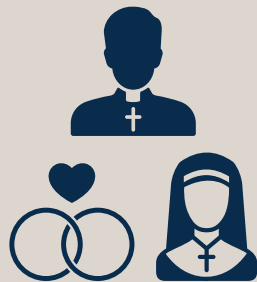


# *The* CATHOLIC TIMES

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS' INFORMATION SOURCE

JULY 27, 2025 | SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | VOLUME 74:15

## PASTORAL PLANNING SURVEY



VOCATIONS



EVANGELIZATION



CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION AND  
FORMATION



SOCIAL OUTREACH

**PASTORAL  
PLANNING  
SURVEY,  
PAGE 2**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE



#### SUMMER YOUTH MINISTRY

Missionaries with Totus Tuus Catholic summer youth program spent a week serving youth at Wellston Saints Peter and Paul Church and several parishes this summer, Page 2



#### BIKING FOR LIFE

A team of Biking for Babies riders and support crew visited the Women's Care Center earlier this month before departing from Columbus for the organization's National Ride, Page 8

# Faithful invited to participate in pastoral planning survey

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

The Diocese of Columbus has created a pastoral planning survey in an effort to hear from as many Christian faithful as possible.

The survey is part of a larger pastoral planning process.

Since becoming shepherd of the diocese three years ago, Bishop Earl Fernandes identified priorities concerning diocesan pastoral works. His main priorities consist of vocations, evangelization, Catholic education, and formation and social outreach.

The bishop wanted to engage in pastoral planning to identify actionable goals to address his four priorities.

To assist the diocese, Bishop Fernandes has turned to the Catholic Leadership Institute to provide support in developing actionable goals.

Information will be gathered from individual interviews and selected focus groups. Given the size and diversity of the diocese, feedback is extended to all Christian faithful, who are invited to participate in the survey.

The faithful can share their perspective of the bishop's four priorities, which will be the focus of pastoral planning in years ahead.

"We want to consult and we want to engage in this work of pastoral planning to be able to address the pastoral needs of the diocese," said Father Michael Hartge, the diocese's vicar general, Moderator of the Curia and moderator of mission advancement.

"Secondarily, we would want people to know that, because those needs are going need some financial support, we'll engage in a capital campaign to be able to support

whatever comes from this pastoral planning."

An online survey gives the faithful an opportunity to weigh in on Bishop Fernandes' priorities at their leisure and convenience.

It also ties into the diocese's Real Presence Real Future initiative, a three-year evaluation process that was designed to help shape the mission of the diocese for generations to come. The bishop received recommendations, which, Father Hartge noted, were the fruit of consultation. After evaluation, decisions were made that led to parish restructuring.

"As difficult as that was, I hope people remember how much they were consulted on that, how much their feedback was considered and how much their feedback really did shape that process to get us to the point where we're able now to talk a little bit more intentionally about this exciting work of these four priorities of Bishop Fernandes," he said.

The diocese strives to meet vocational needs by nurturing and supporting seminarians, priests, deacons and religious men and women who answer God's call to serve the Church. Evangelization consists of the diocese's outreach to communities to spread the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ.

The diocese prioritizes Catholic education and formation by ensuring that schools and religious formation programs provide the best foundation in faith and academics. Social outreach is accomplished through addressing the needs of the poor, marginalized and suffering in the diocese.

The survey is accessible online at <https://forms.office.com/r/DXkjrndQ9Z?origin=lprLink> until October 17. A Quick Response, or QR code, is also available to scan and complete the survey.



Totus Tuus missionaries and children in the day program stop for a morning snack break.  
CT photo by Ken Snow



Totus Tuus missionaries Ethan Williams (left) and seminarian Chad Walton spend time with boys in "The Man Cave." CT photo by Ken Snow

## Totus Tuus missionaries share faith in Wellston and beyond

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

Christ's command to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19) is at work in the diocese this summer.

Teams of Totus Tuus missionaries are serving parishes in the farthest corners of the diocese, including Wellston Saints Peter and Paul Church, located in southeastern Ohio. From central Ohio, the diocesan church might seem like another nation – about an 80-mile drive from Columbus – but missionaries are making disciples there, too.

Totus Tuus is a summer Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness and Eucharistic worship.

Father Thomas Herge, pastor at Divine Mercy parish (Saints Peter and Paul, Jackson Holy Trinity and Zaleski St. Sylvester churches) had an option to cancel the Totus Tuus program at the parish four years ago, which was set to take place the summer he arrived.

The parish priest said he is glad he did not. He has continued offering Totus Tuus to youth at the church every summer since.

"I've been very happy with what they're able to offer our kids, and it makes it easier on our own volunteers and not having to run an entire program themselves, especially after a whole catechetical year of working, volunteering all that time and

having to think it all through," he said. "They can kind of take it a little bit easier during the summer."

Seminarians and college students serve as missionaries, spending a week at participating diocesan parishes. Teams of four provide catechesis, prayer, witness talks, skits and games. Participating youth witness young adults on fire for the Catholic faith while, in turn, inspiring them to strive for holiness.

Catechetical instruction is based on a rotating schedule that includes a set of mysteries of the rosary and an element of Sacred Scripture or the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This year is focused on the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary and the sacraments.

A grade school program is offered Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Each day, students attend Mass, and the sacrament of reconciliation is available to them daily.

A teenage program for students entering grades seven through 12 is offered during evening hours. Students hear missionaries' witness talks and pray Night Prayer together, part of the Church's Liturgy of the Hours offered daily by clergy.

"It's also really good, I think, for the missionaries to come to all sorts of far-flung parts of the diocese and find out what life is like around here," Father Herge added.

The Wellston area is mainly non-Catholic and unchurched. Many in the region

See TOTUS TUUS, Page 3



Please take the brief survey with the QR code



Por favor complete el cuestionario usando el código QR

### PASTORAL PLANNING SURVEY



VOCATIONS



EVANGELIZATION



CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION



SOCIAL OUTREACH

Front page photo

### DIOCESAN PLANNING SURVEY

The Diocese of Columbus has created a survey in an effort to hear from as many of the faithful as possible as part of a larger pastoral planning process.

Office of Communications graphic

### The CATHOLIC TIMES

Copyright © 2025. All rights reserved. Catholic Times (USPS 967-000) (ISSN 745-6050) is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. It is published every other week throughout the year. Subscription rate: \$26 per year, or call and make arrangements with your parish. Periodical Postage Paid at Columbus OH 43218.

**Bishop Earl K. Fernandes:** President & Publisher  
**Doug Bean:** Editor (dbean@columbuscatholic.org)  
**Hannah Heil:** Reporter (hheil@columbuscatholic.org)  
**Kaitlyn Gough:** Layout/Design (kgough@columbuscatholic.org)  
**Mailing Address:** 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215  
**Editorial/Advertising:** (614) 224-5195  
**Subscriptions:** (614) 224-6530 (subscriptions@columbuscatholic.org)

Postmaster: Send address changes to Catholic Times 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215. Please allow two to four weeks for change of address.



## TOTUS TUUS, continued from Page 2

might identify with a religion but do not belong to or attend church services.

“Living the faith is hard enough. It’s especially hard in a place like this, where almost no one around is Catholic. One thing I know that the kids see in these missionaries, too, is that they see something fun and vibrant and Catholic, and realize that Catholicism is a larger world than just what’s here,” Father Herge noted.

“We feel like the odd man out, and when you realize that you’re not alone in all of that, that can really bolster your sense of, ‘Yeah, I can live this.’”

The program is bearing fruit.

Grace Plummer, a former Totus Tuus teenage participant at Saints Peter and Paul and now a college student, became a Totus Tuus missionary. Plummer was one of the first missionaries to serve in the diocese’s program.

This year’s cohort of missionaries serving the Wellston church included diocesan seminarians Colin Lee of Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church and Chad Walton of Lancaster St. Bernadette Church. Both men are studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus.

Totus Tuus missionaries take after the program’s name, a Latin phrase meaning “totally yours,” by offering a complete gift of self. The phrase signifies a desire to give oneself entirely to Jesus Christ through devotion to His mother.

Pope St. John Paul II chose the motto “Totus Tuus, Maria” (Totally Yours, Mary) for his pontificate.

“Totus Tuus isn’t just like a motto, but it’s actually like an identity. That’s what I realized,” Lee said. “Our Lord Jesus was all yours for us. I was like, and I want to be all Yours, too.”

“It’s not typically what I would choose to do. It’s like, it’s going to push me,” he said of the program. “That’s what I was really drawn to: the idea of just completely giving yourself to something, something you’re uncomfortable with maybe, you’re not used to.”

“It’s a beautiful thing,” Walton added. “Our goal is to be totally yours to the kids from the parishes, is to be totally yours to the priests and is to be totally just God(s), like our entire summers to be everyone else’s but ours.”

This year in the classroom, students spent each day learning about one of the five Joyful Mysteries (Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Presentation of the Lord and Finding in the Temple). They also daily discussed one of the seven sacraments (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony).

Catechetical instruction varies by grade level. The fifth- and sixth-grade class can delve deeper than the younger grades. Games, recess and skits performed by missionaries are intermixed.

Missionaries have an added challenge of managing a classroom and learning “on the fly,” Walton explained. Adaption is a key part of serving. Lee said the program teaches missionaries how to adapt to vari-



Father Thomas Herge, pastor at Divine Mercy parish, visits the classroom to teach children about receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. *CT photo by Ken Snow*

ous situations.

While it might be difficult, sacrifices are accompanied by joyfully witnessing children’s love for God.

Seminarians can also develop a greater understanding of ministry. The experience largely confirmed Lee’s vocational call.

“Coming here, I realized that the priesthood – these are your sons and your daughters, those who you’re called to minister to. And, yeah, I would say it’s confirming,” he said. “It’s made me appreciate marriage more for sure, appreciate the sacrifice they go through and the struggles they have, but for the priesthood, too, it’s not that much different.”

Ethan Williams, a sophomore at Hillsdale College in Michigan and parishioner at Columbus St. Patrick Church, is also serving as a Totus Tuus missionary.

He first served as a missionary in 2023, helped train missionaries last summer, and is now serving as a missionary for a second time.

“To serve our Lord in that way, to offer my summer to Him and to work like that just has been really good for me,” Williams said.

“I wanted to get into the parishes around the diocese. That’s something I love about it, something that brought me back. You get to know all the people in the parishes and you get to know the kids and get to know the parents when we go to our host dinners, and you just sort of get to know different parts of the diocese.”

Missionaries lodge with a parish host family and stick to a daily prayer schedule.

How they spend time outside of the parish largely influences the program. Some of the most profound graces come behind the scenes and leave a lasting impact on the children.

“The best teams stick to their prayer schedule,” Williams said. “We’ve seen that teams that fall behind in their prayer also don’t do as well, so, you know, that prayer life as a team is super important.”

“Our job is to make disciples, not theologians. We’re teaching the faith, but we’re really teaching them how to embrace the faith and how to live it.”

## ASSUMPTION DAY PILGRIMAGE

### THE BASILICA OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

stmarylancaster.org | 132 South High Street, Lancaster, Ohio  
740.653.0997



## JUBILEE YEAR 2025

### Summary of the Pilgrimage: Friday, August 15

Basilica Tours	1:00 - 2:00pm
Exposition	2:30 - 4:40pm
Confessions	2:30 - 4:30pm
Rosary	4:20 - 4:40pm

Holy Mass 5:00 pm  
Celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Fernandes

Holy Mass concludes with a Procession

A Plenary Indulgence  
is Available this day.





## Truly countercultural through our faith

All my life, I have felt it is stylish to be viewed as countercultural, but I've also concluded that if we really want to be countercultural, we just need to embrace our Catholic faith authentically and unapologetically. A dictionary will explain that this word is the adjective form of counterculture, which it defined as a culture with values that run counter to those of established society. The dictionary gave the "hippie culture" of the 1960s as an example of counterculture.

I'm old enough to remember the 1960s and the cultural struggles of those times. I recall my grandparents, farmers who lived in upstate New York, grumbling about the giant traffic jam on the New York Thruway because of the 400,000 or so people heading to the Woodstock Festival in the summer of 1969. They did not live very close to the site of the festival, but my grandmother weighed in on it anyway. Her salty description of that traffic jam was funny – I still hear her words and earthy voice, but the specific phrasing of her diatribe is not suitable for this forum. I'll leave that to the readers' imaginations.

Many people of that time had strong ideas that ran counter to the predominant culture in America, a desire to see an end to wars and other forms of hatred, the dawn of an era when people got along with each other much better than in the past. It was a noble goal, and their hearts were in the right place, but the expression of those goals at places like the muddy hillside in New York during that famous rock festival and elsewhere were not the same as Christian love and peace. Another and further step toward God is needed.

So, let's delve more deeply into that idea of being countercultural and consider the idea of rebuilding our world in ways that build God's kingdom. The author of

### THE CHANCELLOR'S ARCHIVE Deacon Tom Berg Jr.

*Deacon Tom Berg Jr. has served the Diocese of Columbus as its Chancellor since 2012 and as a deacon at Columbus St. Andrew Church. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism and a master's degree in Catholic pastoral studies.*



the Letter to the Hebrews tells us that, "For the sake of the joy that lay before him he (Jesus) endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God. Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart (Heb 12:2-3)."

The letter's author also speaks of a cloud of witnesses on behalf of God's Word that surrounds us so that we can "persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith (Heb 12:1)." These words call us to remain faithful in the face of opposition and persecution as we strive to live authentically as disciples of Jesus.

What does Jesus tell us about all this? "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! (Lk 12:49)." He did not come to make the world a placid utopia. Not at all. Jesus wants us burning with the Spirit, a special kind of fire that only God can light in minds and hearts. A world on fire with the Spirit would overflow with people open to God and living the life of faith authentically, not giving into the prevailing currents of society.

Think of St. Teresa of Calcutta. St. John Paul II. St.

Therese of Lisieux. St. John Vianney and Padre Pio. Our current Holy Father Pope Leo XIV. Consider any other saintly person who comes to your mind who is a hero of the Catholic faith and who helped set the world on fire – maybe in big ways, maybe in little ways – with the Spirit through their words and actions.

Take hold of those examples of saintly life. Read about them. Understand them. Let their example become a deeply ingrained aspect of your daily faith life. Find out what set them apart: their undying and steadfast faith in the face of a world that can push us away from the life of faith and their steadfast loyalty to the Church.

Though they ran against the prevailing currents of society, true saintly people were not and are not renegades forcing their own personal views on others. They were and are patient and caring, absolutely clear about what Jesus taught and truly open to the teachings and guidance of the Church, not striking out strictly on their own. Today, we can do the same. We can share in the joy of the saints, of the author of the Letter to the Hebrew, of Jesus Christ Himself.

This joyous life I'm talking about is not the easy way, but it is the right way, it's the path from this world to the eternal joy of salvation. It's a path of marching to the beat of a different drummer, the drumbeat of the examples Jesus Christ gave us, that the saints gave us, willing not to fit into the easy roles and modes of popular society but a humble life of loving and dedicated discipleship. Let us go forth into each day rejoicing in accepting this challenge and committed to the most radical countercultural act of the 21st century: to live a life of faith based on doing as Jesus Christ taught and did when He walked in our world and continues to call us to every day we live.

## Bringing Christ's love to the streets in South Bronx

We made an annual four-day trip to the South Bronx, where we worshipped, prayed and were equipped to go out sharing the love of Jesus Christ with His people on the streets.

There were 30 of us who traveled from as far away as England to be on mission during Corpus Christi weekend. We joined the local parishioners and their prayer teams who blessed us with so much love and beautiful hospitality. We prayed, moved, laughed and cried as one. We learned from each other and grew in friendship and in holiness as we prepared our hearts to share the love of Christ with His people on the streets of the South Bronx.

I wrote about my experience last year, so this year I'm sharing the experience of some of my sisters in Christ who were pilgrims along with me.

### Colleen:

We are made to be moving tabernacles for the Lord. We are made for mission. This is what the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in Latin "Ite missa Est" translated into English "Go, it is sent. The "it" being the Church.

We receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ so that we can be equipped and ready to proclaim the Gospel with passion and authenticity. We carry the power and peace of Jesus Christ. From Matthew 10:1, "Then he summoned his 12 disciples and gave the authority over unclean spirits to drive out and to cure every disease and every illness." Every baptized Christian is a modern-day apostle.

We took what we received in Mass and gave the love to our neighbor. Jesus seeks cooperation from his people and we are the hands and feet of Christ. The great people of the South Bronx were ready and open to know that Christ loved them. We testified to the truth and witnessed His healing power through limbs, hands and feet working freely where they weren't before, spirits of addiction breaking off, tears of joy, repentance over sin

### HOLY AND HEALTHY | Lori Crock

*Lori Crock is a SoulCore Rosary prayer and exercise leader and a St. Brendan parishioner. Lori is online at [holyanandhealthycatholic.com](http://holyanandhealthycatholic.com), where she shares her passion for faith and fitness.*



and the gift of knowing that their brothers and sisters listened and prayed as Jesus ministered to them. I believe that people were forever changed by Christ's love.

### Suzanne:

This weekend was such a good foundation of prayer in small groups fueled by the celebration of the Holy Mass and Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Going out on the streets flowed from this time of prayer and worship.

There was no fear in speaking with people about Jesus. I truly felt a peace and unity with the people I spoke with on the streets. People everywhere are hurting from past wounds, loneliness and rejection from people in different areas of their lives.

Some sisters from the Missionaries of Charity joined us in prayer and they told us that the love of Jesus healed them in many ways over the weekend of prayer together before the Blessed Sacrament.

As Christians, we are called to share the love of Christ with all people. From Matthew 5:15-16, "Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

Jesus is the light and His light attracts others. Our encounters increased like "bees on honey" as word got out that we were praying with people. Jesus attracted them and people in the neighborhood just kept coming to us. Jesus was touching souls. It was beautiful to witness

people encountering Christ's love and healing touch.

### Nancy:

Every day the Holy Mass was so moving. On the Feast of Corpus Christi, Father George was crying during the Consecration. It was so beautiful. It was such an intimate moment between him and Jesus and we had the gift of witnessing it and being moved by it. I began to cry as did most people in the Church. How can we not be moved during the miracle of the Holy Mass? It is truly heaven on earth. We are witnessing the miracle of love at each and every Mass.

Father George then laid prostrate facing the altar during the time of the homily. It was a moving posture of love. A priest gives his life to serve God and His people, and in that moment I think we all felt the weight of priesthood. The diocesan priest is responsible for every soul in his parish's geographical boundaries -- not just Catholics. This is a gift and a responsibility. As Father rested in the Lord, more tears came to me and to those around me. I silently prayed and gave thanks for this holy priest.

### Lori:

Lord, we thank you for our time of pilgrimage to the South Bronx. Let us always remember that we are pilgrims on a journey with you. We praise you for those mountaintop moments where You fill us up, where you show us the way clearly, where we learn to know Your love in a powerful and new way. Help us to live our daily lives with that same love and zeal. We give thanks for our brothers and sisters in Christ as we walk together; we are your little children. Thank you, Jesus, for all that you are doing in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

This will be my final column for *The Catholic Times*. I'm so grateful for the privilege of sharing my thoughts, prayers and spiritual journey with you over the last 10 years. Thank you and may God bless you!

## Ashes in my closet

### SACRAMENTS 101

Father Paul Jerome Keller, OP, S.T.D.

*Father Paul Jerome Keller, O.P., S.T.D., director of the diocese's Office of Divine Worship, is a priest of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph. His doctorate is from Rome in sacramental theology. He currently assists at Columbus St. Patrick Church.*



Dear Father,  
My family is fighting over the ashes of my mom. She died several years ago, and we had her body cremated. My siblings wanted to have the ashes scattered, but I didn't. At this moment, I have her ashes in the back of my closet. I'm not sure what to do at this point. Should I persist in having her ashes interred (which will provoke my siblings), or should I promote peace in my family and let them have their way?

-Paula

Dear Paula,

First, my condolences on the passing of your mother.

You seem to know already the importance of having your mother's ashes interred and not scattered. As Christians, we know the importance of burying the dead because the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. The same is true for the remains after cremation. Though in a different form, the remains are what had composed a temple of the Holy Spirit.

While it may be a moot point for your situation, let it be noted that the Catholic Church "earnestly recommends that the pious custom of burial be retained." Cremation is only recently not forbidden, unless the reason for cremation is contrary to Christian teaching (Canon 1176).

One motive for people sometimes choosing cremation is precisely so that the ashes of the departed may be scattered. Sometimes people want the ashes scattered because they don't believe in the sanctity of the body and its remains, or they disbelieve the resurrection of the dead.

Another reason people use for scattering the ashes is so that the remains will be near a site that the deceased person loved, such as a golf course or oceanside view.

Still others think that the body is evil and needs to be destroyed and returned to "Mother Nature." Historically, cremation tended to be used by pagan religions on account of the belief in reincarnation.

Neither the burial of deceased bodies nor the interment of cremated remains is the end of life. It's more of a stop along the way as we all journey to the Second Coming of Christ and the general resurrection of the dead. The Catholic Church believes that every person will appear before Christ at the end of the world to give an account of their lives to Him.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#1016) says, "By death the soul is separated from the body, but in the resurrection, God will give incorruptible life to our body, transformed by reunion with our soul. Just as Christ is risen and lives forever, so all of us will rise at the last day."

The words of St. Simeon of Thessalonica are consoling: "For even dead, we are not at all separated from one another, because we all run the same course and we will find one another again in the same place. We shall never be separated, for we live for Christ, and now we are united with Christ as we go toward Him ... we shall all be together in Christ."

Bring your mother's ashes out of the closet. Have them interred at a Catholic cemetery. It's not just one alternative; it's the only alternative.

You will have to take up the cross of dealing with

your siblings. There is already tension about the issue and it needs to be resolved. Explain to the best of your ability why it's necessary to inter your mother's ashes. You may want to consider enlisting the help of your pastor or another trusted individual from your parish. Be charitable but firm.

It is helpful to ponder what Christ said about following Him and how our families may respond. Our Lord emphasized the importance of healthy family relationships, but He also insisted that we must prioritize Him over family. In Luke 14:26, He taught, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple."

We can be tempted to place all kinds of things before God, including our fear of losing relationships, especially family relationships, when we follow God's plan for our lives. There are myriad ways that we owe obedience to God, regardless of what family and friends may think or do. And burying your mother's ashes, not keeping them closeted or storing them on a mantel or spreading them or dividing them among family members, is one of them.

On a practical note, arrange with your priest (or deacon) and the cemetery for a suitable time for the rite of interment. The rite of committal is simple. There is a blessing of the remains with holy water and a special prayer by the priest or deacon.

If a funeral Mass has not been celebrated (for a Catholic), then arrange for this, too, with your parish. If there has been a funeral, have Masses offered for the repose of the soul of your mother.

May your mother's soul rest in peace.

*Questions about the sacraments should be sent to [sacraments101@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:sacraments101@columbuscatholic.org).*

## Gratitude in the place we find ourselves at the moment

I woke up last night and stepped into the kitchen to grab a drink of water. The house was quiet, though as I looked around, I could tell the stories of what had transpired after I went to bed.

As I quietly closed cabinet doors, put chargers back where they belonged and placed dishes in the dishwasher, I paused and looked around this home of mine as a wave of gratitude overwhelmed me to the point of grasping the countertop. Memories of children piled onto the couches, movie nights, family meetings, board games, Christmas mornings, stories read out loud and a home that has welcomed hundreds in its short life played before my eyes.

I opened my eyes slowly, feeling more present in this moment, and I saw the blanket on the couch neatly folded. I knew my teenage son had done that for me before he went to bed last night. He remembered -- how thoughtful!

I saw a board game on the coffee table, picked up, but not put away, and I thought, 'Oh, they played a game together -- How great is that?' I glanced upstairs. Our staircase is a bit creaky these days. Bouts of tag, acrobatics and boys vaulting over the railing will do that over the years. I roll my eyes and call out a reminder when that happens now, but I secretly smile. My kids being kids ... how wonderful! How thankful I am to be their mother.

This home and this mother's heart of mine is a vault. Within it holds the memories of a family, the story of

### ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

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



a husband and wife who make a daily offering of their life: good, bad, crazy and joyful. They've placed it all in the Lord's hands and last night I stood in awe of it all. Not only awe, but I breathed it in.

The juxtaposition of feeling light, joyful and overwhelmingly grateful did not escape my notice because I know, as the keeper of it all here in this home, that there are so many outside influences pressuring my family right now. Satan creeps in and it is a daily fight to hold steady to what we know is right, good and true. There is tension at times in my home. There is division. Arguments and silent moments that bring no peace. And yet, the light stands against it all. It always will.

As a mom of 23 years, I have spent so much time thinking forward, planning, waiting and worrying, focused on what comes next, all the while trying to control and hold onto it all. How peaceful and light it is to step back from that place and see the present moment with the fullness of gratitude.

Our heartaches and struggles need not take away from that gratitude. If we have loved ones away from

the church, away from our family, we can still be grateful for the time we had with them and the ability to intercede for them. There is purpose and dignity in that.

If bills are tight and work is hard to find, we can thank the Lord for friends who step into the gap and a community that holds us close. If there is illness, slander, suffering or pain, though it may be ever so hard, we can be thankful for the presence of God who is forming us in those trials.

Savoring where God has us this very moment begets gratitude. It forces us to recognize that He, the Lord, the creator of it all, is with us right now and we are not alone. His plans have always been better than our own and when we rest in them, there is security, peace and protection even in the storms.

This will be my last column in The Catholic Times. I want to thank you all for the gift of writing for you, walking with you and sharing so many seasons of life with you over the years. Your encouragement, prayers and letters have formed me as a wife and mother. I am so very grateful.

I will be continuing to write in other forums and, of course, continue my podcast at St. Gabriel Catholic Radio. May the Lord and Our Blessed Mother continue to hold you closely as we journey toward heaven together.

*To continue to receive updates of MaryBeth's writing, you can subscribe to her reading list at [marybetheberhard.com](http://marybetheberhard.com).*



## Could there really be three heavens?

How many heavens are there?

That may seem a strange question until you consult the Bible. Genesis says that the Lord made “the heavens,” and St. Paul describes a man “being caught up to the third heaven.” On the other hand, Jesus spoke of “my Father in heaven,” defined himself as “the living bread that came down from heaven,” and taught us to pray, “Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” So, is “heaven” singular or plural?

This question matters. Today, many Christians are convinced that there are three heavens, and that understanding our place in these three realms can change our lives. Most people who believe this are Protestants connected with the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR), but even some Catholics have now adopted this teaching, even though it is not part of authentic Catholic tradition.

Those who teach about three heavens first discuss the “invisible realm.” God made two realms, they say, the natural world we perceive with our senses, and the greater realm, which is unseen. The believer has been given authority in the invisible realm to establish and “advance” the kingdom of Christ. This teaching leads to a presentation of three heavens.

The first heaven is the visible world we live in. The second heaven is the invisible angelic realm, where good and evil spirits interact and Satan is in power. The third heaven, also called the “heavenly places,” is where Christ is now seated (see Ephesians 1:18-23) and Satan has no power. Because St. Paul wrote, “God ... made us sit with (Christ) in the heavenly places,” NAR teachers say that believers are already sitting with Christ in the third heaven, so that they have authority over the spirits in the second heaven.

All over the internet you can find teachings about “third heaven authority” and “third heaven solutions.” Kris Vallotton of Bethel Church in Redding, California writes, “We are not going to solve a first heaven problem

### A SHEPHERD'S CARE

Father Thomas Buffer

Father Thomas Buffer is the pastor at Columbus St. Cecilia Church.



that was caused by second heaven devils, without taking our third heaven seat.”

NAR teachers also say that believers, since they are seated in the third heaven, can command the good angels. Students at the Encounter School of Ministry are taught that an angel is assigned to every believer to engage in “spiritual warfare” on their behalf. They also learn that angels “bring revelation from the third heaven to us.” Patrick Reis, in his book *Supernatural Saints*, writes, “The key to understanding our relationship with our angels is knowing that they are assigned to us by God and that we are able to send them.”

How should Catholics respond to these ideas?

If we consult our Catholic tradition, we find something quite different from the NAR teaching about “three heavens.” Even in this life, believers have begun to reign with Christ, but do not yet perfectly and definitively possess the kingdom. We should not think of heaven as a status we enjoy, or a realm of power on which we can draw to conduct spiritual battles.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, “By his death and Resurrection, Jesus Christ has ‘opened’ heaven to us.” This does not mean that we fully possess the life of heaven already, as the saints in heavenly glory do: “The life of the blessed consists in the full and perfect possession of the fruits of the redemption accomplished by Christ. He makes partners in his heavenly glorification those who have believed in him and remained faithful to his will. Heaven is the blessed community of all who are perfectly incorporated into Christ.”

How should we understand Ephesians 2:6 saying that Christians are already seated in the heavenly places? This passage speaks of baptism, which brought us to life when we were dead through sin, raising us up along with Christ, who is risen from the dead and enthroned in heaven. Thus, even while we are still in this world, we are free from death and the fear of evil spirits but are waiting for something even greater; in the age to come we will receive the “limitless riches” of God’s grace (see Eph 2:7).

In a homily for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, Pope Benedict XVI explained Paul’s teaching about being seated in the heavenly places:

“... the Assumption reminds us that Mary’s life, like that of every Christian, is a journey of following ... Jesus, a journey that has a very precise destination, a future already marked out: the definitive victory over sin and death and full communion with God, because as Paul says ... the Father ‘raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus’ (Eph 2: 6). ... In us, union with Christ’s resurrection is incomplete, but for the Virgin Mary it is complete ... She has entered into the fullness of union with God.”

Finally, we do not have “third heaven” authority to send or command angels. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* emphasizes, “With their whole beings the angels are servants and messengers of God. Because they ‘always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven,’ they are the ‘mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word ...’ Christ is the center of the angelic world. They are his angels.”

Each believer has a guardian angel, who is not their own servant but a servant of God. Your guardian angel was not assigned to you to execute your commands in the “second heaven” but to be your protector and shepherd to lead you to eternal life.

## The perils of polarization

KRAKOW, Poland — Adam Michnik was one of the great wordsmiths of the revolution of conscience that began to form in mid-1970s Poland, that was fully ignited by John Paul II in June 1979, and that triumphed in the Revolution of 1989.

It was Michnik, defending nonviolent methods of anti-communist resistance, who neatly observed that “those who start by storming bastilles will end up building their own.” It was Michnik who, in a 1977 book, defended Polish Catholicism to anticlerical dissident comrades by stating bluntly that “for many years now, the Catholic Church in Poland has... stood out in defense of the oppressed,” playing a role in the struggle against tyranny that “it is impossible to overestimate.” It was Michnik who described the Nine Days of John Paul II in June 1979 as having taught “a great lesson in dignity.”

Yet in 1991, when John Paul II returned to the post-communist Poland he had helped liberate and the theme of his pilgrimage was announced as the Ten Commandments, Adam Michnik said to his friend (and mine), Father Maciej Zięba, OP, “This is the end of Polish democracy.”

I was reminded of this sad, jarring juxtaposition when, in the wake of Poland’s June presidential election, a Polish political commentator with whom I had had previous email exchanges sent me an article in which he claimed that the narrow victory of Karol Nawrocki, the more conservative candidate, had turned Poland into a “global laughingstock,” a country capable of

### THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

George Weigel is the Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. George Weigel’s column ‘The Catholic Difference’ is syndicated by the Denver Catholic, the official publication of the Archdiocese of Denver.



resistance but “incapable of sustaining normal, serious government: whatever we (Poles) build, we immediately set out to destroy.”

That this reaction was more than a little overwrought — and what I hope was not what that Polish commentator meant by “normal, serious government” — was illustrated when the losing presidential candidate, Rafał Trzaskowski, the mayor of Warsaw who had banned crucifixes in public offices, assuaged his frustrated supporters by leading the LGBT parade sponsored by the City of Warsaw, in which (as a Polish friend reported), “Satanists with pro-abortion slogans made their debut.”

What to make of all this?

There is something, I think, to the claim that Poles are great at resistance but not-so-great at governance. Almost 30 years ago, I asked a distinguished Polish theologian why that seemed to be the case, and that good Dominican gave the perfect Thomistic answer: because the idea of freedom that came to Poland in the High Middle Ages was William of Ockham’s notion of freedom as sheer willfulness, rather than Thomas

Aquinas’ concept of freedom as tethered to truth, ordered to goodness, and guided by reason.

The post-communist Catholic leadership of Poland has also made its share of blunders, fueling the fears of the secular left that a publicly engaged Polish Catholicism would create something like Franco’s authoritarian Spain. And it was not just left-leaning secularists who were concerned: my friends among the former students of John Paul II were appalled some years ago when a Polish archbishop said in a Good Friday sermon that those who did not vote for the conservative party in the impending parliamentary elections were like Pontius Pilate.

Like every democratic country, Poland is a unique case. But yet another Polish political commentator — one of the most learned and insightful men I know — put his finger on something of more general concern when he responded to my query about the meaning of that recent, bitterly contested Polish presidential election in these terms:

“... the declining phase of liberal democracy (in the form we know) is an exceptionally grim spectacle. The elections are perpetuating a division that increasingly calls into question the existence of a political community as a unity beyond divisions. There is something of the state’s self-aggression in this. For huge amounts of money, the state is organizing an exciting spectacle of mutual hatred that is leading to the disintegration of society into tribes that despise each other.”

## 'Catholic Times' delivery schedule will change

Beginning with the Aug. 10 issue of *The Catholic Times*, the newspaper is making several changes that are intended to ultimately enhance the quality of the content and delivery.

The delivery schedule will be altered slightly. Subscribers should expect the arrival of the newspaper in their mailboxes beginning on Fridays during the weeks of publication rather than Thursdays. The reason for the slight alteration is due to print production scheduling.

A noticeable change will be a slightly larger paper size that allows for more content to be placed on each page. The goal is to make the newspaper easier to navigate and more reader friendly.

Along with that, it is our hope that the

reproduction quality of photos will improve to make images more appealing to readers. Having more space available on a page provides an opportunity to print larger and eye-catching photos.

Some other subtle changes are planned that involve page design while keeping in mind that subscribers desire a publication that's easy to read.

The editorial emphasis will continue to be on local content that reflects news and events in the diocese. Evangelization and vocations will remain a point of emphasis along with Bishop Earl Fernandes' activities, and feature stories about individuals and groups living out their Catholic faith.

Over the past few months, the lineup of regular columnists has evolved to include

Father Thomas Buffer, pastor of Columbus St. Cecilia Church; Deacon Tom Berg Jr., the diocesan chancellor; David Lyons, director of the diocese's Office of Catholic Advocacy and Social Doctrine; Marlon De La Torre, senior director of the Office of Evangelization; and Kelley Henderson, president and CEO of Catholic Social Services.

Local scripture columnists are Father Timothy Hayes, pastor of Granville St. Edward the Confessor Church; Father Tyrone Tomson, a diocesan priest studying scripture in Rome; Father Ervens Mengelle, dean of men and an assistant professor of theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum; and Father Robert Jager, pastor of Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzan-

tine Catholic Church.

National columnists include George Weigel and Father Tad Pacholczyk.

Among the features that will continue are the popular Catholic Crossword, Word Search and Word Puzzle.

This will be the final issue for the Holy and Healthy column by Lori Crock and the All That We Have column by Mary-Beth Eberhard. *The Catholic Times* and its readers have greatly valued their contributions over the years.

All of these enhancements are done with the goal of serving loyal readers of *The Catholic Times*. Questions may be directed to <https://catholictimescolumbus.org/contact-us>.

## Pets make incarcerated life more bearable

By Michele Williams

I am convinced God works through animals.

Have you ever seen or heard of Him healing a broken heart with a dog or cat? I have and it's beautiful.

As a matter of fact, I experienced it, and because it was so powerful, I created a Cat Therapy program at the Ohio Reformatory for Women.

In conjunction with the mental health department, which is full of self-proclaimed "cat ladies," we implemented a hands-on, huggable aspect to prison life, healing and recovery. My cat, Simon, was chosen to become the therapy cat and he does his job purrfectly (sorry, I couldn't help it!).

I was blessed with Simon in October 2019. His parents were strays who made ORW home. Everyone fed them, but few ever, ever managed to pet them. They lived within our fences for about a decade, having litters of kittens that staff members would take home. On September 1, 2019, another litter was born; the mother was clearly getting weary and slower, so the consensus was to find a way to help, keep them safe, and be proactive.

ORW's Pawsabilities program is located in my housing unit. There are 100 inmates, 11 cats, 12 Circle Tail dogs (training to be service dogs), between 10-25 staff dogs (for daycare, grooming or boarding), and three adoptable dogs. It's a unique setup, honestly, and I'm grateful to be part of it. We work hard to earn and keep our places in the program, as it promotes responsibility, teamwork, professionalism and lots of furry, heart-warming moments.

The effort is worth it because Pawsabilities is hugely successful and well respected within ODRC.

When the kittens were about five weeks old, we brought them into the housing unit. We kept them in an empty cell with proper bedding, food and tons of toys. Like the rest of our cats, they were under the jurisdiction of the Union County Humane Society (UCHS). Four of us were selected by staff to be their handlers, aka "cat moms." It was such a joy to go in that cell and play, feed, watch them learn to pounce and figure out their new weird world!

I bonded with a gray striped tabby, named him Simon, and we've been inseparable ever since. My favorite part of the day was kitty naptime: I'd sit on the concrete floor with my back against the concrete wall and put Simon inside my hoodie jacket. He'd squirm around, purr and eventually fall asleep. I'd ignore my surroundings and be immersed in the preciousness of the moment and grace of God.

When Simon and his siblings went to UCHS for checkups, shots and to get fixed, I was a classic first-time mom, impatiently praying until their safe and healthy return. We finally caught the parents -- our own mission impossible to be sure. They were also sent to UCHS for care and relocation. A staff member took them home to her farm where they lived happily ever after.

All four kittens returned to ORW, were officially placed, and Simon became the fourth roommate of our three-person cell on the second floor. I had a cat. In prison. That's God.

Since I don't have children, I've taken out all of my maternal instincts on Simon, and he loves every bit. Even though he's almost six years old and a strong, energetic 16 pounder, he's my perpetual toddler. And yet, it is he is who convinced me how God works through cats too. They sense when we are hurting and innately know what to do -- without a word being spoken! What an awesome wonder.

Over the years, I've experienced healing, glimpses of paroled life and had my broken heart mended. When my parole was denied for the fourth time, I was beyond words. But Simon knew something was terribly wrong. For three nights, instead of sleeping in his spot on my ankle, he crawled up to my pillow, right next to my face, and caught my tears in his fur. Honestly, I think that's when God planted the seed for our new prison purpose.

Cat Therapy is my way of sharing Simon and spreading joy. Every week, we go to the Residential Treatment Unit to visit the women who are housed there. They have varying degrees of mental illnesses and emotional conditions, inhibiting them from living well in the general population. But no matter their state, this is cer-

tain: the pure joy and excitement on their faces when we come through the security door!

On our very first visit, one woman burst into tears when I put Simon in her arms. What she said is etched in my heart, "I forgot. I forgot what it's like. I forgot how good it is to hold a cat. Thank you."

At that moment, I knew the seed God had planted in my brokenness was blooming into something beautiful.

The women take turns petting and holding Simon with such care. He sits in their laps, is snuggled, cuddled, coddled and squooshed in their hugs, loved on, talked to, sung to, you name it. His temperament is amazingly calm (ahem, not exactly how he is otherwise), but it's because he knows they need him.

Often, they share with me their stories, issues or challenges, all the while keeping their attention on Simon. It seems easier to talk about the bad stuff that way. Sometimes they prefer to sit quietly and hold him in silence. By the end of our session, the atmosphere itself feels different. Calmness replaces static and peacefulness subdues angst. And there's already anticipation for our next visit!

My training as a Stephen Minister is ideal for cat therapy. I've learned when to speak, when to listen and how to simply be present in many different situations. As a result of this, Simon and I are also on call with the chaplains. We have helped other inmates with pre-parole board hearing anxiety, loneliness, depression and general prison awfulness.

I am currently researching how to get Simon registered as an actual support/therapy cat because this is something I want to continue when we are released. Since I get to take him home with me, I believe cat therapy is part of God's plan for our future. Sidebar: I also can't wait for him to explore a real house and meet Mom, Dad and the rest of my family!

Until then, I continue to thank God for my little guy and for giving us a purpose while in prison.

*Michele Williams is incarcerated at the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville.*

WEIGEL, continued from Page 6

For the moment in Poland, those mutually antagonistic tribes are, in the main, subordinating their antipathies to their mutual (and quite legitimate) concerns about revanchist Russian imperialism. But what of the United States? Shouldn't my friend's concerns about

the viability of the "political community as a unity beyond divisions" ring a few bells here? And in both the Polish and American cases, where is the Church creating the space in which that unity might be recomposed, modeling rational discussion as the antidote to social

media snark?

Hard questions, to be sure, but questions that cannot be avoided if the democratic ship is to steer its way between the rock of statist authoritarianism and the hard place of state-imposed wokery.



## Biking for Babies supports Women's Care Center



Riders on the Biking for Babies Ohio west route pedal from Columbus to St. Louis for the National Ride. Photos/Biking for Babies



Christopher Dacanay (bottom center), a support crew member, helps riders with their bike during a pit stop.

By Hannah Heil

Catholic Times Reporter

Eighty-four young adults spent six days in July biking across the country to show that life is worth the sacrifice.

Biking for Babies missionaries traversed approximately 600 miles on nine different routes, including two routes from Columbus, that departed from several states earlier this month to raise money and awareness for pregnancy resource centers. Six routes converged in St. Louis on July 19 and another three in Philadelphia.

The Biking for Babies organization seeks to renew the culture of life by forming young adults into missionaries of the Gospel of Life, increasing awareness for pregnancy resource centers, and raising financial and spiritual support for pregnant mothers in need. The organization's National Ride is the pinnacle of its missionary formation program.

Teams consist of bicycle riders and support crew, who serve riders while following along in a van.

The Ohio West Team, one of nine teams, departed from the Columbus area on July 14. Its eight team members stopped by the Women's Care Center at its downtown Columbus location – one of 37 centers in the United States – for a tour before the ride.

The Columbus Women's Care Center, which has two locations, is one of 95 pregnancy resource centers partnered with Biking for Babies this year. Each missionary is paired with a center.

An application for pregnancy resource centers to partner with Biking for Babies opened in November. Chapman Giles, Columbus outreach lead at the Women's Care Center, said the Columbus center is grateful to be chosen.

"With the partnership comes many prayers and, of course, donations, but we're trying to brainstorm how we as the non-profit can recruit more missionaries for them and support them while their bikers are doing their mission work, so definitely something that we'll expand upon in the future," she said.

Missionaries raise money to support the work of pregnancy centers. They pray for their center and share its stories along the 600-mile bike route.

"We want to start a conversation. We do not expect everybody to agree with us, and that's almost better when people are honest about what they believe because we can invite them into a conversation, and we truly try to do everything with love," said Nikki Biese, executive director of Biking for Babies.

"We're able to share real stories of women supported and truly point to the reality of women in unplanned pregnancies needing support. And then, we start with that common ground and hope to get to a place where we can share the reason for our hope, which is Jesus, and that God made each of us in His image, and

that we need to honor and dignify life, and that means supporting life."

Missionaries who are accepted into the Biking for Babies program begin formation in March. In addition to physical preparation and weekly multi-mile bike rides, missionaries are formed spiritually.

Participants spend time reading Scripture to interiorly form themselves to spread Christ in the world.

"It really does form us into being missionaries for Christ and to build a culture of life and to have that relationship with the pregnancy resource center we're partnered with, to know what we can be offering up during the ride, what we can be praying for," said Leah McKee, a support crew member.

Support crew are trained in best safety practices and how to help riders stay healthy throughout the ride. They also take on sacrifices.

McKee, who works at St. Mary School and Church in Wooster, part of the Diocese of Cleveland, completed 100 push-ups each day. She said she offered each one for the team by name and for the pregnancy resource center that she was partnered with.

Each support crew member practices a form of asceticism to put "aside our own desires for something that's better and very worthwhile," Christopher Dacanay explained.

As a support crew member, he chose to take exclusively cold showers to interiorly prepare for the ride. Dacanay, who works in news media in Pittsburgh and is a recent graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville, also prepared by reciting the Liturgy of the Hours, which is prayed at set times each day by clergy.

In addition to wanting to support pregnancy resource centers, Dacanay desired to offer his time and abilities to make a difference.

"That's what I keep telling people whenever they ask me, 'Oh, why are you doing this?' Well, it's really just to have an impact, to use the time that we have in this life for something that's good, not sit idly by, and I really resonate with the mission of Biking for Babies," he said.

"It challenges each of us to live very sacrificially, to put aside our wants and needs for something that's bigger than ourselves, to make the world a better place and help mothers and their children who are struggling."

Dacanay was partnered with the Columbus Women's Care Center. His desire to support pregnancy centers began while studying at Franciscan University. It was largely the impetus for applying to Biking for Babies.

"I studied journalism. ... For one of my projects, I had to do a multi-part story, and I did that on the pregnancy resource center that's located there (in Steuben-



Saint  
**Brendan**  
THE NAVIGATOR  
PARISH FESTIVAL

FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
AUGUST 8+9  
6-11 PM  
FAMILY FUN HOURS  
SATURDAY: 3-6 PM

- KID'S AREA / RIDES
- RAFFLE
- ADULT GAMES OF CHANCE
- LIVE MUSIC
- HOT FOOD / COLD BEER

4475 Dublin Rd, Hilliard OH 43026 • [www.stbrendans.net](http://www.stbrendans.net)



**BIKING**, *continued from Page 8*

ville) and still is, and that really opened my eyes to the great things that these kinds of centers do," he said.

Paired with the Columbus Women's Care Center, Dacanay learned about the center's strengths-based counseling method, which affirms pregnant women in need and helps mothers acknowledge their strengths and dignity while supporting them and their child through kindergarten.

Giles said the Columbus center is on track to serve more than 4,000 women this year. It is also in the process of constructing a fourth ultrasound suite and a second parenting classroom. Parenting classes at the center are offered in three different languages.

Women's Care Centers are located near abortion facilities to be accessible to women most in need.

"I think it's ironic that it's called being pro-choice," Dacanay said, "but really, a lot of the times, women are choosing abortion because they feel they have no other choice, but really that couldn't be any further from the truth.

"Here," he said of the Women's Care Center, "they're telling them about, here are the different options that you have, and empowering them with knowledge."

"The society, the culture of death, tells them, like, if you have a kid, you're not going to be ahead. You have a kid, you're not going to do this, that and the other thing — all those lies that the world tells these mothers — and I often feel like it just kind of takes one person to be like, 'No, that's wrong. That's a lie. That's not of the Lord. Let's help you see, like, you're a beloved daughter,'" rider Joseph Massaro said.

Massaro, from Seville in the Diocese of Cleveland, graduated from Franciscan University last year. He rode on the Ohio west route this summer.

"I've been doing this for three years, and I keep on coming back because it's a great community of young people spreading the Gospel of Life," he said.

Massaro said he discovered Biking for Babies accidentally while in college. At the time, he was listening to a podcast that encouraged Catholics to be active in pro-life ministry.

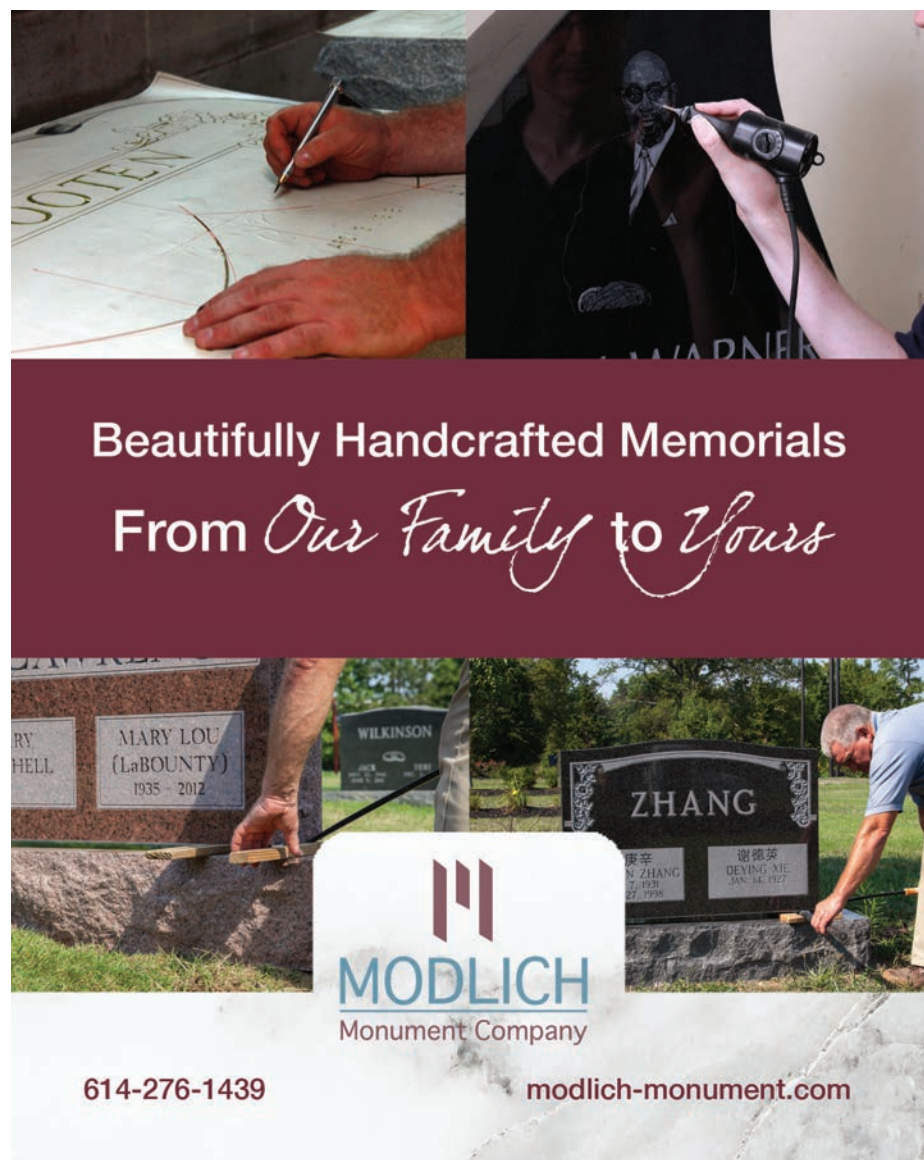
He spent much time riding bikes in college. He said he noticed several Catholic young adults — priests, religious and laity — biking through in mid-July. He researched more about it, ultimately discovering the Biking for Babies organization.

"Our goal is just to get the word out as much as possible because we want that cultural renewal that we feel God is calling us to," Biese said, "and it starts with, just honestly, one heart, one mind at a time."

Biking for Babies' first ride consisted of two members who biked to Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 2009. The national journey began in 2010 with teams riding from New Orleans to Champaign, Illinois. In the following years, routes expanded from Florida, Louisiana and Texas.

Biese served as the organization's first full-time employee in 2018 when assuming the role of executive director. Staff has since expanded to six full-time members.

To make a contribution, visit [www.BikingForBabies.com/Give](http://www.BikingForBabies.com/Give).



**Beautifully Handcrafted Memorials**

*From Our Family to Yours*

**MODLICH**  
Monument Company

614-276-1439 [modlich-monument.com](http://modlich-monument.com)



*Join us for a night anchored in*

**TRUTH & HOPE**

**2025 PDHC Celebration for Life Galas**

**PDHC** Pregnancy Decision Health Centers

— **Lancaster Gala** —  
Sept 18, 2025 - 6 p.m. - The Tree Church

 **Rebekah Hagan** *A leading voice on unexpected pregnancies, chemical abortion and abortion pill reversal*

— **Columbus Gala** —  
Sept 25, 2025 - 6 p.m. - Villa Milano

*International speaker and Author of "Redeemed: My Journey after Abortion"*

 **Toni McFadden**



# YOUR *Catholic* RETIREMENT™



THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION



## Preparing for retirement living financially *and* faithfully.

**Have you considered how your faith will impact your retirement?**

Your Catholic Retirement™ provides Catholics with a clearer understanding of preparing for retirement, focusing on Catholic pro-life directives, spiritual considerations, and charitable giving opportunities.



THE  
**CATHOLIC**  
FOUNDATION

[catholic-foundation.org](http://catholic-foundation.org)



Anyone can benefit from a conversation about *Your Catholic Retirement™*.

To learn more, contact Scott Hartman at 614-443-8893 or [shartman@catholic-foundation.org](mailto:shartman@catholic-foundation.org).



DeSales students participate in TEAMS competition



Students from Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School traveled to Nashville, Tennessee in July to compete in the TEAMS (Tests of Engineering Aptitude and Mathematical Skills) competition. They interacted with close to 10,000 students involved in the Technology Student Association to compete in more than 40 STEM competitions. The group of rising seniors included (from left) Ben Reither, Cindi Li, Ava Manfresca and Emma Hahn. They were accompanied by their adviser, Mrs. Kim Gattis. The students came away from the event excited to take their experiences and grow the program so even more DeSales students interested in STEM and engineering can gain valuable experience

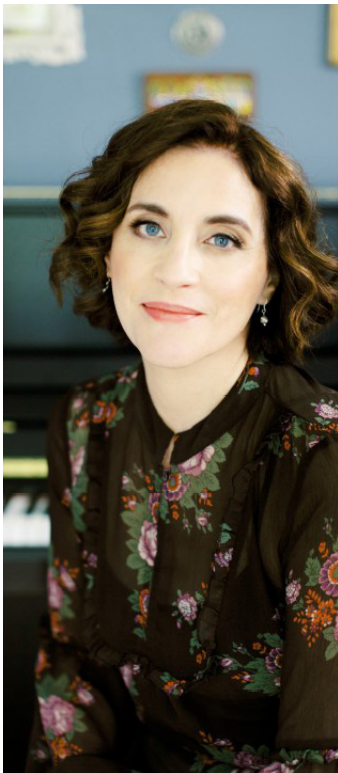
Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

Westerville St. Paul hosts Sacred Heart night of reflection

Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church will hold its monthly Sacred Heart night of reflection on Thursday, July 31 from 7 to 8 p.m. in the lower-level room 3.

All are invited to the discussion led by Emily Jaminet on Pope Francis' fourth

encyclical "Dilexit Mos" about devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the heart as the center of thought and emotions, and how the heart reveals the core of sincerity and personal truth.



BRIDGES MINISTRY FUNDRAISER

featuring:

A CONCERT WITH

Sarah Hart

Saturday, August 16, 2025  
7:00 PM

Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption,  
Emerald Campus  
324 Gay Street, Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Tickets: \$25.00



Get your tickets today!

Scan QR or visit [tinyurl.com/Sarah-Hart](https://tinyurl.com/Sarah-Hart)

# COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

**August 21, 22, 23**  
**THURSDAY 6-10PM**  
**FRI. & SAT. 5-11PM**  
*Kid's Fun Zone, Carnival Rides,  
Blackjack & Texas Hold'em,  
Food, Silent Auction, Live Music,  
Beer Garden, & more...*  
**at St. Joan of Arc Church**  
**10700 Liberty Road Powell**

**ST PETER  
ST JOAN OF ARC**



**Our Lady of Victory Church**

# Parish Festival

**August 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup>:  
Lebanese Dinner**

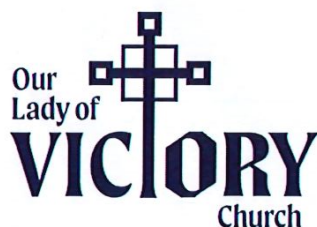
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>:  
Pasta Night**

**HOMEMADE  
AUTHENTIC FOOD**

**Fun Games - Live Music - Church Tours -  
Silent Auction - Food and Spirits**

**Parish Raffle:**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$2500 | 5 Prizes: \$100



(614) 488-2428  
[www.ourladyofvictory.cc](http://www.ourladyofvictory.cc)  
 f @ olvcolumbus

Tickets available online  
 Credit Card accepted  
 Free parking and shuttle service available  
 at Trinity United Methodist Church.



## St. Timothy observes July 4 holiday



On July 4, the congregation of Columbus St. Timothy Church gathered at the flagpole, where Father David Poliafico led prayers. Deacon Marion Smithberger presented the flag to the color guard, Star Scout Evan Lucas and Scout leader Sean Dawson, who raised the flag. After the flag was raised, Scoutmaster Brian O'Brien led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a procession into the church, where Father Poliafico celebrated Mass. Flag raising is one of the ceremonies and activities that scouts conduct as part of living their oath, which starts with the commitment to "... do my best to do my duty to God and my country." Pictured are (from left) Joe Basbagill, Dawson, Deacon Smithberger, O'Brien, Lucas and John Cline.  
*Photo courtesy St.Timothy Church*

## Plain City St. Joseph wins best float in July 4 parade



Plain City St. Joseph Labors of Love Ministry and Knights of Columbus Council #12772 were honored for having the Best Float in the 2025 Plain City Independence Day Parade on July 4. The groups, with the help of many individuals in the parish, built a model of the church, which celebrates its 125th anniversary in August.  
*Photos courtesy St. Joseph Church*



SAINT

MICHAEL

FESTIVAL

Labor Day Weekend

AUG 29

Friday

7p-11p



AUG 30

Saturday

5p-11p



AUG 31

Sunday

5p-11p

5750 N High St, Worthington, OH

FOLLOW US ON  
FACEBOOK





PARKING GUIDE

ENTERTAINMENT

AUG 29

8p-11p

Big Badd Band

AUG 30

5p-7p

Joint Rockers

8p-11p

Radio City

AUG 31

5p-7p

Apple Bottom Gang

8p-11p

Wet Bandits

ACTIVITIES

21+ Casino

Silent Auction

Carnival Rides

Expanded Kids' Zone

Games starting at 50c

40+ bottle liquor raffle

Beer & Wine Garden

\$2500 Cash Raffle

Food Specials

Free entry

\$6  
BEER!

FAMILY FRIENDLY

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



17th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C

# Prayer helps us grow in our relationship with God

Genesis 18:20-32  
Ps. 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8  
Colossians 2:12-14  
Luke 11:1-13

Prayer is intimacy with God. Its essence is the relationship between the one who prays and God Who hears the prayer. I look to God; He reveals Himself to me. That revelation that allows me to experience, to see, to know, to understand in a way beyond words that God loves me and that He has a plan for my life. Within that cry of the heart and God hearing that cry, there is a providing love that sustains me, opening me to whatever I may experience. Intimacy with God frees me to be my true self, touching the world with what God gives to me.

Abraham grew in his relationship with God, daring to pray boldly, throughout his life. God called him, made promises to him and walked with him through his life's journey. In the Genesis reading today, we meet Abraham at a moment of boldness, learning and exercising the power of intercessory prayer.

Abraham's concern is for Lot and his family, who live in a territory destined for destruction due to sin. He approaches the God Who has revealed Himself as his friend to invite mercy. He does not want to tell the Almighty how to conduct His business, but he seeks to understand. Abraham moves step by step to discern how close he can come to God's Heart. "Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty?"

As Abraham "counts down" the number of righteous ones, he does not realize that at the moment there are only really two – himself and his nephew. Stopping

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes  
Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of St. Edward The Confessor, Granville.



at 10, he does not reach the threshold of a number that would save the world. We know, living in the "wake" of Abraham's journey, the whole history of the people of God, and the life, death and Resurrection of the One who alone is righteous and worthy to win our salvation, that God does save the world through Christ. Jesus also told us that two or three united in prayer have great power in relationship to God.

Paul reminds us that "through faith in the power of God," salvation in Christ is ours. "... He brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions; obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims, which was opposed to us, he also removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross." All prayer finds its source in the prayer of Jesus, which was accomplished fully on the Cross.

The Gospel shows Jesus Himself at prayer and His disciples ask to be taught how to enter into that prayer: "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." Jesus responds with the "Our Father," which is familiar to all those who follow Him, and an encouragement to persevere in prayer.

Jesus' one and only prayer is "Abba, Father." What He shares with those who ask to be taught to pray is not merely a set of words that form a particular prayer, though we may often use it as such. Rather, Jesus gives them His free-

## THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

<b>7-28/8-8-2 MONDAY</b> Exodus 32:15-24,30-34 Psalm 106:19-23 Matthew 13:31-35	<b>THURSDAY</b> Exodus 40:16-21,34-38 Psalm 84:3-6a,8a,11 Matthew 13:47-53	<b>8-4/8-9 MONDAY</b> Numbers 11:4b-15 Psalm 81:12-17 Matthew 14:13-21	Luke 9:28b-36 <b>THURSDAY</b> Numbers 20:1-13 Psalm 95:1-2,6-9 Matthew 16:13-25
<b>TUESDAY</b> Exodus 33:7-11;34:5b-9,28 Psalm 103:6-13 John 11:19-27 or Luke 10:38-42	<b>FRIDAY</b> Leviticus 23:1,4-11,15-16,27,34b-37 Psalm 81:3-6,10-11b Matthew 13:54-58	<b>TUESDAY</b> Numbers 12:1-13 Psalm 51:1,3,7,12-13 Matthew 14:22-36 or Matthew 15:1-2,10-14	<b>FRIDAY</b> Deuteronomy 4:32-40 Psalm 77:12-16,21 Matthew 16:24-28
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99:5-7,9 Matthew 13:44-46	<b>SATURDAY</b> Leviticus 25:1,8-17 Psalm 67:2-3,5,7-8 Matthew 14:1-12	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Daniel 7:9-10,13-14 Psalm 97:1-2,5,6,9 2 Peter 1:16-19	<b>SATURDAY</b> Deuteronomy 6:4-13 Psalm 18:2-4,47,51 Matthew 17:14-20

## DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION: Mass Schedule: Weeks of July 27 and August 3

### SUNDAY MASS

10:30am Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio AM820, Columbus, FM88.3, Portsmouth, and FM106.7, Athens., and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) and diocesan website, [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org).

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

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or Breeze-line Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight). Mass from the Archdiocese of

Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

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

### DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113, Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City, Washington C.H.; Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com). 12:05 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. Satur-

days, Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) and diocesan website, [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org). (Saturdays on radio only).

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

We pray the propers for Weeks I and II of the Liturgy of the Hours

dom to address God in the most intimate terms. He is in the latter days of His time with the disciples who are to become the Church after His passion, death and Resurrection. His own prayer is becoming more poignant and intense, seeking the strength to endure what is in prospect. Sharing what we call "the Lord's Prayer" with them is another step in giving the disciples access to the fullness of His person.

Paul speaks of this relationship to the Colossians: "You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised

with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead." Prayer is the flowing grace of the unique relationship each of us have with God in Christ. Our human nature is in relationship to the God of all creation. Our baptism plunges that unique relationship into the very person of Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of the Father, who has united us to His prayer.

Intercession for others invites us to live our relationship with God in Christ. Let us pray boldly for the salvation of the world!

18th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C

# Further considerations of the Biblical rich man

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23  
Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17  
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11  
Luke 12:13-21

The proverbial rich man recurs in Sacred Scripture as a foil to illustrate God's common-sense wisdom about the senselessness of avarice. All such lessons get their mileage out of the universality of the human experience, over-emphasizing one dimension of it for the sake of clarity and simplicity. However, considering the implied tacit layers even of fictitious prop characters can help to deepen our appreciation of the Lord's core message.

How do these rich people get their money? "Here is one who has labored

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Tyron Tomson  
Father Tyron Tomson is a priest of the Diocese of Columbus pursuing a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture in Rome.



with wisdom and knowledge and skill" we read in Ecclesiastes, but rhetorically the speaker Qoheleth immediately asks, "For what profit comes to man from all the toil and anxiety of heart with which he has labored under the sun?" The Gospel gives two examples of wealth, one in real-life from an inheritance case question to Christ and another in a parabolical farm owner in His answer. The Psalmist asks for a blessing on "the work of our hands" and St. Paul indicates that in the end, it makes no difference ...

the point holds the same for all: "Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free." Whether we earn it ourselves, come by it through right or by chance, or have others toil and collect the revenue, the resulting possibility of disordered fixation on possessions always surfaces, prompting the need for spiritually healthy detachment. "Think of what is above, not of what is on earth."

How exactly do these wealthy people like to luxuriate in their material success? It's pretty vague, including the plan to "rest, eat, drink, be merry." Our imagination and experience can fill in the details for individual cases, all amounting to the general dissatisfied ennui that we know all too well. It fits the theme of the

anonymous nature of these vignettes both in how relatable they are and how consequently identity-emptying they are. This amassing a fortune for its own sake is paradoxically accounted to be "a great misfortune." In extreme cases, the thrill of the pursuit of money seems to be the draw in itself, not even enjoying its benefits (either legitimately or illicitly).

What might be the spiritual remedy for these affluent people? The Psalmist's reminder that "You turn man back to dust ... You make an end of them in their sleep" and the Gospel's harsh condemnation, "You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you" both push the

See CONSIDERATIONS, Page 15



CONSIDERATIONS, continued from Page 14

lesson to its obvious limit: As Ecclesiastes puts it, “yet to another who has not labored over it, he must leave property.” St. Paul employs the trope of mortality in eschatological terms: “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory. Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly.” As an inscription in a monastery on Mount Athos expresses it, “If you die before you die, you won’t die when you die.”

The passing things of the world are all famously labeled as “vanity,” that abyss of a word for emptiness, uselessness and ephemerality. The term means “breath,” ironically evoking both the divine means of rational man’s creation and the image of his final gasp, and therefore each breath in between and thus the whole life together as easily fleeting. It has the connotation of lies, a waste of words, and is also used to refer pejoratively to pagan idols, which are of course

breathless and lifeless in opposition to the true and truthful living God. These associations explain the mind behind St. Paul’s advice on the topic: “Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and the greed that is idolatry. Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator.”

The message for us is familiar and straightforward enough, but nonetheless challenging. “One’s life does not consist of possessions.” The only things we take with us in the next life are the things we give away in this one. Would we go before the Lord with deep pockets but a shallow soul, with full hands but an empty heart? “Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God.” Let us instead be spiritually wealthy by accumulating grace’s truly valuable riches.

Words of Wisdom

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

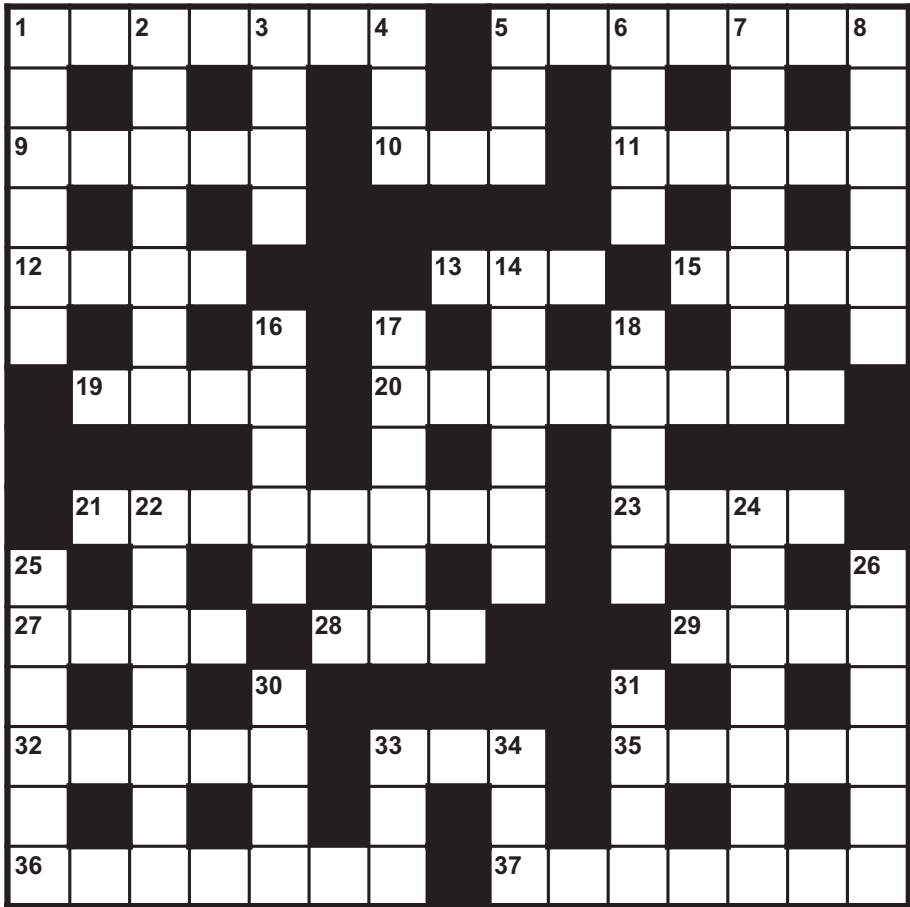
Draw a path from letter to letter to spell the words given in capital letters that completes the wisdom statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left or diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

God has not gone on vacation ...

	A	N	E	F
E	A	D	L	T
G	R	H	O	Y
	C	N	I	U

AND LEFT YOU IN CHARGE

CATHOLIC CROSSWORD



www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

ACROSS

- 1 Catholic author Belloc  
5 Shortest book of the Old Testament  
9 Direction from Jerusalem to Nazareth  
10 Benedictine title  
11 Joseph was told in one to flee to Egypt  
12 Paul is the major character of this book  
13 "Without further \_\_\_\_" (2 Macc 6:17)  
15 "Though the just \_\_\_\_ seven times, they rise again" (Prov 24:16)  
19 Communion banister  
20 According to Tobit 13, the gates of Jerusalem will be built with sapphires and these precious stones  
21 A Doctor of the Church from Brindisi  
23 Book after Proverbs (abbr.)  
27 Ology that is the study of the lives of the saints  
28 Where the good Samaritan took the man who was robbed and beaten  
29 Religious ceremony  
32 Saint item  
33 Jesus entered Jerusalem this type of animal  
35 Philosopher and convert from agnosticism, Mortimer J. \_\_\_\_

36 Rachel and Leah

37 Catholic news commentator, Maria \_\_\_\_

DOWN

- 1 She gave birth to the prophet who anointed Saul  
2 Catholic Academy-Award winning actress Young  
3 Bk. after 2 Kings  
4 "and his kingdom will have no \_\_\_\_"  
5 Franciscan letters  
6 Jesuits' motto (abbr.)  
7 Land of St. Patrick  
8 It is given after the Gospel  
14 St. Katherine's surname  
16 "\_\_\_\_ be to the Father..."  
17 Catholic singing group, The \_\_\_\_ Sisters  
18 An epistle  
22 California mission town, Los \_\_\_\_  
24 Jewish month of Hanukkah  
25 The Crown of \_\_\_\_  
26 "\_\_\_\_ My God to Thee"  
30 "\_\_\_\_ homo"  
31 Ezekiel scattered this to the wind  
33 20's US Catholic politician  
34 Holy ones (abbr.)

SAINTS SIMON & JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Women's Group Annual Rummage Sale

Friday, Aug. 1, and Saturday, Aug. 2, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

9350 High Free Pike, West Jefferson, Ohio (corner of SR 142 and I-70)

Blessed Mother Mary, once again you have answered yet another prayer and held your hands out for my daughter to grab. No words can express my gratitude and the love I have in my heart for you. Without you in my life I am nothing. Lots of love blessed mother..Patty

LANDSCAPING

OAKLAND NURSERY  
VOTED BEST IN THE U.S.

Now is the best time to plan and design your landscape, patios, pools, walk-ways, retaining walls, and sprinkler systems.

614-268-3834



- PLUMBING
- HEATING
- COOLING

614-299-7700  
MUTZEL.COM



GEORGE J. IGEL & CO., INC.  
2040 ALUM CREEK DRIVE . COLUMBUS, OHIO  
614.445.8421 . www.buildwithigel.com

SITE DEVELOPMENT . EARTHWORK . UTILITIES  
CONCRETE . STABILIZATION . EARTH RETENTION  
ROLLER COMPACTED CONCRETE . ASPHALT PAVING

SHERIDAN  
FUNERAL HOME

740-653-4633

222 S. COLUMBUS STREET  
LANCASTER, OHIO 43130  
WWW.SHERIDANFUNERALHOME.NET

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING:

Insurance • References

40 years' experience

Senior discount

Fair prices • Free estimates

DICK LIBERATORE • 614-488-8842



## PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

**ABRAHAM, Linda L. (Berger), 82, July 8**  
St. Brendan the Navigator Church, Hilliard

**AMICON, Michael "Mickey," 68, June 24**  
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

**BEYER, Barbara A. (Beckemeyer), 75, July 6**  
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

**COURTNEY, George E., 80, June 28**  
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

**FULTON, Joseph, 87, July 5**  
St. Mary Church, Marion

**GIBBONEY, Patricia J. (David), 88, June 24**  
St. Catharine of Siena Church, Columbus

**HADDOW, Howard, 88, July 1**  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**HALL, G. Philip, 95, July 5**  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**KEMP, Len, 59, June 24**  
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

**KRAMER, Edward F., 93, July 10**  
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

**LAYNE, Greg, 74, June 25**  
St. Mary Church, Marion

**MARTINELLI, David L., 79, June 24**  
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

**McKENNA, Logan, 36, July 13**  
St. Peter St. Joan of Arc Parish, Columbus-Powell

**McNEAL, Darlene, 78, June 7**  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Buckeye Lake

**METZGER, John "Jack," 76, July 12**  
St. Peter St. Joan of Arc Parish, Columbus-Powell

**MOLICA, Linda S. (Patrick), 83, July 14**  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**ORTMAN, Timothy J., 71, June 10**  
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

**PELZER, Dan, 92, July 1**  
Mother Angeline McCrory Manor Chapel, Columbus

**PENN, Daniel J., 54, July 4**  
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

**PINGUE, Giuseppe A. "Joe," 84, July 10**  
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

**PRATT, Antoinette I. "Toni" (Balog), of Reynoldsburg, 85, July 8**  
St. James Church, McConnelssville

**RIACHY (Ritchey), George Farid, 66, July 10**  
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

**ROTOLO, Charles "Gus," 85, July 12**  
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

**SARYCH, Christian "Chris," 95, June 16**  
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

**SCHARLOTT, Frances M. (Masters), 88, June 30**  
St. Cecilia Church, Columbus

**STILL, Steven M., 80, of Hilliard, July 10**  
Sts. Mary & Joseph Church, Carlisle, Ill.

**WALSH, Janice (Buckley), 89, July 13**  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**WENGER, Robert "Bob," 78, July 6**  
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

**WHYDE, Kathryn, 80, July 7**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

### Sister Rose Zuber, SNDen

Funeral Mass for Sister Rose Zuber, SNDen, 96, who died Friday, June 27, was celebrated Tuesday, July 15 at the Mount Notre Dame Health Center in Cincinnati. Burial was in the sisters' cemetery.

She was born on July 3, 1928 in Columbus to John and Stella (Wyss) Zuber and was a member of Columbus St. Leo Church and graduated from Columbus St. John the Evangelist School and Columbus St. Joseph Academy before joining the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur on July 26, 1946.

From 1949 until her death, except for two years as a student, she served her

congregation by caring for other sisters in convent infirmaries in Cincinnati and Dayton and the Mount Notre Dame center. In 1999, she was one of six recipients of the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing's Florence Nightingale Award for outstanding service to nursing in the Cincinnati area.

She received licensed practical nurse, registered nurse and associate degrees in nursing from the University of Kentucky.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Eugene; and sisters Ann Marie (Cotter), Joan, and Frances (Davis).

### John M. "Mike" Finn

Funeral Mass for John M. "Mike" Finn, 76, who died Monday, July 7, was celebrated Monday, July 14 at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church. Burial was at Walnut Grove Cemetery, Worthington.

He was born on Feb. 16, 1949 in Marion to John and Grace Finn and was a graduate of Marion Catholic High School and Franklin University.

He was employed for 18 years in the budget and planning department of the Lazarus department stores, then served the state of Ohio as a managing accountant for the Department of Liquor Control, where he was acting director for 24 hours, and as chief of accounting for the Department of Commerce.

He had a great interest in Irish Catholic history and the history of the Diocese of Columbus. He was a past president of the

diocesan Catholic Record Society, which honored him as one of two chartered lifetime members. He also was state historian for the Ancient Order of Hibernians, wrote a history column for 18 years for a national Irish magazine and was a consultant for Transplanted Shamrocks, a collection of stories from Irish Americans.

He was a past president of the Parish Council and school board at Our Lady of Peace and a Knights of Columbus member.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Donna Stamm and Jean Densford. Survivors include his wife, Marion (Marshall); daughter, Kathleen, and sisters, Mary Ann Kaiser and Jo Ann Greene.

### John S. Pottkotter

Funeral Mass for John S. Pottkotter, 70, who died Saturday, July 5, was celebrated Saturday, July 12 at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church. Burial was at Holy Cross Cemetery, Pataskala.

He was born on Aug. 14, 1954 in Fort Re-

covery to Robert and Marcia (Probolsky) Pottkotter.

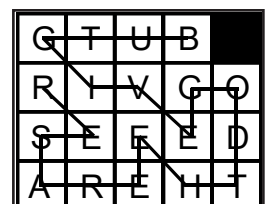
He was music minister at St. Pius X Church for 44 years beginning in 1979, playing the organ and piano and accompanying the parish choir. He also had a long career as accounts manager for companies in the area produce industry.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a foster brother, Richard Sanderell. Survivors include his wife of 46 years, Susan (DeMange), daughters Megan (Jamie) Borowski and Molly, and two grandchildren.

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION



### WORDS OF WISDOM SOLUTION



*Our Family Serving Yours...*

NOW FOR 5 GENERATIONS,  
OVER 150 YEARS

Our family of Funeral Directors  
has expanded to include  
Bob Ryan's son, Kevin.

Kevin's great-great-grandfather  
Patrick Egan established  
the company in 1859.

Our commitment to  
Central Ohio families  
has never changed.



L-R Funeral Directors, Kevin, Andy & Bob Ryan  
with spouses, Gini, Khristy & Mary Ginn Ryan

*Personal, dignified, quality services at a reasonable cost*

**NEW NORTHWEST**  
4661 KENNY RD.  
614.451.5900

**CENTRAL**  
403 E. BROAD ST.  
614.221.6665



## LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

# Lancaster basilica to be site for Assumption Day pilgrimage

The Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, 132 S. High St., will host a pilgrimage day on Friday, Aug. 15, the Feast of the Assumption of Mary.

The day will include Basilica tours from 1 to 2 p.m., Eucharistic Adoration beginning at 2:30, confessions from 2:30 to 4:30, praying of the Rosary at 4:20 and a Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes at 5 followed by a procession.

A plenary indulgence, which removes all temporal punishment for sin for oneself or a soul in purgatory, will be available to anyone following the usual conditions of being in a state of grace, having complete detachment from sin, receiving sacramental confession and Holy Communion within a few days and praying for the pope's intentions.

## Our Lady of Peace invites seniors to share with students

Columbus Our Lady of Pece School is looking for senior citizens to share the gift of themselves with students.

This fall, the school will host a program called "Friends Across Time" in which seniors will visit fifth-graders from 1 to 2:20 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month from September to May (except January) and tell stories of their lives.

Katy Ryan Polini, retired from a teaching career of 57 years, will be in charge of the program. "I promise to put smiles on your face and provide you memories to last a long time. All you need bring is yourself and stories to share," she said. The program is not limited to Our Lady of Peace parishioners. Seniors from throughout central Ohio are invited.

For more details or to sign up, email Polini at [katysma61@outlook.com](mailto:katysma61@outlook.com).

## Cathedral hosting

### Mass for musicians

Bishop Earl Fernandes will celebrate the fourth annual Gold Mass for diocesan priests and parish musicians at 5:15 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.

Prayers at this Mass will ask the Holy Spirit to bless all those who work in music ministry professionally and as volunteers. Performers and church musicians are frequently called upon to bring musi-

cal inspiration to the liturgy, parish congregations and classrooms.

The Gold Mass will give those in attendance a chance to unite their voices and to support each other and to acknowledge and praise the Source of all inspiration, the Author of art.

Mass rehearsal will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10. Those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP to Dr. Richard Fitzgerald, cathedral music director, at [richard-kfitzgerald@gmail.com](mailto:richard-kfitzgerald@gmail.com) or (614) 241-2526.

All music selections and practice recordings will be available at [www.cathedralmusic.org](http://www.cathedralmusic.org) by Wednesday, Sept. 10.

## Mary Clare Bauer

Funeral Mass for Mary Clare Bauer, 77, who died Wednesday, July 9, was celebrated Thursday, July 17 at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church.

She was born on Aug. 11, 1948 to Earl and Winifred Hummer. She was an elementary school teacher for 30 years.

She was preceded in death by her par-

ents and a sister, Rosi Davis. Survivors include her husband, Jim; son, Aaron (Lisa); daughter, Stephanie (Michael) Doran; brothers, Father Lawrence Hummer, a retired priest of the Diocese of Columbus, Ted, Bill (Linda) and Mark (Jeanine); sisters, Anne and Martha (Mike) Lynch; two grandsons and two granddaughters.

## The CATHOLIC TIMES

Subscribe or renew your subscription to the print edition of *The Catholic Times*. Visit [www.catholictimescolumbus.org](http://www.catholictimescolumbus.org)



and click the Subscribe Now tab or scan the QR code.



# LIVE AND LOCAL!

## WEEKDAYS AT 8AM

ST. GABRIEL

CATHOLIC RADIO



**AM 820**  
COLUMBUS

**FM 88.3**  
SCIOTO COUNTY

**FM 106.7**  
ATHENS



Join us for our 9th annual  
*An Evening With...*

Joe Mazzulla, Head Coach of the Boston Celtics



Thursday, September 11th  
5:00 p.m.

St. Charles Preparatory School  
Robert C. Walter Student Commons

Dinner and an inspiring message from  
Joe Mazzulla - Head Coach of the Boston Celtics

Reserve Your Table Today

Your Generosity Changes Lives

Our An Evening With... speaker series began in 2015 as a targeted effort to grow our endowment, thereby providing tuition assistance to students in need. We know that many of our families share a deep passion for supporting our students and our faculty and staff. This year's proceeds will be dedicated to funding tuition assistance for St. Charles students, as well as funding for faculty and staff retention. Your generosity opens doors...and changes lives.





# MORE CARE FOR ALL OF YOU.

## New Hospital & Medical Campus, Now Open

Mount Carmel is committed to offering comprehensive care close to home: **4105 Emerald Parkway, Dublin**. To help you get better and to keep you well. With a new state-of-the-art 240,000-square-foot hospital and medical campus, we're better equipped to offer total care, for all of you.

**EXPERT CARE FOR ALL OF YOU. | [mountcarmelhealth.com/dublin](https://mountcarmelhealth.com/dublin)**

©2025 Mount Carmel Health System • Columbus, Ohio



**MOUNT CARMEL  
DUBLIN**

A Member of Trinity Health





# PRESERVING CHRISTIANITY IN THE HOLY LAND THROUGH EDUCATION

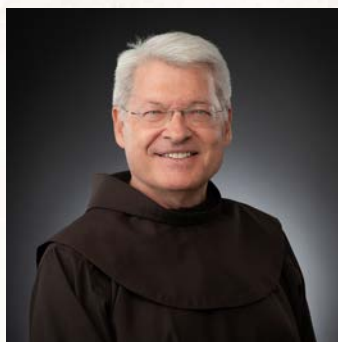
*A Benefit Dinner for the  
FRANCISCAN FOUNDATION FOR THE HOLY LAND*

*MASS, RECEPTION & DINNER*  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025**

*Mass Begins at 5:00 PM, Reception and Dinner to Follow*

*OUR LADY OF VICTORY CHURCH*  
1559 Roxbury Road | Columbus, OH 43212

## — KEYNOTE SPEAKERS —



**FR. JOHN PUODZIUNAS**  
*President of the Franciscan Foundation  
for the Holy Land*



**FR. PETER F. VASKO**  
*Founding President of the Franciscan  
Foundation for the Holy Land*

## — HONORED GUEST & MASS CELEBRANT —



**BISHOP EARL K.  
FERNANDES**  
*Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus*

*For table package information and purchase, scan the  
QR code or visit [ffhl.org/regions/columbus/rsvp](https://ffhl.org/regions/columbus/rsvp).*

*For additional inquiries, please email  
[CradlingChristianity@gmail.com](mailto:CradlingChristianity@gmail.com).*



If nothing is done to stem the alarming exodus of our Christians from the Holy Land, then within 50 years, Christianity will disappear from the very land where Christ founded the Church.

This exodus from the Holy Land can be attributed in large part to a lack of formal education. Without this access, Christians encounter difficulties in securing meaningful employment, which ultimately leads to a lifetime of financial struggles. Solving this gap in education begins with ensuring younger generations have access to education.



*To learn more about the  
importance of education in the  
Holy Land, visit [ffhl.org](https://ffhl.org).*