vatican bank near St. Peter’s, where they were ready, willing, and able to change pilgrims’ money into Italian lire once upon a long time ago. In the time I was there (the ’70s), they were located in trailers around St. Peter’s Square. I’m not sure what they do these days, but I’m sure they are there to change dollars or any other currency into euros for any and all pilgrims who come there.

Unlike the other gospels, John borrows from Psalm 69:10, but changes it to a future tense: “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The more familiar “You have made my house a den of thieves” comes from Jeremiah 7:11. The 46 years of construction of the Temple was actually a reconstruction undertaken by Herod the Great, beginning in about 20 or 19 BC. That would make the date of the remark in the Gospel about 27 or 28 AD, which would then make the death of Jesus about 29 or 30 AD. John’s unique spin is to understand the Temple as a reference to Jesus’ body.

Nonetheless, we continue to hail the destruction of his body, not as folly nor as stumbling block, but as the power and the wisdom of God.

Father Lawrence Hummer, pastor at Chillicothe St. Mary, can be reached at hummerl@stmarychillicothe.

“Carry the Cross” walk for men scheduled

Wilderness Outreach is sponsoring its annual “Carry the Cross” walk for men ages 14 and older on Holy Saturday, April 23, at Clearcreek Metro Park, off U.S. 33 just south of the border between Fairfield and Hocking counties.

Those taking part will carry a 65-pound cross of four-by-four-foot timber, approximately 10 feet long with a six-foot crossbar, on a 12- to 14-mile journey through the park. The cross will stop along the way at 14 stations. Participants can walk all or part of the way. Estimated time for the walk is about six hours.

A “sin” burlap bag will be attached to the cross. Each

man will anonymously write down the sins he wants to be healed and forgiven of and place them in the bag. The Rosary and other prayers also will be recited.

Participants are asked to arrive between 7 and 7:30 a.m. Those taking part should bring a day pack with two to three liters of water. Last year, 53 men took part in the walk. Father-son groups are particularly encouraged to attend.

More details are available by calling John Bradford of Wilderness Outreach at (614) 679-6761, emailing john@wildernessoutreach.net or going to www.wildernessoutreach.net.

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY  
2 Kings 5:1-15b  
Psalms 42:2-3;43:3-4  
Luke 4:24-30

TUESDAY  
Daniel 3:25,34-43  
Psalm 25:4bc-5ab,6-7bc,8-9  
Matthew 18:21-35

WEDNESDAY  
Deuteronomy 3:25,34-43  
Psalm 147:12-13,15-16,19-20  
Matthew 5:17-19

THURSDAY  
Jeremiah 7:23-28  
Psalm 95:1-2,6-9  
Luke 11:14-23

FRIDAY  
Hosea 14:2-10  
Psalm 81:6c-11b,14,17  
Mark 12:28-34

SATURDAY  
Hosea 6:1-6  
Psalm 51:3-4,18-21b  
Luke 18:9-14

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE  
WEEK OF MARCH 11, 2012

SUNDAY MASS  
10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (820 AM), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.  
Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus. Check local cable system for WWHO’s cable channel listing.  
Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Time Warner Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378)  
(Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).  
Mass from Kenton Immaculate Conception Church at 10 a.m. on Time Warner Cable Channel 6 (Hardin County).  
Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church at noon on Time Warner Channel 24 in Scioto County.

DAILY MASS  
8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight) See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (820 AM), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

We pray Week III, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours

THE CATHOLIC DIASPORA AND THE TRAGEDY OF LIBERAL CATHOLICISM

In a Feb. 14 note to his people, Cardinal Francis George, OMI, the archbishop of Chicago, commented on the question of “who speaks for the Catholic Church,” which had become a subject of public controversy thanks to the Obama administration’s “contraceptive mandate”—which is, of course, an abortifacient and sterilization mandate as well. The cardinal noted the administration’s crude attempt to play divide-and-conquer with the Catholic Church in the United States, a ploy in which some nominally Catholic groups quickly acquiesced. Yet, something important in all of this was being missed, the cardinal suggested: “... the bishops of the Church make no attempt to speak for all Catho-

lics; they never have. The bishops speak for the Catholic and apostolic faith, and those that hold that faith gather around them. Others disperse.”

The diaspora, in this case, was entirely predictable: columnists and politicians who had questioned the administration’s mandate, and organizations and associations that had raised serious questions about it when it was first announced, quickly fell back into line when the administration, on Feb. 10, announced an “accommodation” that was an obvious shell game, a ruse that didn’t change the moral issue involved one whit.

Others, however, continued to gather around the bishops, who rejected



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE  
George Weigel

the “accommodation.” And they will prevail.

The administration is on the shakiest of legal ground in attempting to impose contraception, sterilization, and abortifacients as “preventive services” that must be provided, on demand and with no co-pay, in all health insurance programs. As my friends Edward Whelan and David Rivkin pointed out in *The Wall Street Journal* on Feb. 15, there is every reason to think that the

administration’s mandate, even as tweaked by the false-flag “accommodation,” will fail two legal tests: the test of the First Amendment’s protection of the free exercise of religion (recently upheld in a robust way by the Supreme Court in a 9-0 decision against the Obama administration), and the test of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. As this battle unfolds, there is every reason for the bishops and those gathered around them to be confident of success.

But what about the diaspora: those Catholic individuals and organizations that re-embraced the administration as soon as Caesar announced his “accommodation” (or, in the case of Sister Carol Keehan and the Catholic Health Association, helped Caesar trot out his ruse)? These individuals and associations typically think of themselves as “liberal Catholics,” a

self-description proudly trumpeted by one of their spokesmen, *Washington Post* columnist E.J. Dionne Jr. Therein, I suggest, lies a great reversal and an even greater tragedy.

The most significant contribution to the universal Church of pre-conciliar liberal Catholicism in America was the development of a Catholic theory of religious freedom—which led, in due course, to Vatican II’s epic *Declaration on Religious Freedom*, to the post-conciliar Church’s history-changing defense of human rights, and to the Church’s crucial role in democratic transitions around the world. This achievement, in which the debates on religious freedom at Vatican II were pivotal, unfolded in close collaboration with the U.S. bishops. It was Cardinal Francis Spellman of New York, for instance, who brought Father John Courtney Murray, SJ, to the Council, where Murray became one of the intellectual architects of the *Declaration on Religious Freedom*. And it was Murray (now falsely enlisted post-mortem into the pro-Obama camp of the Catholic diaspora)

who, with the U.S. bishops and others, worked the Council process so that it became clear to a critical mass of the world’s bishops that religious freedom was indeed congruent with what Cardinal George called “the Catholic and apostolic faith.”

That liberal Catholics of the 2012 diaspora refuse to concede the grave threat to religious freedom posed by the administration’s mandate, and that they have given political cover to a gross infringement on religious freedom by a federal government that looks ever more like Hobbes’ Leviathan, is a grave breach of ecclesial communion in itself. It also represents a tragic betrayal of the best in the liberal Catholic heritage in the U.S., even as it illustrates the utter incoherence into which post-conciliar liberal Catholicism in America has tragically fallen.

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

*Weigel’s column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver. Phone: 303-715-3215.*

Under the amendment, employers also would have been allowed to refuse to cover any other preventive health care procedures required under the rule if they held a moral or religious objection.


PROTECT, continued from Page 2

ing they still consider it an intrusion on religious liberty.

The bishops subsequently called for conscience protections to be enacted into law.

The Blunt amendment allowed church-affiliated

organizations, including Catholic charities, hospitals, schools, and universities, to opt out of such coverage and would have extended exemptions to any nonreligious employer with a moral objection to such coverage.



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**M.A. TESOL**  
When: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Monday, March 19, 2012  
Where: Bishop James A. Griffin Student Center, Room 274, ODU's main campus

**M.S. Physician Assistant Studies**  
When: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 3, 2012  
Where: Bishop James A. Griffin Student Center, Room 258, ODU's main campus

For more information or to RSVP, contact Jill Westerfeld at 614-251-4725 or westerfj@ohiodominican.edu.



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# Pray for our dead

ALLEN, Daniel W., 83, Feb. 29 St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville	KAVANAUGH, Frank E., 73, Feb. 28 St. Elizabeth Seton Church, Pickerington
DECKER, Bernard J., 90, March 3 St. Mary Church, Groveport	LEBOLD, Alvin D., 84, March 4 St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark
DUFFY, Patricia A., 72, March 2 St. Patrick Church, London	LAWRENCE, Richard L., 83, Feb. 28 St. Philip Church, Columbus
DWYER, Margaret J. “Peg,” 89, March 2 St. Patrick Church, London	NELSON, Genevieve, 87, Feb. 28 St. Cecilia Church, Columbus
EBBRECHT, Joseph, 75, Feb. 29 Pope John XXIII Church, Canal Winchester	OZIMOK, Mike, 87, March 1 St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, Columbus
FICHTELMAN, Warren L., 88, March 2 St. Catharine Church, Columbus	SALIVA, Esther F., 95, March 1 Church of the Resurrection, New Albany
FOSTER, Betty B., Feb. 24 St. Rose Church, New Lexington	TRAINER, Joan M., 63, Feb. 27 St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington
FRYE, Martha A., 90, Feb. 26 St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, Columbus	WALLACE, Raymond J., 78, Feb. 27 St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus
GOPALAKRISHNA, Rajesh E., 32, March 1 Church of the Resurrection, New Albany	WATTS, Marian P., 92, March 1 Holy Spirit Church, Columbus
HADDOX, Jeffrey J., 52, Feb. 25 St. Andrew Church, Columbus	WOERNER, Michael J., 49, Feb. 24 St. Timothy Church, Columbus
HARRIS, Amy, of Dublin, 47, March 1 St. Mary Church, St. Clairsville	ZASTROW, Gloria S., 87, March 2 St. Andrew Church, Columbus
JONES, Elton A. Jr., 62, Feb. 25 Holy Rosary-St. John Church, Columbus	

## Donald R. Adamshick

Funeral Mass for Donald R. Adamshick, 81, who died Thursday, March 1, was held Monday, March 5, at Columbus St. Anthony Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center. He was born March 10, 1930, in Toledo to Christopher and Johanna (Fry) Adamshick.

He was a graduate of Toledo Central Catholic High School, received a master’s degree in education at the University of Toledo, and served in the Army during the Korean War.

He was the first lay dean of personal formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum, receiving its Msgr. Jessing Award. He also conducted psychological screening for the permanent diacon-

ate program of the Diocese of Columbus, and served the Salesians of Don Bosco in various ways.

He was staff psychologist at the Ohio State School for the Blind, provided services for the deaf-blind clinic at the Ohio School for the Deaf, and had a private counseling practice.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Anthony; and brother, Robert. Survivors include his wife, Carolyn; son, Michael (Laurie); daughters, Mary (Mark) Colelli, Margaret (Robert) Shield, Elizabeth (Patrick) Adamshick and Jane (John) Kidder; sisters, Emma Darmofal and Joan (Joe) Pufka; and 10 grandchildren.

Send obituaries to  
tpuet@colsdioc.org

## Catholic Foundation Hosts Program to Address Utica Shale Boom

A seminar sponsored by The Catholic Foundation to address the oil boom in northeast Ohio will take place from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 17, at Dover St. Joseph Church, 613 N. Tuscarawas Ave..

The program will be presented by attorneys from the Columbus law firm of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP. Topics include the leasing of mineral rights, environmental issues, charitable gifts, and general estate planning.

The program is free. Contact Brenda at (330) 364-6661 for reservations.

## CHARISMATIC RETREAT

The annual men’s and women’s retreat sponsored by the diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal will take place Friday to Sunday, March 16 to 18, at St. Therese’s Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus

The retreat director will be Father Clifton Bishop Jr. of Bethlehem, Pa. The theme for the weekend will be

“Heavenly Movie Trailer,” based on Revelation 22:7, “For behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

For further information and registration contact the Catholic Charismatic Renewal office at (614) 237-7080.

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**14TH ANNUAL**  
**“BEST FISH FRY DINNER IN TOWN!”**  
Fridays, Feb 24 - March 30, 4:30 - 7:30 PM  
Fried Perch or Baked Cod, French Fries, Baked Potato, Baked Steak Fries, Cole Slaw, Applesauce, Roll & Butter, Desserts. Free seconds & coffee!  
Adults - \$9.00; Seniors - \$8.50; Children (10 & under) - \$4.00  
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**ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR CHURCH**  
4131 Clime Road, Columbus  
**WEEKLY LENTEN FISH FRY**  
Fridays, Feb 24 - Mar 30 - 5:30-7:00 pm  
**ALL YOU CAN EAT FISH (fried or baked), CHOICE OF TWO SIDE DISHES, BEVERAGE AND DESSERT INCLUDED**  
\$9/adults, \$8/seniors, \$4.50/ages 4-12 (family discounts available)  
For further information call 614-272-5206

**ST. JOAN OF ARC PARISH**  
10700 Liberty Rd, Powell  
**WEEKLY FISH FRY**  
FRIDAYS FEB. 24 — MARCH 30, 5:30 — 7:30 PM  
(SPONSORED BY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS)  
**ALL YOU CAN EAT MEAL INCLUDES BAKED & FRIED FISH, FRENCH FRIES, MAC & CHEESE, GREEN BEANS, COLE SLAW, ROLLS, SOFT DRINKS**  
Adults: \$8.50, Seniors: \$7.50, Children: \$4, Carry-out: \$8.50

All fund-raising events (festivals, bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, bake sales, pizza/sub sales, candy sales, etc.) will be placed in the “Fund-Raising Guide.” An entry into the Guide will be \$18.50 for the first six lines, and \$2.65 for each additional line. For more information, call Deacon Steve DeMers at 614-224-6530 or 800-511-0584.

**‘Happenings’ submissions**  
Notices for items of Catholic interest must be received at least 12 days before expected publication date. We will print them as space permits. Items not received before this deadline may not be published.  
Listings cannot be taken by phone. Mail to: The Catholic Times Happenings, 197 East Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215  
Fax to: 614-241-2518  
E-mail as text to tpuet@colsdioc.org

**ST. CHRISTOPHER CHURCH**  
**LENTEN PASTA DINNER**  
1420 Grandview Ave / Trinity School Cafeteria  
Fridays, Feb 24 - Mar 30 / 5PM - 8PM  
\$ 7 ADULTS / \$ 4 KIDS / \$ 25 PER FAMILY  
**SAUCES PROVIDED BY LOCAL RESTAURANTS**  
**MARCH 9 — Bravo Cucina Italiana**  
**MARCH 16 — LaScala Restaurant**

**LENTEN FISH FRY**  
**FRIDAYS 5-8 pm, Feb 24 - Mar 30**  
**ST. MICHAEL CHURCH**  
5750 N. High St., Worthington  
**FISH DINNER: REG/\$8; SMALL/\$6**  
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**LENTEN FISH FRY’S - COME JOIN US**  
**ST. ANDREW CHURCH**  
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**FEBRUARY 24, MARCH 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**  
**4:30 - 7:00 P.M.**  
**BAKED COD OR DEEP FRIED PERCH SIDES, DESSERT & BEVERAGE INCLUDED**  
**ALSO CHEESE PIZZA & MAC ‘N CHEESE**  
ADULT \$8, CHILD (UNDER 12) \$4  
CARRY OUT \$7 (NO DESSERT OR BEVERAGE)

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH**  
1033 W 5th Street, Marysville  
**ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY DINNERS**  
Fridays, Feb 24 - Mar 30 - 5 to 8 p.m.  
Both fried and baked fish, with fries or baked potato, coleslaw or applesauce; pizza and mac-n-cheese available  
\$10 all-u-can-eat, \$8 regular, \$6 seniors, \$5 kid’s

**ST. PETER K OF C •** 6899 Smoky Row Rd, Columbus  
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Adults \$8, children 10 & under \$4  
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**ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH**  
6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus  
**LENTEN FISH FRY EVERY FRIDAY**  
Feb 24 - March 30, 5-7PM  
**BAKED & FRIED FISH, AND FISH SANDWICHES, SHRIMP, GRILLED CHEESE, PLUS PIEROGIES**  
Cost is: \$8 adult, \$6 Fish Sandwich & Pierogies, \$5 child  
Carryout is available • Come enjoy and have fun

**ST. MATTHEW CHURCH**  
807 Havens Corners Rd - Gahanna  
**Mar 9th, 5:15-7:30 PM**  
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## MARCH

**DAILY THROUGH APRIL 1**  
**40 Days for Life**  
Continuous, sidewalk in front of Complete Healthcare for Women, 5888 Cleveland Ave., Columbus. 40 Days for Life Lenten vigil at abortion clinic. 614-445-8508

**8, THURSDAY**  
20s Group Meeting at Columbus St. Patrick  
7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Weekly meeting of parish’s new 20s Group. All young adults invited. Begins with Holy Hour, followed at 8 by program. 614-406-9516

**10, SATURDAY**  
Bishop Ready Scholarship Exam  
9 to 11 a.m., Bishop Ready High School, 707 Salisbury Road, Columbus. Scholarship exam for incoming freshmen. 614-276-5263  
Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City  
9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession. 614-565-8654

**NFP Information Session at St. John Neumann**  
9 a.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 East State Route 37, Sunbury. Information session for Natural Family Planning. Pre-registration required. \$10 for non-parishioners. 740-936-8886  
Prayer and Dance Workshop at de Porres Center  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Workshop on prayer in movement and dance, presented by the Bakhita Dance Ministry of Columbus St. Dominic Church. 614-416-1910  
Tajci Concert at Christ the King  
7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus. “I Thirst: The Crucifixion Story” with Christian singer and songwriter Tajci. 614-237-0401

**10-11, SATURDAY-SUNDAY**  
Diocesan Youth Rally at St. Paul  
St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St., Westerville. Diocesan youth rally, featuring keynote speaker Father Steve Ryan, SDB, talk by Bishop Frederick Campbell on Saturday evening, music, entertainment, recreation activities, break-out sessions, teen expo, and Adoration. 614-241-2565

**11, SUNDAY**  
St. Christopher Adult Religious Education  
10 to 11:15 a.m., St. Christopher Parish Center, 1420 Grandview Ave., Columbus. “Divine Mercy Sunday in the Life of the Church” with Brother Matthew Holladay of Franciscan University of Steubenville. 614-488-9971

**Cancer Support Group Meeting at St. Peter**  
12:30 p.m., Red Room, St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Cancer support group meeting with Gina Crooks, executive director, Haven of Hope Cancer Foundation. 614-457-3964  
Bishop Watterson Youth Baseball Hitting Clinic  
Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road, Coljmbus. Baseball hitting clinic for youth, with school’s coaches and players. Fourth to sixth grades, 1 to 2:30 p.m.; seventh and eighth grades, 3 to 4:30 p.m. 614-268-8671  
Cathedral Organ Recital  
3 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Craig Cramer, University of Notre Dame organ professor, presents the fifth of six recitals featuring the complete organ works of Dieterich Buxtehude. 614-241-2526  
Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter  
7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. 706-761-4054  
Hamilton College Choir at St. Joan of Arc  
7:30 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Performance by the Hamilton College choir of Clinton, NY. 614-761-0905

**12, MONDAY**  
Calix Society Meeting at Columbus St. Patrick  
6:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Monthly meeting of the Calix Society, an association of Catholic alcoholics affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous. Business meeting followed by 7 p.m. Mass and full meeting after Mass. 614-406-2939  
Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry  
6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, (Christ the King Church campus), Columbus. 614-718-0277, 614-309-2651, 614-309-0157  
Our Lady of Peace Men’s Bible Study  
7 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus. Bible study of Sunday Scripture readings. 614-459-2766

**13, TUESDAY**  
‘EnCourage’ Support Group Meeting  
7 p.m. Meeting of a new Columbus-area Catholic organization providing solace, support, and counsel for parents and relatives of those with a same-sex attraction. 614-372-5249  
‘Catholicism’ Series at St. Pius X  
7 to 8:30 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Video of “The Fire of His Love: Prayer and the Life of the Spirit,” Part 7 of Father Robert Barron’s “Catholicism” series, followed by discussion. 614-866-2859  
Prayer Group Meeting at St. Mark  
7 p.m., St. Raymond Room, St. Mark Center, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Light of Life Prayer Group meeting. 740-653-4919

**14, WEDNESDAY**  
Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves  
2 to 3:30 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves book club with Dominican Sisters Marialein Anzenberger and Colleen Gallagher. 614-416-1910

**15, THURSDAY**  
20s Group Meeting at Columbus St. Patrick  
7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Weekly meeting of parish’s new 20s Group. All young adults invited. Begins with Holy Hour, followed at 8 by program. 614-406-9516





## CONCERT

Sunday, March 25 • 7 p.m.

St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell

# THE BOOK OF JONAH

## An organ concert by Matthew Meloche



Organist Matthew J. Meloche presents this unique concert, which will include the reading of the Book of Jonah in its entirety.

Organ music played during the reading will enhance the themes, and interludes with organ improvisations will give the listener time to reflect upon the Word of God. This is not a traditional organ concert. There will

be no repertoire or large-scale organ pieces. Instead, this is a night to hear the Word of God and music combined together for our inspiration during this Lenten season.

There is no charge for the concert, but a free-will offering will be taken to support the artists and the parish music program.

## BOOK REVIEW

***Teddy bears and tabernacles: the pope's childhood, told by his brother***

By Catholic News Service

Recounting their rural Bavarian childhood and subsequent lifelong friendship, the elder brother of Pope Benedict XVI offers a privileged look at the personal side of the spiritual leader of 1.3 billion Catholics.

"My Brother the Pope," published on March 1 by Ignatius Press, is based on interviews with Msgr. Georg Ratzinger by

German writer Michael Hesemann and was originally published in German last year.

Joseph, the future Pope Benedict, was "very slight and delicate" at birth, Msgr. Ratzinger says, and was "often sick" as an infant, with diphtheria among other ailments. Later on, Joseph's favorite toys were stuffed animals. He was particularly attached to a pair of teddy bears.

Msgr. Ratzinger describes family life with their parents and older sister, Maria, as free of any overt conflict, "since each one settled that himself and with God in personal prayer. We did not talk about such things. ... Such problems became a part of our prayer."

Glimpses of the boys' destinies came early on.

When a cardinal visited their small town in 1931, arriving in a black limousine, four-year-old Joseph exclaimed, "I'll be a cardinal someday!" Nevertheless, Msgr. Ratzinger says, his brother was never ambitious, and external honors have been "always unwelcome" to him.

"My brother was somewhat better behaved than I," Msgr. Ratzinger says, yet he recounts a boyhood prank in which the two tricked a local farmer into losing track of his oxcart.

Recreation of a more edifying sort came when the boys played at being priests, using a toy altar made for them by an uncle.

"It was a really beautiful high altar, which he even equipped with a rotat-

ing tabernacle," Msgr. Ratzinger recalls. "Naturally, we used water instead of wine for the make-believe consecration."

The future Pope Benedict, now a proficient amateur pianist and lover of Mozart, "did not take to music quite as spontaneously as I did," says Msgr. Ratzinger, who went on to become the choirmaster of the Regensburg, Germany, cathedral. His brother "was a little more restrained, although he is a very musical person," Msgr. Ratzinger says.

Recounting Hitler's rise to power in 1930s Germany, Msgr. Ratzinger says that their father regarded the dictator as the "Antichrist" and refused to join the Nazi party.

"But so as not to put our family completely at risk, he advised Mother to join the women's organization," Msgr. Ratzinger says, noting that the women "did not talk about Hitler but instead exchanged recipes, chatted about their gardens, and sometimes even prayed the rosary together."

It was only reluctantly that the two boys obeyed requirements to join the Hitler Youth and later served in the German military during World War II, Msgr. Ratzinger says. The pope's brother was present at the Allied bombardment of the monastery at Monte Cassino, Italy, in 1944.

Msgr. Ratzinger recounts anecdotes about their time together as adults: watching a German television series about a police dog named "Inspector Rex" and dividing tasks in the kitchen -- the monsi-

gnor washing dishes while his brother, by then a cardinal, drying.

In 2005, after the death of Blessed John Paul II, Msgr. Ratzinger was sure that his brother was too old to be elected pope. When he heard the new pontiff's name pronounced on live television, he admits that he was "disheartened."

"It was a great challenge, an enormous task for him, I thought, and I was seriously worried," Msgr. Ratzinger says.

The pope later confided that his election had "struck him like a bolt of lightning," Msgr. Ratzinger says.

Readers get a glimpse inside the papal household as Msgr. Ratzinger describes his brother's daily routine. On Tuesdays, for example, Pope Benedict listens to tape recordings and practices his pronunciation of the remarks in foreign languages that he will make at the next day's general audience.

Msgr. Ratzinger says that his brother has not been indifferent to the many criticisms that he has received during his career as prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and then as pope.

Pope Benedict is "personally very sensitive, but he also knows from which corner these attacks come and the reason for them, what is usually behind them," Msgr. Ratzinger says. "That way he overcomes it more easily, he rises above it more simply."

Contributing to this report were Carol Glatz, Francis X. Rocca, and Cindy Wooden in Rome.

## NEWS IN PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

A letter to Pope Clement VII pleading for the annulment of the marriage of King Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon is seen in the Vatican Secret Archives. The letter includes the wax seals of the members of the English House of Lords, clergy, and other nobility who wrote and signed it. The letter is on display in the "Lux in Arcana" exhibit at Rome's Capitoline Museum through Sept. 9

CNS photo/Vatican Secret Archives

Archbishop George J. Lucas of Omaha, Neb., hangs an edict announcing the opening of the cause for sainthood for Father Edward Flanagan on Feb. 27 on the doors of St. Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha. Father Flanagan, founder of Boys Town, spent his life devoted to the care of troubled and abandoned boys. The proclamation invited people to share their thoughts on the priest's life and ministry

CNS photo/Mike Buckley, courtesy of Boys Town



People gather outside St. Mary's Church for a candlelight vigil on Feb. 28 in remembrance of the victims of a school shooting that morning in Chardon, Ohio. Three students were killed and two others wounded by suspect T.J. Lane in the shooting rampage at Chardon High School. Daniel Parmertor, who attended St. Mary's Church, died instantly

CNS photo/Aaron Josefczyk, Reuters



Part of the front of St. Joseph's Catholic Church remains standing on Feb. 29 after a tornado ripped through Ridgway, Ill. Homes, churches, and businesses were destroyed by multiple tornadoes in six states. At least 12 people were killed in the violent storms

CNS photo/Paul Newton, courtesy of The Southern Illinoisan



## CONFERENCE, continued from Page 3



Bishop Frederick Campbell arrives at the Lausche Building altar for Mass



A choir of Pontifical College Josephinum seminarians provided music



Part of the crowd of 2,000 men at the diocesan Catholic Men's Conference

He said the work he did in preparation for degrees in divinity and theology showed him the parallels between the Eucharist and the Jewish Passover and how Jesus' Last Supper was the model for the new Passover, which is the Mass.

"The New Testament (in the Eucharist) was a sacrament long before it ever became a document, according to the document itself," Hahn said, referring to descriptions of the Last Supper found in the Gospel of Luke and St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

"Jesus said, 'Do this in remembrance of me,' not 'write this' or 'read this' or 'preach this,'" Hahn said. "This makes Christ's death on Calvary an execution that becomes a sacrifice. If the Eucharist is just a meal, then Calvary is just an execution. Only if the Eucharist is the Passover of the New Testament does the sacrifice at Calvary become the fulfillment of the words which Jesus spoke when he began the sacrifice by saying 'this bread is my body' and 'this is the cup of my blood' at the Last Supper."

Hahn said that six weeks ago, he had a bowel perforation that caused him to be hospitalized for the first time and to receive the Anointing of the Sick. "It reminded me that this life which seems so long is going to look so short one day, and that the mortality rate and the immortality rate are both 100 percent," he said. "Remember, what you do for all eternity is based on what you choose to do in this life."

"The world has become a colder place for Catholics these days," he said. "We seem to be in an era of global cooling when it comes to religion." Referring to this year's elections, he urged his listeners to vote as their consciences told them, as informed by God's word. "There is an axiom which says 'Politicians are like diapers. They need to be changed frequently, and for the same reason.' That may be true, but we need to be changed, too," he said. "We have to look at things from an eternal perspective."

Msgr. Morris' talk frequently referred to the phrase "Rise, let us be on our way," which Jesus said to the apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane as he prepared to face his crucifixion and which Pope John Paul II used as the title of a book about his 20 years as a bishop before becoming pope.

"The Holy Father alludes to a spirit of resoluteness, and this same resoluteness must be our own," Msgr. Morris said. "It's going to require that we die in spirit, and it's going to be ongoing. The cross is the starting point for discipleship. It's not easy to follow the Lord, but we know we must. As John Paul said, 'No one can truly understand or know himself apart from Christ.'"

Msgr. Morris was one of several speakers who criticized the recent U.S. Health and Human Services Department mandate requiring

all employers to provide coverage for contraception and sterilization services in any health insurance plan. The nation's Catholic bishops and many other religious leaders have expressed strong opposition to the mandate and to a recent modification of it, describing both as intrusions on religious liberty.

"Fifteen years ago, I said there was going to come a time when we are not going to be able to freely practice our faith as it ought to be practiced. It has come to pass," he said.

Msgr. Morris urged those in attendance to consecrate themselves and their families to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, using the prayer of consecration written by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

"This is our plan of action as we go forth today," he said. "Jesus has promised that through this act, he will give us the graces we need in our state of life, and from those will come peace in our families and consolation in our troubles. He will be your refuge in death and will bless you abundantly."

Father Schalk prepared the men at the conference to go to confession, saying the Sacrament of Reconciliation is "more than asking for God's mercy. It's how we pour out our faith, love, and devotion to him, like the woman who anointed him by pouring out expensive oil. She was pouring herself out to him, and that's what we're called to do."

"It takes courage for a man to remove the masks from his life and show Christ his whole self" by confessing his sins, Father Schalk said. "Be courageous, be bold in declaring your faith and receiving the gift of new life."

Bishop Campbell also spoke of courage in his homily, which he began by talking of how influential the novel "Men of Iron" by Howard Pyle, a tale of medieval knights and their courage, was to him when he was 12 years old.

He described courage as "a virtue we must carefully understand. It is not bragging, or foolhardiness, or brashness, accepting silly and dangerous challenges. ... Courage takes account of our natural fears and hesitations. It is a fear that overcomes all other fears. It is the fear that truth be denied, that good not be done, and that evil triumph – a fear that moves us into action."

Referring to the HHS mandate, Bishop Campbell said, "We are in a situation not of our own making, but one in which we must participate. Our religious liberty to proclaim the Gospel is being threatened, and this threat must be opposed. This will require the strength of Christian gentlemen. We want not to score points, but to convert others to what is true and good."

"We, like young knights, must root our prayer in the Eucharist, which forms us into human persons touched by charity and called to proclaim the Good News," the bishop said.