



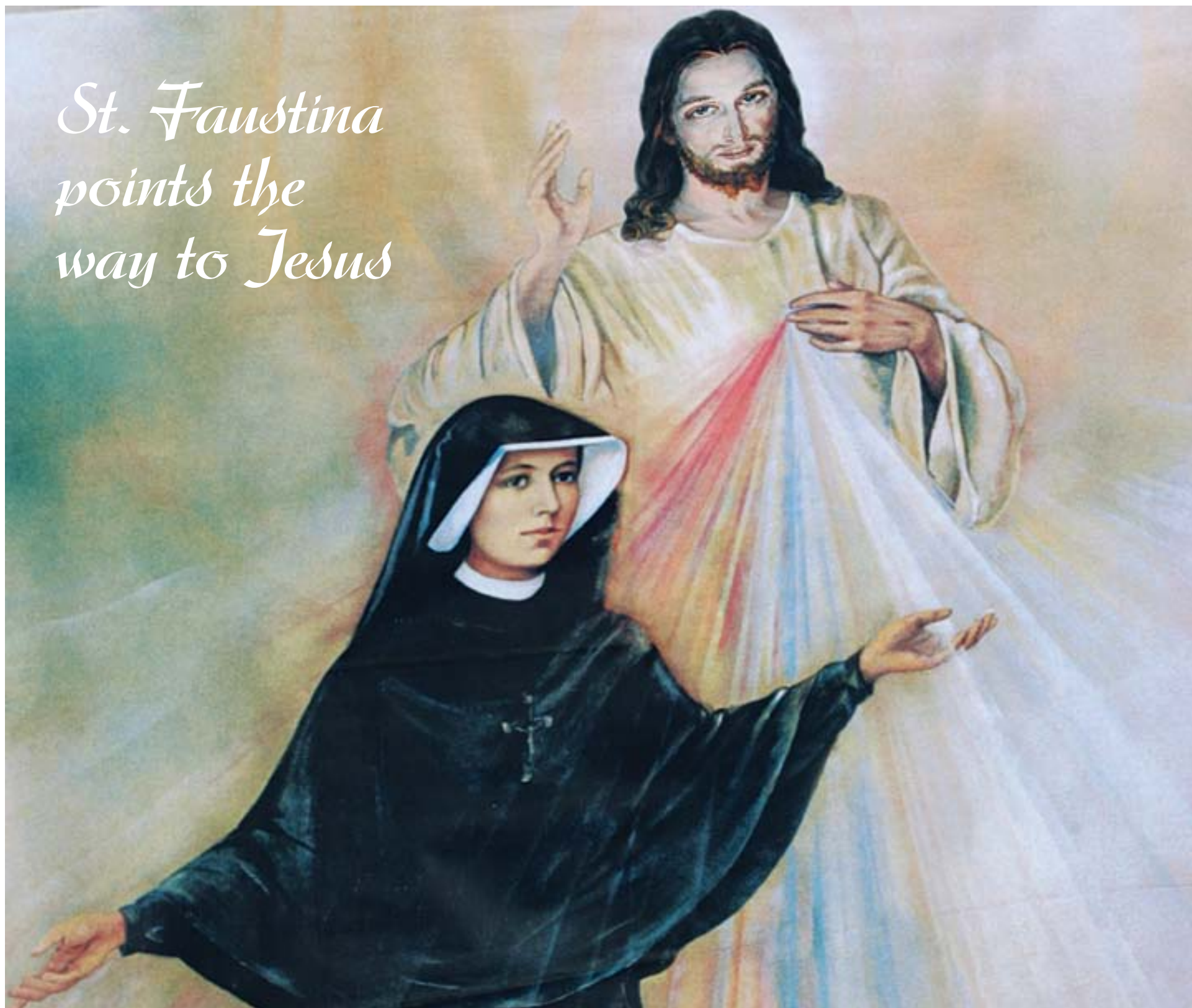
DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

CATHOLIC TIMES

A journal of Catholic life in Ohio

APRIL 15, 2012
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
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*St. Faustina
points the
way to Jesus*



The Editor's Notebook

Easter Eggs

By David Garick, Editor

I hope that everyone is still feeling the wonderful glow of Holy Week and Easter Sunday. It is a very special holiday, and certainly not one that can be confined to just that one day we call Easter. The gifts of Easter last much longer.

As a child, I certainly enjoyed getting dressed up and going to the very special celebrations at church on Easter morning. For quite a few days after that, I enjoyed my own personal Easter basket with the green cellophane grass and overflowing with jelly beans, marshmallow chicks, and other goodies. The colored hard-boiled eggs were the most traditional part of the basket, but I gave those to my little brother. I never liked eggs ... and I still don't. Most of all, I enjoyed that special large chocolate Easter egg that my parents always got for me. They knew my favorite and always got me one filled with coconut cream. I ate it just a slice at a time to make it last for many days. Happily, I still get that little Easter present. My wife makes sure that I have my large coconut-filled chocolate Easter egg to enjoy as the season progresses.

Easter eggs are common during Eastertide, as they symbolize the empty tomb of Jesus. Though an egg appears to be like the stone of a tomb, a bird hatches from it with life; similarly, the Easter egg is a reminder for Christians that Jesus rose from the grave and that those who believe will also experience eternal life. What a wonderful gift.

The gift that is hidden inside the shell of the Paschal mystery is one that we all get to share, not just on Easter Day, but throughout our lives. That gift is opened for us through the joy of one

of the newest feasts of the Catholic calendar, Divine Mercy Sunday, which we celebrate this week.

This issue of *Catholic Times* has a wealth of information about Divine Mercy Sunday, its revelation to St. Faustina, and its celebration here in the Diocese of Columbus.

In the final years of his pontificate, Blessed John Paul II elevated Sister Faustina to sainthood and installed Divine Mercy Sunday as a special observance of the gift to humanity that Jesus himself explained to St. Faustina. In 2005, he said, "Jesus told Sister Faustina, as recorded in her diary: 'Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to divine mercy.' It is not a new message, but can be considered a gift of special enlightenment that helps us to relive the Gospel of Easter more intensely, to offer it as a ray of light to the men and women of our time. His message of mercy continues to reach us through his hands held out to suffering man.

"It is this love which must inspire humanity today if it is to face the crisis of the meaning of life, the challenges of the most diverse needs, and, especially, the duty to defend the dignity of every human person. Thus, the message of divine mercy is also implicitly a message about the value of every human being. Each person is precious in God's eyes; Christ gave his life for each one; to everyone the Father gives his Spirit and offers intimacy."

That is a wonderful Easter egg to enjoy slowly, throughout the Easter season and for all of our lives.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY WEEKEND

More than 18,000 people are expected to attend the annual Divine Mercy Sunday Weekend festivities on Saturday and Sunday, April 14-15, at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, the home of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Mass.

The Marian Fathers are well-known for their promotion of the Divine Mercy message.

For those wanting to make their Divine Mercy Sunday Weekend experience even more significant, consider volunteering your time during the weekend celebration. It takes about 600 volunteers to successfully assist the thousands of pilgrims who travel from across the world to celebrate at the shrine.

"We have about 400 volunteers right now," said Peter Markavage, assistant volunteer coordinator. "We need help with crowd control, in the gift shop, the adoration tent, ushers, and traffic control. If it's their first time, I will try to place volunteers in a job that will

also allow them to enjoy the Hill. We won't ask the world of them. We will make sure they have a chance to enjoy the celebration."

Father Ken Dos Santos, MIC, the shrine's rector, appreciates the huge role that volunteers play in Divine Mercy Sunday.

"As we approach Divine Mercy Sunday this year, we are reminded of the many volunteers who generously give of their time and talents to help us with the thousands of pilgrims who arrive here on Eden Hill for Divine Mercy Sunday Weekend," Father Dos Santos said. "And as we do every year, we must express our deepest gratitude for their service, because without their help, we would be unable to manage the many areas that provide hospitality to our pilgrims. Therefore, we ask God's blessing on all of the volunteers who will be with us that weekend."

Ken and Joanne Clough of Schenectady, N.Y., started bringing their

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Christ's Resurrection Changed the World

By CINDY WOODEN

Catholic News Service

Light and darkness, truth and lies, hope and despair are in a constant battle in the world, but with his death and resurrection, Jesus conquered sin and death for all time, Pope Benedict XVI said on Easter.

"If Jesus is risen, then -- and only then -- has something truly new happened, something that changes the state of humanity and the world," the pope told tens of thousands of people in St. Peter's Square before giving his Easter blessing *urbi et orbi* (to the city and the world).

With the sun shining on the square -- transformed into a garden with 42,000 flowers, flowering plants, shrubs, and trees -- Pope Benedict began the celebration of the morning Mass on April 8 just 10 hours after having finished celebrating the three-hour long Easter vigil in St. Peter's Basilica.

In his Easter message at the end of the morning Mass, the pope said every Christian can share the experience of Mary Magdalene, who was the first to encounter the risen Jesus on Easter morning.

The encounter "lets us experience all God's goodness and truth," he said. The risen Lord "frees us from evil not in a

superficial and fleeting way, but sets us free radically, heals us completely, and restores our dignity."

The resurrection means that Jesus belongs not just to the past, but is present today, giving hope and comfort to all those who suffer, the pope said.

Pope Benedict offered special prayers and encouragement to Christians persecuted for their faith and to the people of the Middle East, asking members of all religious and ethnic groups to work together for the common good and respect for human rights.

"Particularly in Syria, may there be an end to bloodshed and an immediate commitment to the path of respect, dialogue, and reconciliation" after months of violent battles between Syria's government and opposition forces.

The pope also prayed for the people of Iraq, for Israelis and Palestinians, for those suffering famine and violence in the Horn of Africa, and for those suffering from conflict in Mali and in Sudan and South Sudan.

At the end of his message, he wished people a happy Easter in 65 languages, including Mongolian, Hebrew, Hindi, Chinese, Maori, Esperanto, and Latin.

In English, he said: "May the grace and joy of the risen Christ be with you all."

At the Easter vigil the night before, the pope welcomed eight adults into the Catholic Church. Among those he baptized and confirmed

was Jason N. Emerick, a 36-year-old man from the Archdiocese of Boston. Two of the catechumens were from Germany and the others were from Turkmenistan, Italy, Albania, Slovakia, and Cameroon.

Light, fire, and candles were the symbols highlighted during the pope's vigil.

Like Easter vigils throughout the world, the Mass began with the lighting of a fire. In the atrium of St. Peter's Basilica, there was a large brazier full of blazing coals. An assistant lit a small taper from the coals and handed it to the pope so he could light the towering Easter candle.

A deacon carried the candle to the entrance of the darkened basilica and chanted, "The light of Christ."

The smaller candle carried by Pope Benedict was lit, and he got onto his mobile platform to be pushed up the aisle of the basilica in silence and what should have been darkness. Although announcers -- in multiple languages -- had asked the crowd not to use flashes on their cameras during the procession, bursts of light accompanied the pope toward the altar.

However, the cameras could not destroy the impact of the candles held by members of the congregation being lighted one by one and the glow spreading throughout the world's largest church.

In his homily, Pope Benedict said "to say that God created light means that God created the world as a space for knowledge and truth, as a space for encounter and freedom, as a space for good and love."



The light of Easter, he said, proclaims forever the fact that "life is stronger than death. Good is stronger than evil. Love is stronger than hate. Truth is stronger than lies."

The world needs the light of Christ and the light of faith because darkness always attempts to obscure people's vision of what is good and evil and what the purpose of their life is, the pope said.

"Today, we can illuminate our cities so brightly that the stars of the sky are no longer visible," he said. "Is this not an image of the problems caused by our version of enlightenment?"

"With regard to material things, our knowledge and our technical accomplishments are legion," he said. But when it comes to the more important matters, such as "the things of God and the question of good," people can no longer see them.

"Faith, then, which reveals God's light to us, is the true enlightenment, enabling God's light to break into our world, opening our eyes to the true light," he said.



Front Page photo:

St. Faustina Kowalska is depicted with an image of Jesus Christ the Divine Mercy, as He appeared to her in 1931 when asking that the Feast of Divine Mercy be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter

CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec

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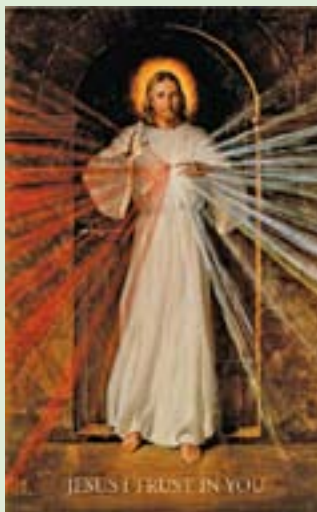
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A quick note from:

THE OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

WHAT IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY?



On April 30, 2000 (the year of the Great Jubilee), His Holiness Pope John Paul II declared that the Second Sunday of Easter should be known as Divine Mercy Sunday. This was said during the canonization Mass of an uneducated Polish nun named Sister Faustina Kowalska, now St. Faustina. In his homily from that day, the Pope said that the readings on this Sunday always discuss mercy, trust, and the forgiveness of sins. The devotion to Jesus under the title of The Divine Mercy stems from the writings of St. Faustina in her diary, in which she recorded the revelations she had received concerning the mercy of God.

A second decree from the Holy Father on June 29, 2002, announced that a plenary indulgence is extended to the faithful on Divine Mercy Sunday, given that they meet the usual conditions for receiving the indulgence. (These conditions include prayer, confession, and reception of Holy Communion and then some sort of charity or works of mercy.) John Paul II continued by asking priests not only to inform the people of the opportunity for the indulgence,

but to facilitate the reception of the indulgence for the people. Also, the image of the Divine Mercy should be readily available for veneration by the faithful.

Many parishes around the diocese have been participating in the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday during the past few years, and the number continues to grow. Parishes having events this year include Newark Blessed Sacrament, Powell St. Joan of Arc, Columbus Holy Family, Columbus St. Catharine, Columbus St. Mary, Lancaster St. Mark, Chillicothe St. Peter, and Worthington St. Michael, among others. The Diocesan website (www.coldsdioc.org) will list the parishes and times for their celebration of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. They also are listed in this issue of the Catholic Times. A good resource for information about the chaplet is the website www.divinemercysundayusa.com. This website contains information about the Feast. For information about other parishes, please consult the parish office or bulletin.

It is most fitting that we celebrate the Feast of the Divine Mercy directly after Easter. It is impossible to separate the glory of the Resurrection of Christ from the mercy and forgiveness of sins offered by God the Father through the death and resurrection of his only Son. The Divine Mercy helps us to recall the penitential nature of the season of Lent, while reminding us that the mercy of God is unceasing through the graces gained through the frequent reception of forgiveness in the sacrament of confession.

MARRIAGE TO A NON-CATHOLIC; ABUSER PRIESTS AND CELEBRATION OF MASS



QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. We are Roman Catholics, and our daughter has received all the sacraments, up to and including confirmation. Sometime soon, I expect, she will be getting married to a wonderful young man she met in college.

My concern is that he is a practicing Protestant and neither wants to change denominations at this time. Is it possible for them to marry with the approval of the Catholic Church if each has a priest of their own faith presiding over the Mass? Also, they are currently considering getting married in a nondenominational chapel on the college campus. (Virginia)

A. Assuming your daughter and her fiancé are free to marry, the local Catholic bishop may grant them permission to marry in a nondenominational chapel. The situation you describe -- where their college chapel would have meaning for both of them as a sacred space -- is one in which such permission is typically granted.

Regarding the religion of any children from the marriage, your daughter, as the Catholic party, will be required to promise (orally) that she will continue to practice her faith within the Catholic Christian community. Additionally, she will promise "to do all in my power to share the faith I have received with our children by having them baptized and reared as Catholics."

Significantly, some commentators are quick to explain (as does the Diocese of Brooklyn's website) that "the Decree on Ecumenism No.3

clarifies that 'to do all in one's power' recognizes the religious convictions of the non-Catholic party and implies that a decision is reached that respects those beliefs.

"It does not mean an absolute promise at the risk of jeopardizing the marriage."

No promise is required from the non-Catholic party, but he is required to be informed of the pledge made by his future spouse. Neither has to convert to the other's faith for the marriage ceremony to be recognized by the Catholic Church.

As to the nature of the wedding ceremony, it is imprecise to suggest that each might have "a priest of their own faith presiding over the Mass." I'm sure what you mean to ask is whether a Catholic priest and a Protestant minister can share duties at the wedding.

Only a Catholic priest can celebrate a Mass. Most interdenominational weddings involve only the marriage ceremony and not a eucharistic celebration. Again, with the proper permission, either the priest or the minister could receive the couple's vows (but not both, in order to satisfy both the civil and religious requirement of a single officiant).

The two clergy could divide the other responsibilities, such as prayers, scriptural readings and blessings.

My suggestion is for your daughter and her fiancé to speak with a local Catholic priest -- perhaps the college chaplain -- to discuss their options and to begin the necessary preparation and

paperwork.

Q. Please answer a question that has been bothering me for some time: If a priest is removed from ministry for sexually abusing a minor, according to the church's policy of "zero tolerance," is he permitted to say Mass privately? And if so, do those who attend fulfill their Mass obligation for Sundays and Holy Days? (upstate New York)

A. Any Catholic priest who has been judged to have sexually abused a minor is removed from active ministry forever. Never again may he serve in any public capacity as a priest. If he has not been laicized (i.e., removed permanently from the clerical state itself by a formal canonical process), he may continue to celebrate Mass privately, but the rules governing his activity are severe and unrelenting.

The "Essential Norms" that the U.S. bishops adopted in 2002 specify that "he will not be permitted to celebrate Mass publicly. ... He is to be instructed not to wear clerical garb or to present himself publicly as a priest."

A fair reading of this restriction would say that to celebrate Mass with any sort of congregation, however small, is to present oneself publicly as a priest and is therefore forbidden.

What the rule seems designed to allow is for the removed priest to offer Mass alone, in the privacy of one's own apartment or prison cell. Since there is no permission for anyone else to be present, those who attended would not fulfill their Sunday obligation.

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

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Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States
www.OneFamilyInMission.org



A "COURAGEOUS" COMMITMENT

Thirteen men of Logan St. John Church stood before their families on Sunday, March 18, and signed a resolution to love, honor, and protect their wives and children in a ceremony inspired by the powerful movie "Courageous."

Produced by the makers of "Facing the Giants" and "Fireproof," "Courageous" tells the story of five men, one of whom suffers a tragedy in his life that forces him to re-evaluate how good a father he has been to his two children.

As he studies the Scriptures, he learns how much the Bible has to teach men about their roles as husbands and fathers, and he drafts a "resolution" which he and his friends all sign, promising to hold each other accountable to follow through on their commitment.

Knights of Columbus Council 2299 of St. John Church, inspired by the powerful message of the movie, had a special private showing for council members only, then invited the parish as a whole -- men in particular -- to likewise view it.

Men of the parish were then invited to put their commitment to their families in writing, with family members signing as witnesses.

Deacon Don Robers opened the ceremony with a short talk about the need for strong fathers in today's society, then administered the resolution to the group, whose members repeated the words aloud before signing the resolution.



The resolutions will be framed and hung in prominent places in the homes of the participants, to show all who visit that they are Christian men of courage and to announce, as found in Joshua 24:15, that "As to me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Top photo: Deacon Don Robers administers the resolution to the other twelve participants.

Above: A parishioner signs the resolution in the presence of his family and witnesses.

Community Kitchen & Pampered Chef Hosting Appreciation Lunch & Fund Raising Event

The Columbus Community Kitchen, located behind Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 640 S. Ohio Ave., will host a food tasting event to recognize its volunteers and raise funds for its continuing mission. The event will take place Sunday, May 6, from 1 to 4 p.m.

With the help of many groups and individuals, the kitchen serves 200 to 350 meals daily. This event will feature the type of meal created for its daily din-

ers. Father Josh Wagner will kick off the afternoon with an appearance and some family-friendly comedy. A Pampered Chef appetizer demonstration will follow. Orders placed through Pampered Chef will benefit the kitchen.

Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP carol@communitykitchencolumbus.org or call (614) 252-6428, extension 237.

PROPOSAL TO PAY FOR CONTRACEPTIVE COST ‘RADICALLY FLAWED,’ SAY BISHOPS

By Catholic News Service

Even with a new federal proposal that third-party administrators pay the costs of contraceptives for religious employers who object to the coverage, the health reform law’s contraceptive mandate “remains radically flawed,” according to the U.S. bishops.

The bishops made the comments in an internal memo on March 29. A copy of it was released to Catholic News Service on April 2.

The memo came in response to a rule proposed by the U.S. Department for Health and Human Services in a 32-page document that was published March 21 in the Federal Register. HHS has proposed new ways for religious organizations that have moral objections to providing free contraceptives to their employees to comply with the requirement.

Among the suggestions are having the costs covered by a “third-party administrator” of a health plan or “independent agency” that receive funds from other sources, such as rebates from drug makers.

Before it makes a final decision on the proposed ruling, the Obama administration is seeking public comment until June 19.

In their memo, the bishops said the details of the proposal are “both tentative and complex and demand further study.” But based on an initial analysis, they said, the proposal had “the same fundamental issues” they had addressed in a March 14 statement titled “United for Religious Freedom.”

The bishops said they would be commenting on the HHS proposal in more detail and inviting others to add their comments as well. The memo also said representatives from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will continue to meet with administration officials to discuss the new proposal.

They said that under the new proposal, the government’s four-part test to determine which religious organizations fit the mandate’s religious exemption remained unchanged.

To be exempt from the requirement, a religious or-



ganization “has the inculcation of religious values as its purpose; primarily employs persons who share its religious tenets; primarily serves persons who share its religious tenets; and is a nonprofit organization” under specific sections of the Internal Revenue Code.

“The government has no place defining religion and religious ministry,” the bishops said, adding that “government’s attempt to do so here is unconstitutional.”

Even if the proposed rules would grant for some organizations a more limited form of religious freedom, “we contend that we already have that freedom in full and do not need to receive it as a ‘grace’ from the government,” the bishops said.

Fundamentally, they noted, the HHS contraceptive mandate “still forces us to act against our conscience and teaching,” particularly because the new proposal does not modify the inclusion of sterilization and contraceptives, including some abortifacients, in the “preventive services” mandate.

“Those falling outside the government definition of ‘religious employer’ will be forced by the government to violate their own teachings within their very own institutions,” the bishops said. “Whatever funding and administrative mechanisms are ultimately chosen, it remains that many deeply religious institutions and individuals will be forbidden to provide even their own employees -- or, in the case of educational institutions, their own students -- with health coverage consistent with their values.”

In announcing the proposed HHS rule, the Obama administration also said most college student health insurance plans will have to include free contraceptive coverage. Although the policy will apply to all colleges and universities, religiously affiliated institutions will be given an additional year to comply with the mandate.

Colleges that have self-insured student health coverage plans will not be required to offer free contraceptive coverage.



The proposal seems intended to “lessen the degree of ‘cooperation in evil’ required of nonexempt religious organizations,” the bishops said in their memo. “But they do so by depriving these organizations of the ability to determine their employee and student benefits in accordance with their faith and moral teaching.”

“It must also be very clear that the church, together with other religious groups and faith-based entities, will simultaneously continue to seek relief from the legislature and redress in the courts,” the bishops said.

On Jan. 20, HHS announced that the federal government would require all employers, including religious employers, to provide no-cost coverage of all contraceptives approved by the Food and Drug Administration as part of preventive health services for women. Only houses of worship are exempt.

In a revision announced Feb. 10 and published Feb. 15, President Barack Obama said religious employers could decline to cover contraceptives if they were morally opposed to them, but the health insurers that provide their health plans would be required to offer contraceptives free of charge to women who requested such coverage.

His announcement did not answer how the mandate applied to self-insured religious employers, but the newly published proposal reinforces mandated contraceptive coverage at self-insured Catholic hospitals and social service agencies.



Sometimes, it’s just easier to be naked

I’ve discovered something about myself recently, and it came by way of a friend.

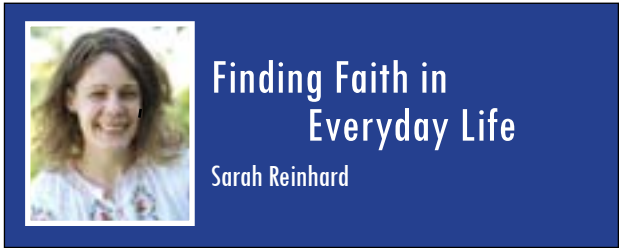
She recounted how, as she was sharing in front of a group of her fellow parishioners, she suddenly realized she might have been sharing too much.

“But it felt right,” she said. “The Spirit was at work. Suddenly, I felt so naked.”

I knew just what she meant. I find it myself, especially when I stand in front of my fifth-grade religious education class.

There they are, innocent and with so much life in front of them. They’re rowdy and energetic and ready to laugh in an instant.

They are tackling the big questions in life, and in the midst of the shrugs and rolling eyes, I catch a glimpse, now and then, of just how much they want to love their faith, of how passionate they long to be.



They see me, every week, make a fool of myself. I get fired up and heated, and I have even been known to raise my voice. I do the same thing, times ten, with a group of Confirmation students every summer. I can’t help it: I remember so well those years. I, too, wanted something to believe in. I, too, wanted something to grasp.

Do they know what to make of me? Will they remember anything we have discussed? For that matter, will they continue to see Jesus in the Eucharist after these classes are a distant memory?

I’ve bared my soul to groups of adults, too, but it’s far harder. Suddenly, I’m in a peer group. Suddenly, there’s a part of me worried about what they think. Suddenly, I wonder if maybe I’m wrong, if it’s not really the Spirit, but some part of me.

There’s a distance we have, thanks to the many screens in our lives. It’s not so hard to say what I think or feel when I’m just typing words to a theoretical world. But when I’m looking them in the face, when I’m feeling their reaction in person, it makes a difference in me.

That difference is hard, pushing me in ways I don’t want to be, pulling me closer to God if I let it. Sometimes, I think, it’s easier just to be naked in front of the crowd.

Sarah Reinhard is a member of Plain City St. Joseph Church and writes from her home in central Ohio. She can be found online at SnoringScholar.com.

Still the waters run . . .

By J.P. Leo Thomas

How calm the waters of the Jordan, to bring about such a climactic metamorphosis in each of our lives. We were changed forever by that simple act of courage and humility. So let this Easter season be one of rebirth and renewal - being reborn into a world still largely in its infancy and renewed by Christ’s own actions during His baptism. I am reminded by my own experiences and of how I felt during this time. It was a journey into rediscovering my faith and how I could now impact my community and in a larger text, the world as well.

I remember the sights and sounds that evening, the way the room felt, the aromas from the incense burning bright, and the feeling of serenity as the darkness became light. These were events that altered my perception of reality and began a change in my perspective on true charity and grace.

It also brought to mind the tremendous sacrifices and pain that Jesus went through on His way to His resurrection. The calculated way in which He examined His life and scripted His death should be a lesson to us all. He wanted to exit this world the same as He had entered it, as a man, true and undeniable.

It is a false statement to make that we are sinless at the end of our days. It is self-righteous to think of ourselves as above reproach or as having the right to forgiveness. What God gives us is humility, grace, and truth -- truth in the way we have conducted ourselves and in approaching Him as a sinner, first and foremost. Remember, it is through admittance of such sin that we are brought face to face with Christ and the eternity He has prepared. All the elements are in place if we would just allow the stream to overtake us.

Water, in all its true form, is a simple equation for scientists to solve. But God puts complexity in the simple things of life. It serves many things – redemption, thirst, hunger, salvation. We still do not know of all the healing properties it possesses, but are moved by faith to believe in the miracle of life it symbolizes. Truth is not found in fiction, and let us not debate what He has given to us. Just learn to accept that some things are best left unsaid. and, with Jesus’ help, life’s problems will be met with utmost haste.

In the calmness can be turbulence, and in the wake can be found tranquility. When you drop a pebble in the water, it sends ripples outward, away from the shore, but comes back as a gentle eddy. We must allow ourselves to be constantly nourished by flood, fury, and fire. It is these trials that lead us to our final destination.

Use Easter as a time to reflect on our lives and how we have impacted others. Rise up and begin again our charity, humility, and love for all people. Let our actions speak louder than our words. Let the rush of water overflow your generosity. Live life as it was intended to be lived, as Jesus taught us time and time again. Still the waters run, deep and ever-flowing, and for our brief time here on Earth, allow it to sustain us all.

Have a wonderful and quiet season. May all your troubles seem small and may the graces of God embellish every area of your life. And may you feel the gentle breath of the Holy Spirit. Peace and harmony be with you always.

My Easter Prayer...

Lord, I pray for those who journey to you.

Strengthen their faith.

Open up their hearts to the fullness of your love.

Deepen their understanding.

May you set their hearts afire for the kingdom.

I ask this through Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life for all eternity

Amen.

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

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DIVINE MERCY HAS ALWAYS BEEN JESUS' PROMISE

By FATHER PATRICK TONER

Pastor, Plain City St. Joseph Church

From the diary of a young Polish nun, St. Faustina, a special devotion began spreading throughout the world in the 1930s. The message is nothing new, but is a reminder of what the Church has always taught through scripture and tradition: that God is merciful and forgiving and that we, too, must show mercy and forgiveness. In the Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone — especially the greatest sinners.

About 300 years before that, in the 1600s, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque began to have experiences which must have been supernatural in nature. The first of these occurred on Dec. 27, 1673, when she was kneeling at the grille in the chapel of her convent in France. She felt suffused by the Divine Presence. St. Faustina describes the same feeling. Margaret Mary heard Jesus inviting her to take the place which St. John had occupied at the Last Supper. The Lord told her that the love of His heart must spread and manifest itself to men, and He would reveal its graces through her. Jesus made 12 promises to her for those who honor His Sacred Heart.

Although the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus had been practiced in the past, it gained a strong new impetus through the work of Father John Eudes at about the same time. The Sacred Heart is regarded as “the symbol of that boundless love which moved the Word to take flesh, to institute the Holy Eucharist, to take our sins upon Himself, and, dying on the Cross, to offer Himself as a victim and sacri-

fice to the eternal Father.” It is the Eucharist that unites us fully to the offering of His sacred passion, which is the source of Divine Mercy.

About 400 years earlier, St. Gertrude had various mystical experiences, including a vision of Jesus, who invited her to rest her head on his breast to hear the beating of his heart, and the piercing of her heart with divine love. Gertrude showed “tender sympathy towards the souls in purgatory” and Christ promised to release a thousand souls from purgatory each time it was said. The prayer was extended to include living sinners, as well. Note how the words of St. Gertrude's prayer carry the same theme as the Divine Mercy prayers:

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus Christ, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, for those in my own home and within my family. Amen.

In the cases of St. Faustina, St. Margaret Mary, and St. Gertrude, Jesus appeared to cloistered nuns and revealed the nature of His Heart. He entrusted them to share that message. It has been the power of the message, not the messenger, that has accounted for the worldwide devotion. Jesus is still speaking to us through those voices. He is inviting us to know His Divine Mercy and to pray for sinners everywhere. By asking for the Lord's mercy, trusting in His mercy, and sincerely trying to live His mercy in our lives, we can assure that we will never hear Him say of us, “Their hearts are far from Me,” but will instead hear that wonderful promise, “Blessed are the merciful, for they

shall obtain mercy.”

To mark the new millennium, Plain City St. Joseph Church started a Eucharistic Adoration program. We began with 40 hours per week. The schedule was set up to work with the Mass schedule and my desire to say Morning and Evening Prayer in the church. While I was praying, I asked the Lord to give me a “passion.” I was looking to deepen my devotional and ministerial life.

At that time, I was contacted by Tim McAndrew of Laity for Mercy. Our openness to devotional programs and interest in the Divine Mercy prompted him to consider St. Joseph as the site for a relic image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Life and Mercy Crusade also promoted the Divine Mercy Image, and offered us the images that are enthroned in the church (shown in the picture above).

Several years ago, we added a Saturday morning Mass. We began using the collection of Masses in honor of the Blessed Virgin. At the end of Mass, I would expose the Blessed Sacrament. While I was hearing confessions, the participants would pray the Divine Mercy chaplet and the Rosary. The intention of the Mass is for an end to abortions. Part of the message of the Life and Mercy Crusade is how the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe helped end human sacrifice among the Aztecs.

We keep copies of St. Faustina's diary on the devotional counter at the back of the church. The most frequent penance I give in Confession is to pray the Divine Mercy chaplet. My preaching makes frequent references to the immense love and mercy of God and how reflecting upon how much we are loved can change our lives.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY FACT SHEET

What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

Also known as “The Feast of Mercy,” Divine Mercy Sunday marks the Second Sunday of Easter (also the “Octave Day” of Easter) and the fulfillment of one of our Lord's most imperative requests made to the Polish mystic St. Faustina Kowalska, in a series of revelations in the 1930s. The Lord's will with regard to the feast day's establishment was already made known in His first revelation to the saint, which she recorded in her now-famous *Diary*. There were 14 revelations concerning the desired feast. “The Feast of Mercy,” Jesus said, “emerged from my very depths of tenderness. It is my desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the fount of my mercy” (*Diary*, 699).

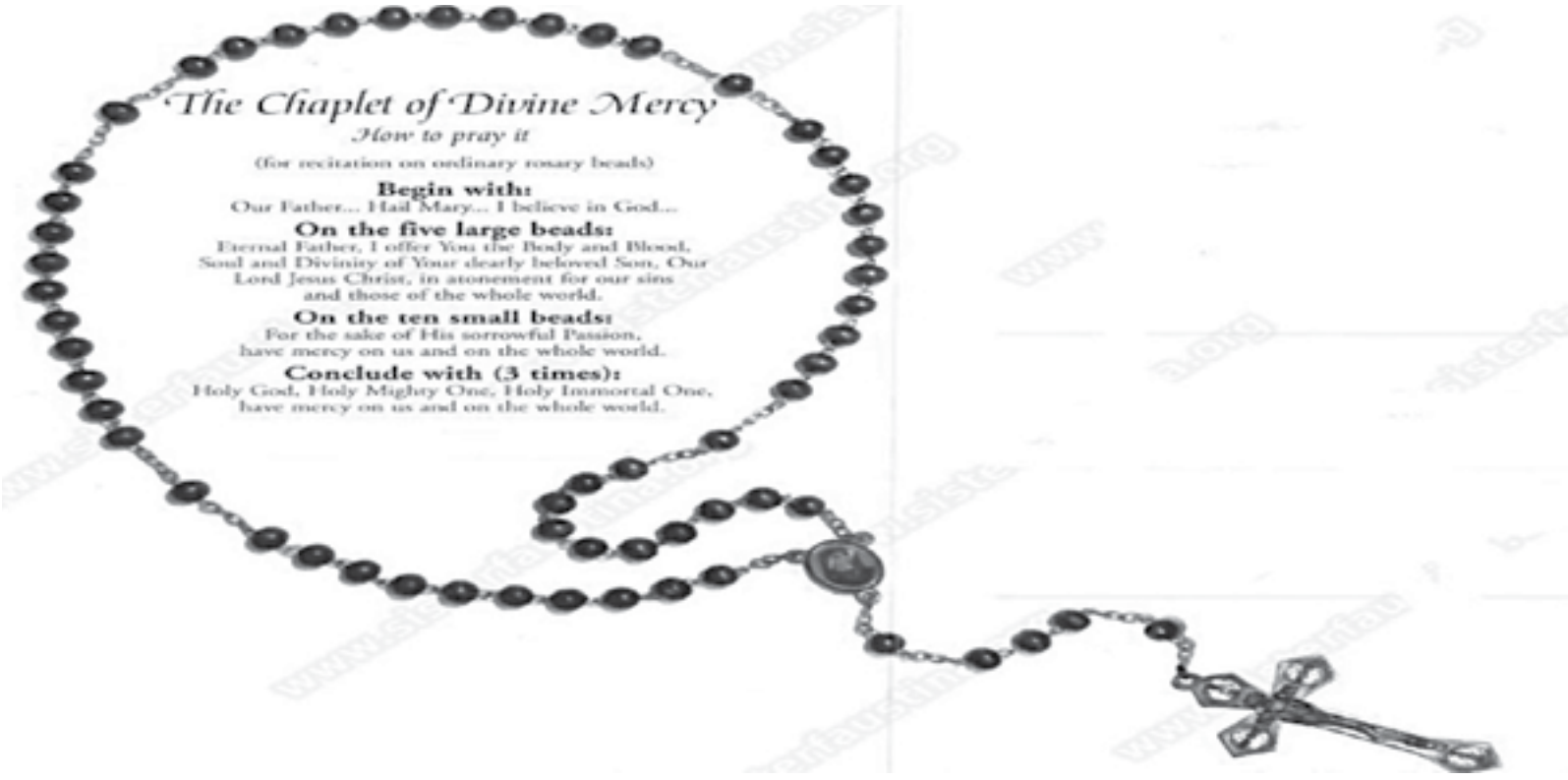
Why did Jesus want Divine Mercy Sunday to be held in such high regard by His people?

In short, the main reason Jesus wanted this feast to be established is that He wanted to “throw a lifeline,” so to speak, to souls who are perishing, souls who are drowning in sin and despair. That lifeline is this feast, with all the tremendous promises of graces and benefits that Jesus attached to it.

What are those promises and graces and how must we prepare for this feast?

This is how we are to prepare:

1. Go to confession, preferably during the Lenten season.
2. Receive Holy Communion on the feast day.



As to the special graces and promises, Christ told St. Faustina:

“I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the feast of my mercy” (*Diary*, 1109).

“Whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment” (*Diary*, 300).

“The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment” (*Diary*, 699).

When did Divine Mercy Sunday become an official feast day for the universal Church?

Pope John Paul II made the surprise announcement of this change in his homily at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000. There, he declared, “It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on, throughout the Church, will be called Divine Mercy Sunday.”

What is the significance of the image of The Divine Mercy?

The image of Jesus, The Divine Mercy, is to have a special place of honor on the Feast of Mercy, a visual reminder of all that Jesus did for us through His Passion, death, and Resurrection, and a reminder, too, of what He asks of us in return — to trust Him and be merciful to others: “I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it” (*Diary*, 341).

What does the image “mean”?

The Image of The Divine Mercy represents the risen Christ. These two rays signify the Sacraments of mercy (Baptism and Penance or Reconciliation, and the Eucharist). The Eucharist is the blood of souls, carrying life-sustaining food for our spiritual journey. The water points to the Sacraments of Baptism and Penance, in that through these Sacraments, our souls are washed clean.

We know how Pope John Paul II felt about the message of Divine Mercy. But what does his successor think about it?

With unmistakable clarity, Pope Benedict XVI underscores the words of his predecessor. He has said, “Mercy is the central nucleus of the Gospel message.”

Didn't Pope Benedict XVI declare John Paul II blessed on May 1, 2011, which was Divine Mercy Sunday last year?

Yes, he did, describing the date chosen for the beatification as “very significant” and emphasizing how Pope John Paul II died on the vigil of the feast day in 2005.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

A team of Lancaster St. Mary School students won the diocesan Battle of the Books competition, defeating 21 other teams. Team members were so excited they paraded their trophy around the school. Battle of the Books is a competition in which teams of seventh- and eighth-grade students try to identify titles and authors of books from questions based on plots, settings, and characters. This year's reading list included 84 titles. Team members are (from left): front row, John Lewis; back row, Chris Carter, Carter Corcoran, Hunter Wotruba, Gillian Baker, Robert Hartman, and coach Kathy Wotruba. Not pictured is team member McKenzie Ortiz

Photo courtesy St. Mary School



FESTIVITIES, continued from Page 2

children to the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration 25 years ago. "It was a lot smaller back then. People were always so merciful and kind to a family with children. Later, when our kids were older, we started volunteering," said Joanne Clough, who, along with her husband is coordinator of the adoration tent.

"My wife and I have been volunteering at Divine Mercy Sunday for 11 years," said Ken Clough. "We do it because God had been very good to us and we want to give back. I also enjoy meeting people, and I get to meet people from across the U.S. and Europe."

Although the event is religious in nature, any member of the community is welcome to attend as a volunteer. The Marian Fathers accept all members of the community who respectfully assist at the celebration, and are deeply appreciative of those efforts. Choosing to become a volunteer for the

weekend provides a generous service to the pilgrims and the community.

While the majority of the pilgrims speak English, some do speak other languages, such as Spanish, Polish, Italian, French, and Tagalog. If you speak any of these or any other foreign language, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

This would also be a great experience for ministry groups, Confirmation candidates, and any religious education classes in grades nine to 11 to observe, in person, the devotion of pilgrims.

Those who would like to volunteer may contact the Marians through email at volunteers@marian.org, call (413) 298-3931, extension 242, or (413) 298-1242, or go online to www.thedivinemercy.org/volunteers. Markavage said he takes great interest in placing volunteers in jobs that suit them best.

www.ctonline.org

ST. CHARLES WILL BE IN WORLD ROBOTICS EVENT

The CardinalBots team from Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, established six months ago with less than a dozen students, has earned a spot in the world robotics championships in St. Louis later this month.

The team finished fifth in regional competition in late March at Cleveland State University. The competition included more than 1,450 students from 59 teams representing four states and Canada.

Team members are Joshua Adkin, David Wood, Jonathan Engle, Henry Kirk, Brian Landers, Chris Hickman, Charles Forrest, Jay Patel, Jack Chatas, Wyatt Belts, Will Lammers, Jason Adkin, and Kyle Adkin. Their adviser is Steven Miller, a 1977 St. Charles graduate and the school's Annual Fund director.

The CardinalBots, one of nine first-year teams in the competition, were among six teams chosen to advance to the event in St. Louis, which will be sponsored by FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), an organization founded in 1989 by Segway inventor Dean Kamen. It will take place from Wednesday to Saturday, April 25 to 28.

The CardinalBots earned the regional "Rookie All-Star" award, which brought with it an opportunity to compete in the world championship, along with the three top finishers, the chairman's award winner, and the engineering innovation award winner from the regional.

The "Rookie All-Star" title is awarded to the first-year team "exemplifying a



young but strong partnership effort, as well as implementing the mission of FIRST: to inspire students to learn more about science and technology."

The FIRST Robotics competition, conducted annually since 1992, gives high school students the opportunity to play engineer by designing a robot to accomplish specific tasks.

Teams in January received instructions and lists of parts. They had six weeks to design, build, and practice with their robots. Then the machines, which were

required to less than 120 pounds, were sealed in plastic until they arrived in Cleveland for the regional.

Participants take home many skills from the robotics competition, including experience with electronics, engineering, physics, programming, mechanics, woodworking, multimedia, marketing, sales, public relations, and the ability to work under pressure.

This year's event features a game known as Rebound Rumble, played between two alliances of three teams each. Teams must operate their robots to shoot basketballs at several hoops, with the highest one being worth the most points. Games last for 2 minutes 15 seconds, and at the end of the game, the driver of the robot must balance it on a bridge in the middle of the court.


Individual teams were randomly placed into larger teams of three to form competing "red" and "blue" teams. Students had a few minutes before each

match to talk to their new teammates, who probably were from another school or state, to come up with a game plan. Besides earning points for their individual teams, they earned "co-operation" points if one robot each from the red and blue teams was able to balance together on the bridge.

In the final round of the regional, the CardinalBots partnered with teams from Columbus School for Girls and Girard High School, near Youngstown. CSG's team and its moderator, Kevin Sweeney, served as mentors for the St. Charles team, providing a place to work and helpful advice.

In the photo: (from left): first row, Jack Chatas, Wyatt Belts, Will Lammers, Jason Adkin, and Kyle Adkin; second row, Joshua Adkin, David Wood, Jonathan Engle, Henry Kirk, Brian Landers, Chris Hickman, Charles Forrest, and Jay Patel. Not pictured is team adviser Steven Miller

Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School



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Thursday, April 26, 2012
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 Christ the King Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Lecture
 Colonial Room

Patricia Walter, O.P., is a Dominican Sister from Adrian, Michigan. She is an Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri.

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Second Sunday of Easter (Cycle B)

The common good is at the heart of the Gospel



Father
Lawrence L. Hummer

Acts 4:32-35

1 John 5:1-6

John 20:19-31

Today, the idealism of the early church (in sharing all things in common) is lived out completely only in the monasteries. However, papal social teaching often grates at capitalism (and capitalists) because of the urgency with which that teaching urges a just distribution of the world’s goods.

Many who have hailed the holiness of Pope John Paul II grow curiously silent when some of his social teaching comes to the fore. It is the same with all papal teaching, and yet arguing for what is necessary for the common good is not an option for understanding the Gospel. Indeed, the common good is at the heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

People, in the U.S. especially, think that if there is a conflict between economic policy and the Gospel, there is somehow an option available. Thus, when Pope John Paul II challenged the Communist leaders in Poland, there was dancing in the streets. But when that same pope and others challenge the wealthy nations of the world to accept the moral responsibility to provide for the needy nations of the world, they often meet with stubborn resistance. It all stems from the notion of the “common good.”

The early church in time abandoned its experiment in communal living, but not the principle behind it. Distributing “to each according to need” remains a bedrock of social teaching among Christians because it is traceable to Jesus and is in fact derived from the Old Testament law of love of the neighbor (Leviticus 19:18). Now that we’re deeply into the Easter season, we ought to remember what obligations we accept for

believing that Jesus rose from the dead. It falls to us to do as he has done.

The Gospel for this Divine Mercy Sunday, as Pope John Paul II named it during his pontificate in 2000, is always from John 20:19-21. It relates Jesus’ appearance to the disciples “on the evening of that same first day of the week,” or Easter evening.

The first word the risen one brings to them is “peace.” The actual greeting is “Peace to you” without a verb, and the “you” is second person plural. Scholars suggest that anytime “Peace” in a greeting is used without a verb, it is almost always a declaration rather than a subjunctive. Thus, rather than say “Peace **be** with you,” it has more the sense of “peace **is** with you.”

This happens after John notes they were gathered together in fear, so peace is the antidote to fear. After this, he shows them his hands and his side, and at that, the disciples rejoice in seeing the Lord.

A second time he greets them in peace, and then charges them: “As the Father has sent me, so now I send you.” With, that he then “breathes on them.” This is the same Greek verb which is used in Genesis 2:7, when God breathes into the man the breath of life. So we have here a new birth of sorts (certainly John made the connection with Genesis).

In his farewell speech to the disciples, Jesus had promised that the Father would send them the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who would teach them everything and remind them of all that Jesus had said (John 14:26). In that context, Jesus had said “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” Now, Jesus, as the risen one, greets them again in peace.

With the gift of the Spirit comes the responsibility not only to be sent, but to forgive sins. As the first responsibility placed upon those who receive the Spirit, it has to assume a more fundamental importance – more than all the structure and liturgical formality of the centuries that follow. The forgiveness of sins remains the primary responsibility entrusted to the followers of the risen Jesus. That does not change over the centuries.

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



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The Weekday Bible Readings	
MONDAY	Acts 4:23-31 Psalm 2:1-9 John 3:1-8
TUESDAY	Acts 4:32-37 Psalm 93:1-2,5 John 3:7b-15
WEDNESDAY	Acts 5:17-26 Psalm 34:2-9 John 3:16-21
THURSDAY	Acts 5:27-33 Psalm 34:2,9,17-20 John 3:31-36
FRIDAY	Acts 5:34-42 Psalm 27:1,4,13-14 John 6:1-15
SATURDAY	Acts 6:1-7 Psalm 33:1-2,4-5,18-19 John 6:16-21

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF APRIL 15, 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 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville, and 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus. Check local cable systems for WHIZ’s and WWHO’s cable channel listings. 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 II, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours

The world gets a second chance


Easter was really the world’s second chance. Man’s redemption came through the Son of God, a concept unfathomable to a world that had become out of control with sin. Fast forward 2,000 years. Sound familiar? The faithful can’t imagine God’s patience, while those who mock God or pretend He doesn’t exist can’t imagine anything greater than themselves.

It is our job to help those who mock us -- a hard concept, but one we are called to do. Essentially, that is the message of Divine Mercy Sunday, a relatively new feast day in the 2,000-year-old history of the Catholic Church.

We celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on the first Sunday following Easter Sunday. This feast day revolves around special messages received by a Polish nun in the 1930s. The call for mercy is a very consistent message seen in the Gospels. Yet, all too often, we can’t imagine the greatness of God’s mercy, so we fall further into the recesses of sin.

The British philosopher and Catholic thinker GK Chesterton told us a century ago of this terrible enigma. He said that most people who fall into pornography or sexual vice were lonely people looking for God, but who took a horrible detour. Sadly, 100 years later, that detour seems to have been taken by far too many.

Believers can almost be forgiven for throwing their hands up in the air at the amount of vitriol spewed



THE TIDE IS TURNING
TOWARD CATHOLICISM
David Hartline

at the Church these days. However, we are called to bring light to even those who think they hate us, but, in reality have far deeper issues than just us.

Jesus, in so many words, told us that when the world hates us, we must be doing something right. The reason for His coming was man’s complete disregard for God and His ways. The more things change, the more they stay the same. With the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, rebellion literally entered our bloodstream. Yet, God gave us a second chance. However, we often couch the ways of God into dullness, while the ways of the sinful world seem exciting and fun.

Our popular culture shows this in so many ways via music, television, and the movies. But talk to some fallen Hollywood stars, starlets, and some washed-out bands, and they will probably tell you (as some have told me) that, just as in Jesus’ parable of the Prodigal Son, living in debauchery isn’t what it is portrayed in song and on the screen.

Thankfully, because of God’s mercy, we can remind those people that they, like the Prodigal Son, can return home and begin their lives anew. The problem is that sin often makes sinners believe they are beyond redemption. On Divine Mercy Sunday, God reminds us all that His mercy is greater than their sins.

Centuries ago, St. Jerome wrote an amazing story that may shed light on the subject of mercy. St. John, the longest surviving apostle and the only one to die by natural means, lived almost to the ripe old age of 100. The writer of the last Gospel and the Book of Revelation was quite a fixture in the early Church. Once he returned from the isle of Patmos, where he was exiled and wrote the Book of Revelation, many wanted to hear his words of wisdom.

It was said that whenever some Church gathering took place, St. John came along, though he had to be carried because he was too old to walk such vast distances. Whenever the assembled group reached an impasse, St. John would yell out, “Little children, love one another. “

With that, the group was able to remedy its differences and move on. Sage advice for us all who have been the recipients of God’s mercy through His Resurrected Son, Jesus.

Hartline is the author of The Tide is Turning Toward Catholicism and a former teacher and administrator for the diocese.

MASS AND BLESSING OF THE SCHOOL HELD AT ST. MICHAEL

The all-school Mass of Monday, March 26, at Worthington St. Michael School was different from any other school Mass this year. First of all, it was a Mass in celebration of the Solemnity of the Annunciation of Our Lord, commemorating the Incarnation, when God became man. It was appropriate that such a solemn day would be marked with a significant ceremony for the entire school.

What made the day stand out was an all-school blessing which involved both the students and the school building and lasted for an hour-and-a-half. It began after the conclusion of the Mass, when teachers, students, and families went in procession out the front doors of the church and across the front pathway, and stopped at the front entrance of the school, singing to Our Lady.

When the entire student body was assembled at the entrance of the school building, Father Stash Dailey, associate pastor, blessed its façade. Then, he instructed the students to observe a spirit of silence in the halls until individual blessings of classrooms were completed.



As all the students returned to their classrooms, Father Dailey began entering every room and stairwell, pronouncing a blessing on it, and sprinkling the four walls with holy water. The students took his words very

seriously. A somberness could be felt in the hallways during the next hour as the priest and altar servers walked through the



Pray for our dead

BEVAN, Gerald L., 77, March 23 Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia	KNOEFEL, Joseph A., 56, April 8 St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark
CONNERS, Mary L., 94, April 4 St. Mary Church, Lancaster	LLANEZA, Melvin, 70, April 6 Holy Spirit Church, Columbus
DeLUCA, Frank Jr., 83, April 5 St. Andrew Church, Columbus	MANUELL, Robert W., 35, April 1 St. Christopher Church, Columbus
DEVERSE, Robert L., 92, April 4 Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus	NEUTZLING, Wandanne, 81, April 6 St. Peter Church, Columbus
ENDRES, Margaret A., 93, April 5 Christ the King Church, Columbus	NGUYEN, Khoa D., 18, April 3 St. Matthew Church, Gahanna
FOLKERTH, Marion S., April 5 Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus	PENDLETON, Darren T., 42, April 7 St. Mary Church, Portsmouth
FRAGASSE, Orlando R. "Peach," 90, March 27 Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia	RIDGEWAY, Viola L., 93, April 5 St. Mary Church, Groveport
GILBERT, Debra L., 56, April 8 St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington	SHERMAN, Russell G. "Bud," 93, April 4 Holy Spirit Church, Columbus
HERD-BARNES, Sharron E., 68, April 8 St. Dominic Church, Columbus	WELCH, John R., 92, April 5 Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus
HESELDEN, Harold K., 85, April 6 St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus	ZEIER, Irene R., 89, April 2 St. Stephen Church, Columbus
IPPOLITO, Clara, 88, of Hilliard, April 6 Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter Church, Syracuse, N.Y.	

DeSales Spring Preview

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, 4212 Karl Road, will be hosting a spring preview from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19, for all fifth-through seventh-grade students. This event will give families an opportunity to begin exploring how the school is empowering students for life today. To attend, RSVP at www.StFrancisDeSalesHS.org/future-students. All pre-registered families will qualify

for a \$500 tuition grant drawing. The winner must be present at the event. The school's annual dinner auction and casino night will take place at 6 p.m. April 28 in Alumni Hall at Ohio Dominican University. Tickets may be purchased s online by visiting the school's website at www.StFrancisDeSalesHS.org under the "Support DeSales" tab and going to the "Casino Royale" page.

Life in the Spirit Retreat

A Life in the Spirit retreat will take place on Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21, at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, 9633 State Route 37. Anyone interested in renewing faith, learning how to improve prayer life, coping with life's hardships, or simply resting in the spirit for rejuvenation is invited. The retreat will be led by Sister Mary

Rose Bratlien, OSF, and Sister Rita Claire Yoches, OSF, from the Diocese of Steubenville. Father David Sizemore will celebrate Mass and give his personal testimony, and there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Log onto www.stjohnsunbury.org to register, or call (740) 965-1358 for more information.

Send obituaries to tpuet@colsdio.org



Simon Harting is pictured at his desk at Portsmouth Notre Dame Elementary School as he performed his duties as principal for a day. The fifth-grade student won the chance to be principal as high bidder at Notre Dame's Bid Your Heart Out auction fund raiser
Photo courtesy Notre Dame Schools



SOPHIA NNADI SHOT PUT CHAMPION

Sophia Nnadi of Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School finished first in the shot put at the state indoor track and field championships on Saturday, March 17, at the University of Akron. She was in sixth place entering the finals, where she had a personal best throw of 40 feet 11 inches to overtake the rest of her competitors
Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

WELCOME TO THE NEW HOME FOR
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H A P P E N I N G S

APRIL

12, THURSDAY Open House at Mater Dei Academy 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mater Dei Academy, 3695 Elm St., Whitehall. Open house for prospective kindergarten through eighth-grade students and their parents at private, independent school with a curriculum based on Catholic teaching. 614-231-1984 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	16, MONDAY Charismatic Prayer Group at St. Thomas 7 p.m., St. Thomas Church, 2692 E. 5th Ave., Columbus. Meeting of Charismatic Prayer Group. 614-832-9525 Marian Prayer Group 7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Mass for Catholic family life. 614-235-7435	17, TUESDAY Serra Club of North Columbus Meeting at Josephinum 11:30 a.m., Jessing Center, Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus. Serra Club of North Columbus meeting. Reservations required. Mount Carmel East Hospital 40th Anniversary Noon, Mount Carmel East Hospital, 6001 E. Broad St., Columbus. Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrates Mass and blesses hospital on its 40th anniversary. Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc Following 6:15 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for Life, sponsored by church's respect life committee. Diocesan Honor Choir Concert at St. Matthew 6:30 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. Annual Diocesan Schools Honor Choir concert of sacred song, performed by choral groups from 10 grade schools, five high schools, and Ohio Dominican University. Free will offering for Holy Family Soup Kitchen. 614-367-9736 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	Pickerington. Praise Mass with contemporary music by parish's small musical groups. 614-833-0482 Cathedral Organ Recital 3 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Craig Cramer, University of Notre Dame organ professor, presents the sixth 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	20, FRIDAY Grandparents Day Mass at Ready with Bishop Campbell 10 a.m., Bishop Ready High School, 707 Salisbury Road, Columbus. Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrates Mass for students and their grandparents. 614-276-5263	20-21, FRIDAY-SATURDAY Life in the Spirit Seminar at St. John Neumann St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. Life in the Spirit seminar with Sister Mary Rose Bratlien, OSF, and Sister Rita Claire Yoches, OSF, of the Diocese of Steubenville, and Father David Sizemore. 614-571-5702
15, SUNDAY St. Christopher Adult Religious Education 10 to 11:15 a.m., St. Christopher Parish Center, 1420 Grandview Ave., Columbus. "The Church and Public Policy" with Larry Keough, associate director of education, Catholic Conference of Ohio. 614-488-9971 Praise Mass at Seton Parish 11:15 a.m., St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, 600 Hill Road N.,	19, 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 Spring Preview at DeSales 7 to 8:30 p.m., St. Francis DeSales High School, 4212 Karl Road, Columbus. Spring preview open house for fifth-, sixth-, and seventh-grade students and their families. Pre-registered families qualify for \$500 tuition grant drawing. Must be present to win. RSVP at www.StFrancisDeSalesHS.org/future-students .	20, FRIDAY Papal Nuncio Speaks at Josephinum Rector's Dinner 6 p.m., Walter Student Commons, St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus. Pontifical College Josephinum's sixth annual rector's dinner, with Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States and the Josephinum's chancellor, as speaker. 614-985-2234 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 NFP Information Session at Delaware St. Mary 7 p.m., St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St., Delaware. Information session for Natural Family Planning. 740-362-6644	'Little Shop of Horrors' at Bishop Watterson 7:30 p.m., Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road, Columbus. School's spring musical, "Little Shop of Horrors." 614-268-8671 20-22, FRIDAY-SUNDAY 'Hairspray' at Ohio Dominican 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Matesich Theater, Erskine Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Ohio Dominican University Panther Players present the musical "Hairspray." 21, SATURDAY Scouting International Awareness Program 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (8:30 to 11 a.m. for grades one to five), Holy Resurrection Melkite Catholic Church, 4611 Glenmawr Ave., Columbus. Annual international awareness program sponsored by diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting for all diocesan youths and adults. 614-882-7806 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 22, SUNDAY Easter Egg Hunt at Cathedral 11:40 a.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Parish Mothers Group sponsors Easter egg hunt and other children's activities. 614-224-1295 Kevin Mullin Run-Walk at Hartley 1 p.m., Bishop Hartley High School, 1285 Zettler Road, Columbus. Eleventh annual Kevin Mullen 5,000-meter run/walk benefiting brain tumor research and awareness. 740-756-7987 St. Padre Pio Secular Franciscans 2 to 5 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. Rosary and ongoing formation followed by social time, general meeting, Liturgy of the Hours, and initial formation with visitors. 614-282-4676 St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans 2:30 to 5 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Rosary, Liturgy of the Hours, followed by general meeting, ongoing formation, and social. Elizabeth Bowen, OFS 614-276-1953 Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter 7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. 706-761-4054	23, MONDAY Papal Nuncio Speaks at Josephinum Rector's Dinner 6 p.m., Walter Student Commons, St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus. Pontifical College Josephinum's sixth annual rector's dinner, with Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States and the Josephinum's chancellor, as speaker. 614-985-2234 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 NFP Information Session at Delaware St. Mary 7 p.m., St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St., Delaware. Information session for Natural Family Planning. 740-362-6644	24, TUESDAY 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 26, THURSDAY St. Catherine of Siena Celebration at Ohio Dominican 6 p.m., Ohio Dominican University, Columbus. Annual St. Catherine of Siena celebration sponsored by Center for Dominican Studies. Begins with Vespers in Sansbury Hall chapel, followed at 7 in Colonial Room by talk on "Catherine of Siena: Transformed for Service to Humanity" by Patricia Walter, professor at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis. 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 'Courage' Support Group Meeting 7:30 p.m., A Catholic organization providing support for individuals with same-sex attractions. Mary Louise 614-436-8676 26-28, THURSDAY-SATURDAY Live-In at Josephinum Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus. Live-in weekend for male high school juniors and seniors and college students. 614-985-2244 'Little Shop of Horrors' at Bishop Watterson 7:30 p.m., Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road, Columbus. School's spring musical, "Little Shop of Horrors." 614-268-8671 'Kindergarten' at Hartley 7:30 p.m., Bishop Hartley High School, 1285 Zettler Road, Columbus. School drama department presents "All I Really Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten." 614-237-5421 26-29, THURSDAY-SUNDAY 'Godspell' at St. Charles 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus. School drama department production of "Godspell." 614-252-6714 27, FRIDAY JOIN BiblioBenefit at St. Andrew 7 to 10 p.m., Nugent Hall, St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Road, Columbus. BiblioBenefit VIII sponsored by Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs, with "Highland Fling" theme. Reservation deadline April 20. 614-241-2530 27-28, FRIDAY-SATURDAY DCCW Silent Retreat at St. Therese's St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Annual silent retreat sponsored by Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. Theme: "Be Still and Know that I Am God," directed by Sister Louis Mary, OP. 'Hairspray' at Ohio Dominican 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Matesich Theater, Erskine Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Ohio Dominican University Panther Players present the musical "Hairspray." 28, SATURDAY Women's Retreat Morning at St. Michael 8:15 a.m. to noon, Marian Hall, St. Michael Church, 5750 N. High St., Worthington. Women's spring morning retreat with the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. Includes Mass, presentations, small-group discussion, reflection, Rosary, and Adoration and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. 614-847-3848



“Ho yo to ho, ho yo to ho” -- yes, that is Brunhilde, and she is coming to town with her sisters of Vallhala on Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21, in Opera Project Columbus’ production, “A Taste of Opera.” The evening will be a buffet of operatic scenes, offering something for every musical taste. Brunhilde will be joined by Mimi and Rodolfo, Mu-

setta and Marcello from “La Bohème”; Countess Almaviva and Susanna from “Le Nozze de Figaro”; Carmen; Manon and des Grieux from “Manon Lescaut”; Manrico, Leonora, and Count di Luna from “Il Trovatore”; and the Marchal-lin, Octavian, and Sophie from “Der Rosenkavalier.” Maestro Alessandro Siciliani will lead the 28-member or-

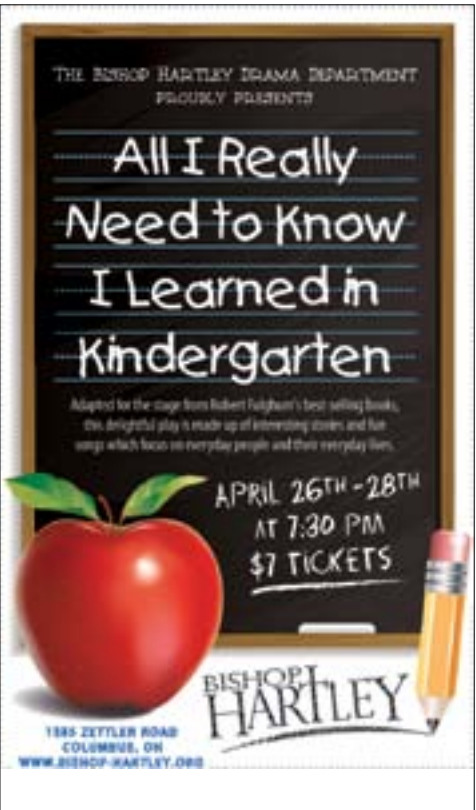
chestra in the Intermezzo from “Manon Lescaut.” Sixteen artists from Central Ohio will perform at 8 p.m. at Gray Chapel, 61 S. Sandusky St., on the Ohio Wesleyan University campus in Delaware. To find out their roles in the various scenes, visit www.operaprojectcolumbus.com. The cast includes singers familiar to

Columbus audiences, such as Carolyn Redman, Dione Bennett, Robert Kerr, Melinda Green, Heather Spence, John Nevergall, and Samuel Hall. Mezzo-soprano Eugenie Grunewald is the artistic consultant on “A Taste of Opera.” Tickets are \$30 & \$25 and may be purchased at <http://operaprojectcolumbus.tix.com> or by calling (614) 397-4950.



Alessandro Siciliani Conducts “A TASTE OF OPERA”

“All I Really Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten”



Based on Robert Fulghum’s best-selling books, “Kindergarten” takes a funny, insightful, heartwarming look at what is profound in everyday life. This tightly woven adaptation has earned standing ovations from Singapore to Prague— from L.A. to D.C. It’s an evening of theatrical storytelling in revue format, with monologues, dialogues, and multiple voice narration.

The delightful stories feature colorful characters such as a shy little boy who insists on playing the “pig” in his class production of Cinderella and steals the show; a man whose dream of flying carries him high over Los Angeles ... in a lawn chair buoyed by surplus weather balloons; a “mother of the bride” who’s staged a perfect wedding—until the bowling ball of fate rolls down the aisle; and a modern-day Greek philosopher who finds the meaning of life in a piece of broken mirror from World War II. These stories celebrate our very existence, from the whimsy of childhood to the wisdom of old age.



“HAIRSPRAY”

The curtain is going up on the Panther Players’ spring musical production of “Hairspray.”

It’s 1962 and segregation is the norm in Baltimore. Come watch Tracy Turnblad as she fights for integration on the local TV dance show, “The Corny Collins Show.” Not to be outdone, Amber and Velma Von Tussle do their best to prevent Tracy from ruining their plans of keeping the show segregated and getting Amber the title of Ms. Teenage Hairspray. Edna and Wilbur Turnblad join their daughter’s fight for what is right, with the help of Tracy’s best friend, Penny, and new-found friends Seaweed and Motor-mouth Maybelle.

Find out if one girl can integrate a TV show, be crowned Ms. Teenage Hairspray, and get the man of her dreams.

All performances will be in the Matesich Theater.



EASTER AROUND THE WORLD

Nuns hold candles during the Easter Vigil Mass in Jerusalem’s Church of the Holy Sepulcher on April 7. CNS photo/Debbie Hill

J.R. Galvez, 30, portraying Christ, carries a wooden cross while he is whipped by a man portraying a Roman soldier during a procession on Holy Thursday in Manila, Philippines, on April 5. Penitents are nailed to a cross on Good Friday in a display of religious devotion in the Philippines, a predominantly Catholic nation.

CNS photo/Romeo Ranoco, Reuters



Worshippers carry a statue of the risen Christ during an Easter procession in Escazu, Costa Rica, on April 8. CNS photo/Juan Carlos Ulate, Reuters

Pope Benedict XVI looks at a giant chocolate Easter egg following his general audience in St. Peter’s Square in the Vatican on April 4. The 551-pound chocolate egg was donated to the pope by a northern Italian chocolate company. The pope said he would donate the 7-foot egg to young people living at Rome’s Casal del Marmo Prison for Minors.

CNS photo/L’Osservatore Romano via Reuters



Walking Stations of the Cross Hundreds of Catholics from across the diocese walked throughout downtown Columbus on Good Friday for the annual Walking Stations of the Cross. Participants prayed and reflected on the stations of Jesus' suffering as He carried His cross to His crucifixion. Reflected prayers and meditations linked the stations with issues of social concerns. The Walking Stations of the Cross was co-sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and the Office for Social Concerns.

Photos by Jerry Freewalt, Office for Social Concerns



Youth from Columbus St. Christopher Church lead the 12th station with a reflection on the death penalty at the Ohio Statehouse.



Youth from Parroquia Santa Cruz in Columbus lead the sixth station with a reflection on discrimination and multiculturalism.



Youth from Westerville St. Paul lead the first station with a reflection on homelessness in front of Faith Mission homeless shelter.

EASTER IN COLUMBUS

Easter Vigil At least 800 people throughout the Diocese of Columbus joined the Catholic Church during Easter Vigil services on Holy Saturday, ending a journey which began when they inquired about becoming Catholics and decided in the fall of 2011 to take part in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. That figure represents approximately 280 catechumens, 390 candidates, and 130 Catholics wishing to complete their initiation into the church.

CT Photos by Ken Snow



Bishop Frederick Campbell lights the Paschal Candle outside of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.



The light from the Paschal Candle, symbolizing the light of Christ, is shared with the parishioners in the darkened cathedral.



Bishop Campbell confirms the newly baptized and candidates seeking full communion with the Church, including Gulia Parli.