

The CATHOLIC TIMES

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CELEBRATION
FOR LATINOS,**
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NEW HERMITAGE

Bishop Earl Fernandes blessed a new St. John's Hermitage house near Mount Vernon that is intended to serve as a sanctuary for priests, deacons and seminarians, Page 2

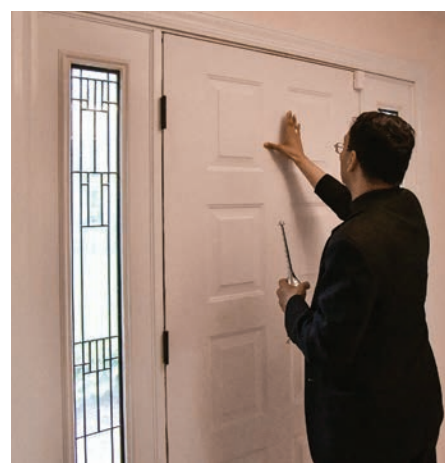


VOLUNTEER DAY

Catholic Social Services hosted a volunteer day in the diocese earlier this month that brought together individuals who assembled bags of assorted items to give to those in need, Page 5



A new St. John's Hermitage site is intended to serve as a sanctuary and place of rest for priests, deacons and seminarians.
CT photos by Ken Snow



Bishop Earl Fernandes rubs blessed salt on the front door to purify and protect the spaces inside the house and invoke divine protection from spiritual attacks.



Bishop Earl Fernandes blesses the interior of St. John's Hermitage house and guests with holy water on Friday, June 13.

Bishop blesses new St. John's Hermitage house for clergy

What began as a mission of gratitude and faith years ago has become a place of service.

St. John's Hermitage, a place of sanctuary and rest for priests, deacons and seminarians, will continue serving members of the clergy at its new location in Mount Vernon.

An open house and blessing of the new St. John's Hermitage, located in the heart of Knox County, was held Friday, June 13. Bishop Earl Fernandes was present to bless the house and grounds that afternoon.

The Hermitage was formerly located in McDermott in Scioto County. While the former site offered a remote, beautiful and quiet haven, the location was a two-hour drive from Columbus and two hours from Cincinnati.

The new Mount Vernon site, in contrast, is about an hour from Columbus and based at the crossroads of Ohio's northern dioceses: Toledo, Cleveland and Youngstown. The location will help the Hermitage achieve its mission to serve not only clergy in the Diocese of Columbus but the wider Church.

"St. John's Hermitage is, at its heart, a place of service," explained Chris Crum, president of the board. "Our mission is to aid priests, deacons and seminarians by providing a place of respite and renewal in a quiet pastoral setting." The site allows members of the clergy to come rest and recharge at no cost.

The Hermitage was founded by Jerry and Janet Henderson after years of discernment and prayerful conversations. In 2006, their son Jonathan, at age 22, battled Hodgkin's lymphoma. Priests accompanied them along the difficult path, offering comfort, anointing and reminders of Christ's love and mercy.

At the same time, the Hendersons, grateful for priestly guidance, witnessed a priest friend of theirs nearly broken by the weight of his ministry. They wondered, "Who will care for those who care for us?"

St. John's Hermitage was born from prayerfully discerning the answer.

The new location combines tranquility with connectivity, Crum noted in his remarks after the Hermitage's blessing. "The move is driven to better meet the needs of a rapidly changing priesthood."

National surveys point to a consensus that priests are experiencing significant burnout. American clergy have reported unprecedented stress. Younger priests are shown to be more likely to suffer burnout than older ones.

"In our own diocese, between 2010 and 2019, we ordained 24 priests. Twenty-one of them have already served as pastors or administrators. Today, only 12 remain in those roles," Crum shared.

"Consider the class of 2018: five priests ordained — all have become pastors. Today, only two still serve as pastors.

"By moving to Mount Vernon, we

sought dramatic change to address this burnout now, to provide a space priests can truly use before burnout becomes breakdown. St. John's Hermitage exists in direct response to this urgent need."

The new St. John's Hermitage site features several attractions nearby. Apple Valley Lake and Golf Club is located five minutes away, and Mohican State Park is about a 15-minute drive north.

The Mount Vernon home formerly belonged to a young couple, Adam and Maria Bremerkamp, and their five children. They relocated to St. Louis to serve as missionaries with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) apostolate, which primarily serves college campuses.

The Bremerkamps held FOCUS men's and women's Bible studies in the home. They had a vision for the future of the property, and upon learning about the Hermitage's needs, they found its mission closely aligned with theirs. The couple extended the first offer to St. John's Hermitage.

The home was in good condition and simply needed furnished.

"We're working on accessibility issues and outfitting the Hermitage with everything one might need for a pleasant stay," said Deacon Lou Griffith, vice president of the board. "We're planning on an outdoor Stations of the Cross walking path along with dedicated spaces for reflection, like our Marian shrine. With almost

10 acres, there's plenty of quiet space to experience."

The original Hermitage property in Scioto County — two adjacent parcels of land — was sold. One parcel, which featured a cabin on 66 acres of wooded hills, had belonged to founder Jerry, who died in June 2022, and was sold first.

The other parcel, also about 60 acres, was owned by the Hermitage's board. There were ideas to build on that land, but after finding the Mount Vernon site with a home built and ready for occupation, the remaining parcel of land in Scioto County was sold.

Selling the former property will help finance the new location. All members of the clergy — priests, deacons and seminarians — from Ohio dioceses and in neighboring states are invited to stay free of cost.

The site offers silence, solitude and serenity, Griffith explained, promoting reflection and refreshment. It allows clergy to heed Christ's command to "come away by yourselves to a lonely place and rest awhile" (Mark 6:31).

"(Pope) St. John Paul II insisted that priests should have times of 'rest, prayer, reflection and fraternal exchange,'" Crum added. "In offering this tranquil haven, we respond to those teachings and to Jesus' own example."



Front page photo

JUBILEE YEAR MASS FOR LATINO COMMUNITY

A Jubilee Year Mass for the Latino community in the diocese led by Bishop Earl Fernandes attracted more than 900 of the faithful to Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Friday, June 13.

Photo courtesy Anna Lincoln

The CATHOLIC TIMES

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Hundreds of Hispanics gather to celebrate Jubilee Mass at Cathedral

By Jessica Schira

For The Catholic Times

On Friday, June, 13, the feast of St. Anthony of Padua, Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral was overflowing with reverence and joy as more than 900 faithful Catholics filled the pews and spilled into the aisles to celebrate a Jubilee Mass for the Latino community dedicated to the Year of Hope.

Vibrant and colorful red, white and yellow flowers adorned the front of the altar and the pulpit, providing a festive atmosphere. The air was rich with incense, and the voices of the choir and the congregation echoed the devotion of the multitudes gathered for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Popular hymns and songs were led by musicians throughout the Mass. The sound of the choir's voices, together with the voices of the congregation crowded into the cathedral, gave the celebration a joyful, solemn quality.

The Mass was presided over by Bishop Earl Fernandes, who delivered a heartfelt homily that emphasized the importance of walking together as pilgrims on the journey toward heaven.

Bishop Fernandes urged all those in attendance to embody humility, charity and obedience to God's word and commandments, with a particular focus on loving their neighbor.

He encouraged the congregation to "give your neighbor the benefit of the doubt" and to "share the Good News." He reminded them that "Our God comes to save us from our sins and to offer us life in abundance."

Bishop Fernandes called the faithful to be people of prayer, reflecting on God's word, His love for us, the mysteries of

the faith, and the Eucharistic mystery.

He concluded by saying, "The graces God gives us and the gift of our faith are not only for ourselves; they are meant to be shared with our family members, friends, those who do not know Jesus, and future generations."

Eight priests and three deacons serving in the diocese, including religious order clergy from Theatines, Missionary Servants of the Word, Order of Preachers (Dominicans) and Capuchins, concelebrated Mass with Bishop Fernandes.

Before the final blessing at the Mass, Father David Arroyo, Vicar for the Office of Hispanic Ministry, expressed his gratitude by saying in Spanish, "Pueblo Hispano!" The congregation responded with "Peregrinos de Esperanza," which translates to "Hispanic people" and "Pilgrims of Hope!" He also thanked the volunteers, including hospitality, parking and choir members.

"This year emphasizes the importance of inner conversion and steadfast hope in God, as highlighted by the bishop," Father Arroyo said after Mass. "As a pilgrim people journeying through life, the ultimate goal remains heaven. In this spirit of grace, the Hispanic Ministry is actively collaborating with the diocese to organize pilgrimages and temple visits, which offer plenary indulgence opportunities.

"By fostering communication with parishes, the ministry encourages them to welcome Hispanics into their communities, reinforcing a shared commitment to faith and unity in the journey towards divine grace."

Bishop Fernandes also expressed his appreciation, saying, "You are the hope of the Diocese of Columbus. We love you and need you. ...



Bishop Earl Fernandes presents his homily at a Jubilee Mass for the Latino community on June 13 at St. Joseph Cathedral.
Photos courtesy Anna Lincoln

"We are pilgrims here, we are all together in this pilgrimage," he said. "Christ gives us the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, our food for the journey. We are all journeying toward heaven."

The celebration continued after Mass with a gathering behind the cathedral that included food, fellowship, festive music and dancing. Tours of the Museum of Catholic Art and History, located adjacent to the cathedral, provided an opportunity to view a variety of relics and religious items of particular interest to Latinos.

The event was coordinated by the diocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry and the direction of the diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis.

"The celebration of faith and culture within the Hispanic community reflects a profound commitment to the teachings of Jesus Christ," said Dr. Marlon De La Torre, senior director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. "This occasion serves as a significant opportunity to recognize the cultural heritage and traditions of the Hispanic communities within the diocese that profess one faith in Jesus Christ as faithful Catholic disciples under the leadership of Bishop Fernandes."

"The support for this initiative highlights the importance of these Catholic values embedded within the diverse Catholic Hispanic communities in Columbus. At the heart of this gathering

See JUBILEE MASS, Page 8



Dago Muskuera and his family return to their pew after Holy Communion at the Jubilee Year Mass for the Latino community on June 13 at St. Joseph Cathedral.



A relic is venerated by the faithful at St. Joseph Cathedral.



Father David Arroyo, Vicar for the Office of Hispanic Ministry, speaks to the congregation.

Petitions, not declarations, define Catholic prayer

What is prayer? St. John Damascene wrote, "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God." Some non-Catholic Christians have expanded the definition of prayer, emphasizing the authority of the believer to such an extent that, instead of requesting good things from God, the believer is told to command and change reality. Such commands are called decrees and declarations. For some, even the word "intercession" can refer to a believer using "authority and power" to make things happen.

These non-Catholic ideas about prayer began with 19th- and 20th-century Protestant preachers and missionaries. Revivalists like Charles Finney, before going to a town, would send someone ahead to pray for his upcoming mission; these men were called "intercessors" or "prayer warriors."

Later, Protestant missionaries in pagan lands who encountered opposition to their evangelizing efforts blamed hostile spiritual forces. Missionary leaders like John A. MacMillan of the Christian and Missionary Alliance advised them to use their power and authority to disarm hostile spiritual powers. For MacMillan, Christ assumed full authority when he took his seat at the right hand of the Father (see Heb 8:1).

Now, every born-again believer is also seated in the heavenly places (see Eph 1) along with Christ and shares in his full authority. God's people have power to command the "spirits of the air," the "principalities and powers" at work in this world. MacMillan taught that a believer could "command" the power shared with him by God: "God is waiting for those whom He can trust and use, who will have the discernment to foresee His steps and the faith to command His power. Authoritative intercessors are men and women, whose eyes have been opened to the full knowledge of their place in Christ."

MacMillan's ideas were spread by Kenneth Hagin and others in the Word of Faith movement; recently, they have been adopted by some Catholics. You can watch a YouTube video called "How to Make Your Prayers POWERFUL – Intercession" in which a Catholic layman urges his listeners to "unlock the God-given power you have

A SHEPHERD'S CARE

Father Thomas Buffer

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



inside of you ... when we know who we were created to be, then we're able to operate with power and authority."

In the New Apostolic Reformation, believers are told to use their authority to expel "territorial spirits." A territorial spirit is a demonic or spiritual force that has control or influence over people who live in a certain area. Demon-controlled areas are called "strongholds." In the New Testament, however, we don't see Christ or his followers casting out national, territorial, or generational spirits or teaching others to do so. When Christ gave his apostles and their successors authority to bind and loose, he said nothing about this kind of spiritual warfare. St. Paul advised the Ephesians to stand against evil forces by "putting on the full armor of God," embracing truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the word of God in constant prayer. He said nothing about using the believer's "power and authority" to command spirits.

Behind today's preachers of "power and authority" is "dominionism." Dominionism says that Adam and Eve had "intimacy" with God and authority over all creation. Then they stopped believing that God had given them a royal identity of being like God, and instead tried to earn their identity by taking and eating the fruit, thus handing dominion over creation to Satan. The devil tried to secure this authority, offering to give it to Jesus if he would worship him (cf. Luke 4:5-7). Jesus chose obedience to the Father, and reclaimed the dominion lost in the Fall. The risen Jesus handed this authority to his followers. Now all Christians have a royal identity and royal authority, including dominion over all creation, and the commission to destroy the works of the enemy: death, disease, disorder.

People in the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) believe they can make "declarations" or "decrees," "verbal statements spoken in faith that change reality." NAR megachurch Bethel Redding even sells a "declarations counter" you can use to count how many declarations you make every day. One Catholic influenced by the NAR has written, "Through your words, you are prophetically declaring what God the Father wants to bring about. You are boldly speaking into existence a particular way God wants to bring about His kingdom here and now. ... Whenever you make a proclamation of faith, you release God's power into the world. Every time you proclaim the things God wants to do, you activate grace in your own life to accomplish this."

All this goes against the basic Catholic definition of prayer. Our model of prayer is the Our Father, which is made of petitions, not declarations. Intercession, too, is a prayer of petition, not an exercise of the believer's authority.

St. Thomas Aquinas wrote, "... prayer is an act of reason, and consists in beseeching a superior; just as command is an act of reason, whereby an inferior is directed to something (ST IIaIIae, q 83, art 10, resp.)." Catholics cannot accept a redefinition of prayer that makes it into something other than a petition addressed to a superior. If you hear someone defining prayer in terms of power and authority, advancing the kingdom, demonstrating the power of the Holy Spirit, etc., you are not dealing with a reliable teacher.

What makes the prayer of Christians powerful? It is not that we are already seated in the heavenly places next to the risen Jesus Christ; it is the mediation of Jesus himself. He, the only Mediator between God and man, never ceases to intercede for us. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "The prayer of Jesus makes Christian prayer an efficacious petition. He is its model; He prays in us and with us. Since the heart of the Son seeks only what pleases the Father, how could the prayer of the children of adoption be centered on the gifts rather than the Giver?"

Reflections on Last Judgment from St. Augustine

I wanted to follow up from my last column on Christ coming to judge the living and the dead with a treatise on John from St. Augustine. The treatise was part of the Divine Office readings for March 30.

St. Augustine writes, "'The Lord tells us: I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' In these few words, he gives a command and makes a promise. Let us do what He commands so that we may not blush to covet what he promises and to hear him say on the day of judgment: 'I laid down certain conditions for obtaining my promises. Have you fulfilled them?' If you say, 'What did you command, Lord our God?' He will tell you, 'I commanded you to follow me. You asked for advice on how to enter into life. What life, if not the life about which it is written: With you is the fountain of life?'

"Let us do now what he commands. Let us follow in the footsteps of the Lord. Let us throw off the chains that prevent us from following him. Who can throw off these shackles without the aid of the one addressed in these words: You have broken my chains? Another Psalm says of him: The Lord frees those in chains, the Lord raises up the downcast.

"Those who have been freed and raised up follow the light. The light they follow speaks to them: I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in dark-

AQUINAS CORNER | Richard Arnold

Richard Arnold, a parishioner at Chillicothe St. Mary, holds an MA in Catechetics and Evangelization from Franciscan University of Steubenville and is a husband and a father to two children.



ness. The Lord gives light to the blind. Brethren, that light shines on us now, for we have had our eyes anointed with the eye-salve of faith. His saliva was mixed with earth to anoint the man born blind. We are of Adam's stock, blind from our birth; we need him to give us light. He mixed saliva with earth, and so it was prophesied: Truth has sprung up from the earth. He himself has said: I am the way, the truth, and the life.

"We shall be in possession of the truth when we see face to face. This is his promise to us. Who would dare to hope for something that God in his goodness did not choose to promise or bestow?

"We shall see face to face. The Apostle says: 'Now I know in part, now obscurely through a mirror, but then face to face.' John the Apostle says in one of his letters: 'Dearly beloved, we are now children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be. We know that when he is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.' This is a great promise.

"If you love me, follow me. 'I do love you,' you protest,

but how do I follow you? If the Lord your God said to you: 'I am the truth and the life,' in your desire for truth, in your love for life, you would certainly ask him to show you the way to reach them. You would say to yourself: 'Truth is a great reality, life is a great reality; if only it were possible for my soul to find them!'

Some final thoughts. One of St. Augustine's thoughts that stands out is the idea of "being in possession of the truth when we see (Christ) face to face." A hard or suppressed truth rises to the surface when we are somehow confronted with it like when we have been hurt and are confronted by a loved one. This is why confession is so powerful. In a powerful way, we come face to face with "the truth" and we sometimes don't want to see the light of truth. When we see Christ face to face, we will face what we can't avoid.

If we lived in darkness, we would know no greater sorrow at seeing and knowing the truth when we will have denied the Lord who will say face to face, "Depart from me ..."

If we lived in a dim or obscured light, we would experience both joy and sorrow, and our sorrows will be cleansed in Purgatory.

If we have lived in the light, we will know no greater joy when He says face to face, "well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your master."

Volunteers participate in Catholic Social Services' community day

Catholic Social Services (CSS) brought together volunteers from across the diocese this month for a day of community, compassion and hands-on service. The event, rooted in the spirit of "neighbors serving neighbors," offered diocesan members the opportunity to live their faith through action.

The event, held Wednesday, June 11 in an open-house style gathering, united parishioners, students, families and clergy from all corners of the diocese to support CSS ministries. Volunteers spent the day packing care bags for individuals experiencing homelessness, seniors facing loneliness and families in need.

"We are putting together more than 1,000 kits that will serve youth, the homeless, seniors and people living with disabilities. There will be snack kits and also hygiene kits that will be distributed throughout the community after today's event," explained Diana Pagan, community engagement specialist at CSS. "We have 80 people registered to volunteer, and we're anticipating that more than 100 will come out to help."

Pagan coordinates volunteerism with CSS outreach programs, including the organization's Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLG) Center, which is located on the west side of Columbus and serves the Latino community.

Volunteer Day served as a living example of the diocesan mission: putting faith into action by caring for the poor and marginalized. Throughout the day, participants reflected on Catholic Social Teaching, connected with individuals from different parishes and saw how small acts of service can make a big difference.

The day of service highlighted the deep

generosity and unity in the Columbus diocese as CSS continues its mission to transform lives and strengthen families. It was a reminder that, when neighbors come together to serve, the whole community is blessed.

"This was a day to be the hands and feet of Christ," said Julie Naporano, vice president of development at CSS. "It's more than just volunteering. It's about standing in solidarity with those we serve and showing that every person is a valued part of our community."

The event included a free participant t-shirt and lunch provided by Taquizas El Cobijas, owned by Martin Garcia, a graduate of CSS' business incubator program.

Taquizas El Cobijas provides catering services for private events and small festivals. Garcia served Mexican street food to participants during CSS' volunteer day. His business was one of the first to complete the organization's Mercadito Raices (Root Market), a small business incubator program offered at the OLG Center.

Kelley Henderson, president and CEO at CSS, said Mercadito Raices was founded about three years ago for Spanish-speaking clients at the OLG Center desiring to start a business.

"Jesse and Martin Garcia were a couple of our clients who had a business before in Chicago. Then COVID happened and their restaurant struggled to stay afloat, so they relocated to Columbus. They started in our small business incubator and have emerged very successfully," Henderson said.

The program helped the Garcias and other clients do business in Franklin County. They learned about acquiring permits, insurance, banking and filing taxes. In addition to teaching individuals

how to be successful entrepreneurs in the community, CSS offered financial support to get businesses started.

Jesse and Martin, who participated in the program in 2023, returned and currently serve in the peer group. They encourage the next generation of entrepreneurs by showing that success is possible.

The program's Latino-based businesses include food, lawn care, cleaning, coaching and product vendors. The 2023 class, which had nine participants, has since

achieved double digits and continues growing.

"Last year, we had both a 19- and 22-entrepreneur class," Henderson noted. "And now, we have a class of 35, which we expect to graduate in August – 35 new businesses that are creating jobs in Columbus."

For more information about upcoming volunteer opportunities with CSS, visit www.colssc.org/volunteer or call 614-857-1232.



Bishop Earl Fernandes provides some assistance assembling one of the kits for those in need.



Anthony Pfister, 8, a member of Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church, holds a card he made to be given to a recipient at the community day. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



Martin Garcia, owner of Taquizas El Cobijas catering, carves meat for tacos that were provided to volunteers at Catholic Social Services' community day.



Volunteers fill bags with rosaries, toiletries and other items at Catholic Social Services' community day on June 11.

Equestrian Order gathers for annual Mass with bishop



The Columbus Section of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem held its annual Mass with Bishop Earl Fernandes on Tuesday, June 10 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. Approximately 60 members of the order attended, including Bishop Fernandes, Father Bob Penhallurick, Father PJ Brandmarti and Deacon Paul Zemanek, who are also members.

CT photo by Ken Snow



Bishop Earl Fernandes elevates the chalice during a Mass for the Columbus Section of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre on June 10 at St. Joseph Cathedral. Also at the altar are (from left) Deacon Paul Zemanek, Father Bob Penhallurick and Father PJ Brandmarti, who are members of the order.

CT photo by Ken Snow

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Greater Columbus Right to Life celebrates 50 years, looks to future

A packed house of supporters gathered at the Villa Milano restaurant in Columbus on Monday, June 9 for Greater Columbus Right to Life's Banquet -- An Evening with Jason Shanks.

This year, the annual dinner was a special one as it celebrated the organization's 50th anniversary. Dozens of past and current leaders, including Mike and Peggy Hartshorn, attended. Also on hand was Meade O'Boyle, founder of many pro-life organizations across the country, including Greater Columbus Right to Life (GCRTL), who traveled from Louisiana for the celebration.

The event also welcomed home former Greater Columbus Right to Life president Jason Shanks, who currently serves as the president of the National Eucharistic Congress.

Though the event was deemed a celebration, Shanks and current GCRTL president Beth Vanderkooi acknowledged that it may not feel as if there is much to celebrate.

Both recognized that while those in the movement are naturally hopeful and joyful, the pro-life faithful in Ohio are tired. They are fatigued, angry, sad and discouraged. The road since the passage of Issue 1 in 2023 has been incredibly difficult for organizations like Greater Columbus Right to Life and its supporters.

With state laws no longer protecting the most vulnerable among us, a heavy political and social climate in Ohio has left many pro-life faithful wondering how to continue and where to go from here.

In Vanderkooi's opening remarks, she touched on the four wounds of abortion. The first three wounds of abortion, she explained, are inflicted to the victims of abortion -- the unborn and their families -- and the wound to society at large. The fourth wound of abortion, however, is experienced by those dedicated to the cause of life and the battle-weary.

She reminded everyone that they are redeemed to be a people of life. Simply put, defenders of life do not have to worry about what happened on election day in 2023 when they know what happened on Easter Sunday so many years ago.

It is in this vein that Greater Columbus Right to Life is reigniting a vision of redemption and renewal.

In Shanks' talk, he shared the seemingly overwhelming odds that he has overcome in his life -- the miraculous healing that he experienced from COVID-19 after being intubated and placed in a coma for 45 days in the ICU. Pro-lifers must continue to pivot, he said, and continue to fight.

He shared a vision in which abortion will end by 2033, 2,000 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, and he



Jason Shanks

offered eight anchors to guide this next chapter as an organization and community of life. These anchors began with the idea that freedom is ordered toward truth and ended with the idea that the final word is hope.

Greater Columbus Right to Life has announced that over the next 12 weeks they will be sharing a different aspect of their reignited vision and work as it relates to each one of these eight anchors.

The evening concluded on a hopeful note with an invitation to consider a path forward and to embrace a new vision for what it means to be pro-life in Ohio.

Father Bob Penhallurick, the diocese's director of pro-life ministries and pastor at Columbus St. Catharine of Siena Church, led the crowd in praying the Pro-life Prayer, a keepsake offered to each individual in attendance, that concluded with the encouraging words "Lord, in our work for you, may we find you. As we build a culture of life, may we find life eternal. In our efforts to change the world, may we be changed."

It was also announced that Greater Columbus Right to Life will host an upcoming summer social for pro-life faithful and a Faithful at the End of Life event with Fr. Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D., a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts who serves as senior ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, on Saturday, Aug. 15 and Friday, Oct. 10, respectively.

Learn more about the programs that Greater Columbus Right to Life offers from their Speaker's Bureau and Community Education Program and Sidewalk Ministry Program to their Faithful at the End of Life Resource by visiting gcrtl.org/programs. More information about becoming involved is available at gcrtl.org/volunteer.

Digital screens in church?

Dear Father,
My pastor does not allow projection screens in our church. He says that the bishops are against them. But I've seen them in other churches. What's the correct answer? Are they allowed or not?

-Neo

Dear Neo,

Your pastor is correct: The bishops are trying to get us away from using projection screens in church. The USCCB has this to say: "The current policy of the Committee on Divine Worship [of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops] is that permission is not granted to project readings and liturgical texts on screens during the liturgy. The bishops have the perspective that since so many people spend much of their time looking at screens, the Sacred Liturgy ought to be a prayerful break from that experience. The bishops also believe that screens are a distraction from what is actually taking place in the liturgy."

The Bishops show their cultural understanding in the acknowledgement that "so many people spend much of their time looking at screens." Many people these days are trying to get away from their screens, especially during vacations or at home. People are opting for "dumbphones" to get away from excessive screen time. A recent study published by the National Library of Medicine noted that "three weeks of screen time reduction showed small to medium effect sizes on depressive symptoms, stress, sleep quality, and well-being."

Many people are trying to limit their smartphone

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.



use, as they recognize an unhealthy dependence on them for various reasons. Some are struggling with a quasi-addiction to websites with lewd content. Other people are dominated by social media websites. Still others can't stop watching the news or reading their email.

Parents are limiting the amount of time they permit their children to use screens, particularly young ones, according to the Pew Research Center. As reasons for restricting screen time, parents cite the desire to have quality time with their children without the distractions that screens create. Many schools are moving toward less screen time for their students and more time with actual print material.

One might think that at least in church he or she can escape screen usage, only to find yet another bright screen in front of them.

How many times have we been in a restaurant with multiple digital screens? It's almost impossible to focus on the person you're dining with when the screens keep flickering to get your attention. It's the same in church, too. We should look at the tabernacle or the crucifix when we are praying and reflecting before Mass. We need to focus on the unfolding mystery of the Holy Eucharist as we join our prayers with the priest's, not on the music or words

on a screen. Parents want their children to view the Mass and pray rather than viewing a screen in the sanctuary.

Another issue with digital screens in church is copyright infringement. However, even with a license to project readings and music, the screens are distracting; they also block the beauty of the sanctuary and its liturgical appointments.

Listening is also crucial. When the Word of God is proclaimed, we should hear it not only with our ears but with our souls. God wants to communicate with us, and this means we need to pause from reading, whether it's something on the screen or even our prayer books. Monthly liturgical prayer books are very helpful, whether we review the readings before Mass or re-read them afterward. Learning to hear God's voice at Mass helps us to attune our hearts to his voice at other times of the day.

We should put our books down during the readings (apart from foreign language difficulties). That's why we have lectors and clergy who proclaim the readings. If we're all going to read together, what would be the point of a verbal proclamation? Mass is not a time for teaching catechism; it's a time for sacred, sacrificial worship.

Perhaps you are familiar with the "Kill your television" movement. For Catholic churches, this means replacing digital screens with beautiful architecture, installing attractive stained-glass windows, and setting up statues and images of Christ, our Blessed Mother, and the saints. Stunning works of art can inspire devotion and support our prayers.

Let's keep screens out of our churches where they don't belong. Let our churches be safe havens for intimacy with God.

Understanding a deeper sense of intimacy

My teenage son walked through the kitchen the other day as my husband and I were embracing and mumbled to himself that he was going to write his own book. It would be called *How I Survived My Parents' Romantic Marriage: A Tell All!* This made me laugh but also reinforced that we are doing something right.

It has long been a goal for my husband and me that our children grow up in a healthy marriage where love and affection are displayed in many forms. They hear sweet words spoken between us and read notes left by the coffee pot or tea cup. They see us embrace and kiss as we are folding laundry. They join in as we pray our rosary in our rocking chairs on the front porch and sometimes walk by in wonder (or embarrassment) as we dance in the kitchen. It is a blessed marriage and we cling to these moments with immense gratitude and humility. With 28 years of marriage behind us, we know the work it takes to keep the lights on.

Intimacy is often thought of in a sexual way, especially when I speak to engaged couples who are preparing to be married. The truth is that intimacy starts way before marriage and needs to be nurtured continuously throughout the years together.

If you think of the definition of the word intimacy, a deeper knowing of that person would perhaps come to mind. To say you know someone intimate-

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.



ly means you are trusted with their thoughts and their heart. If we back that up and ask ourselves what is necessary to get to that momentous place, we can see that intimacy is in fact born out of trust, vulnerability, and a desire to know the other on a deeper level. We build intimacy through listening to the other, serving the other, and having eyes to see their needs and wants. We sit with them in their sorrows and we rejoice with them in their successes. St. Thomas Aquinas says that, "Love is to will the good of the other." Intimacy is built with thoughts and actions such as these.

I recently had a talk about relationships with my teenage daughter who is soon to head to college. We talked about what it looks like to live in a balanced relationship and she said, "Mom, I think when you love someone, you think of their needs above your own, and ideally they do the same, and that brings a level of trust that both your needs will be met." I smiled at this sentiment because hopefully she sees this idealism lived out.

There is a reality that life with its hardships and

unexpected surprises often mandates that the scales tip a little with one giving more for a season. We have walked through seasons where loving someone intimately means that we dip into our reserves to care for the kids or each other; seasons where we dig deep and remind ourselves of who we are as a couple.

Ironically, I remember those seasons with a depth of wonder. Having eight kids means many opportunities to grow in grace. I remember holding onto each other as we trudged up the stairs to change medicines in an IV for our daughter or bandages for our son. Seasons where my husband traveled frequently and for long periods, and I balanced home, work and kids by myself and a season where cancer hit our family and my husband balanced his job, caring for me and the children.

The beauty is that through it all, we fell more in love with each other. Intimacy is a goal for our marriage and we continue to strive toward it. Even in the difficult, we dance in that kitchen. We snuggle under blankets, and we thank God for the gift of one another. 1 Peter chapter 4:8 says, "Above all else love each other deeply." An intimate life in all its forms and beauty comes from intentions such as these.

MaryBeth Eberhard writes at www.marybetheberhard.com

JUBILEE MASS, continued from Page 3

lies the celebration of the Mass, which represents our identity as Catholics. It invites the community to deepen their sense of hope and commitment, fostering a strong relationship with Jesus

Christ, who is truly present in the Holy Eucharist.

"The respectful cultural expressions of the Hispanic communities within the Mass embody our baptismal identity



After the Jubilee Year Mass for the Latino community, food was made available in the alley behind St. Joseph Cathedral.



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rooted in the Trinity, meant to strengthen the bonds of community and spiritual life."

Dr. De La Torre said he hoped the Latino community would be encouraged to evangelize and embrace their Catholic faith, particularly during the Jubilee year.

"The encouragement of the Hispanic community is rooted in the understanding of the Cross of Jesus and His love," he said. "This Jubilee year provides us with an opportunity to celebrate our identity as children of God and affirm our relationship with Jesus Christ through our baptism, empowering everyone to proclaim and share the word of God. It's essential to promote the gospel of Jesus Christ and to reach out to those hesitant or disconnected from their faith, creating a welcoming path back home to the Catholic Church."

Riquelmi Folgar, 33, one of the hospitality volunteers, said he believes the gathering will continue to enrich the faith of the Latino community.

"Being present in the Cathedral and participating in this Eucharist with the

Bishop serves as a blessing, inspiring a sense of pilgrimage filled with hope, even amidst the adversities faced by young adults," Folgar said. "During this Jubilee year, the Church emphasizes the importance of the sacraments and the promise of heaven, encouraging everyone to continually strive towards that hope."

Sister Laura Mosqueda Morado, who is responsible for the formation of lay missionaries within the community of the Sister Missionaries of the Word (HMSW), expressed her heartfelt joy to see so many people worshipping the Lord.

"This Mass was a profoundly beautiful experience, serving as a great blessing that highlights the importance of hope in our lives," she said. "It emphasizes the necessity of maintaining hope in the face of discouragement, encouraging individuals to focus on their spiritual journey toward heaven."

"This perspective fosters a mindful consideration of eternity while navigating life on earth. Such moments reinforce the belief that hope is essential for perseverance and growth."



Bishop Earl Fernandes takes time for photos and to interact with children and families after the Jubilee Year Mass for the Latino community.



Members of the Columbus St. Agnes choir provide musical entertainment during the outdoor gathering behind St. Joseph Cathedral after the Jubilee Year Mass for the Latino community on Friday, June 13.
Photos courtesy Anna Lincoln

Diocese's pro-life office hosts Senior Citizens Day

Senior citizens from across the diocese came to Columbus St. Catharine of Siena Church on June 12 for the annual Senior Citizens Day, a celebration that focuses on the dignity and the unique role that they have in society.

The event was hosted by the Office of Pro-Life Ministries, which is a department of the Vicariate for Social Doctrine. This is the first time that the office has hosted the event.

Angelita Canlas, administrative assistant to the Vicariate for Social Doctrine, was one of the main organizers

of the event.

"It is important that our office emphasizes the importance and dignity of each human person, regardless of their age," said Mary Kristof, associate director of the Office of Pro-Life Ministries. "It is a blessing to celebrate senior citizens."

More than 130 senior citizens attended the event, with some coming from as far away as Portsmouth.

Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrated Mass with Fathers Bob Penhallurick and Frank Brown from St. Catharine of

Siena Church. Father Penhallurick is also the director of the Office of Pro-Life Ministries. Deacon Dave Bezusko of the Office of Catholic Charities served as the deacon at Mass.

Bishop Fernandes highlighted the importance of wisdom. The Gospel reading of the day came from Matthew's Gospel, where Christ begins the Sermon on the Mount.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus communicates divine wisdom that is greater than anything taught by Moses or the Pharisees. Bishop Fernandes said that each person who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation receives wisdom, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit that helps Christians live well.

The bishop continued to explain that seniors play such an important role in society because they have grown in

wisdom and can share that wisdom with future generations. He said seniors should not be shut away but appreciated for the virtues that they have cultivated throughout their lives.

After Mass, seniors gathered in the parish hall for lunch, which was catered by Scotty's Café, a local restaurant.

Those who attended were grateful for the time to spend together and with Bishop Fernandes. It was also a good time for seniors to catch up with those who come to the event year after year as well as to meet new friends.

Catholic Social Services also hosted several tables of seniors who participate in its programming.

For more information on the annual Senior Citizens Day, please email pro-life@columbuscatholic.org.



Seniors gather at Columbus St. Catharine of Siena Church on June 12 for the annual Senior Citizens Day hosted by the Office of Pro-Life Ministries. Photos courtesy William Keimig



The diocese's Senior Citizens Day provides an opportunity to meet new people and to get together with old friends.



The diocese's annual Senior Citizens Day included Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes at Columbus St. Catharine of Siena Church on June 12.

What the world needs now is peace

Recently, I was in Europe with my wife, and we spent a day in Berlin, Germany. It is a beautiful city in general, but it is also very somber and poignant in places. One of the things we noticed was that nearly all the older buildings that had not been destroyed during World War II are pockmarked with countless bullet and shrapnel holes. At one point, as I walked along, I stopped, reached up and touched some of those holes, which are generally about the size of a nickel or quarter.

It gave me a lot to think about, reminding me how terribly scarred our world is by war, not just 80 years ago when Berlin fell but today as well. There is turbulence, anger, war, harm and damage around the world and even, to a lesser degree, here in our own country. Clearly, we need true peace.

With that in mind, I also recalled Jesus' wounded body — how the injuries from the violence of His passion and death still showed after His glorious resurrection, and His first words to the Apostles were, "Peace be with you."

All this led me to consider Pope Leo XIV's first words on the balcony in the Vatican when he was introduced as our new Holy Father: "Peace be with you." He was reflecting on Jesus' words to the Apostles after His resurrection. And, Pope Leo added to those four words that



A wall of a building in Berlin remains pockmarked from bullets during World War II. Photo courtesy Deacon Tom Berg Jr.

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.



we listened to so joyfully: "Dearest brothers and sisters, this is the first greeting of the Risen Christ, the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for the flock of God. I too wish that this greeting of peace may enter our hearts and reach your families, all people wherever they may be, every nation, the whole world: peace be with you."

The Holy Father was not just wishing peace upon the people there, not just peace to his Catholic flock around the world, but peace to all people everywhere, no matter who they are, with no limitations on who deserved the blessing of peace.

We recently celebrated the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, and in the second reading that day, St. Paul's words about peace rang out clearly from sacred scripture: "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ ..." (Romans 5:1). Peace, and the grace that comes with it, are presented throughout sacred scripture. The challenge for us today is to consider that word peace in the midst of the scarred and wounded world we live in and then both seek out peace in our lives and be peacemakers.

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul gives us the key to accomplishing that. The path to true peace and being a peacemaker is through God the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. God's peace is not just the absence of war, injury, anger, violence. It also a love for others — all others — not just the people who are like us, not just the ones who are likeminded with us. No. It is everyone. No matter who they are.

Pope Leo, on that first day of his papacy, also said, "This is the peace of the Risen Christ — a peace that is disarmed and disarming, humble and enduring. It

comes from God, who loves us all unconditionally."

Jesus promises His followers throughout time that in the Holy Trinity that God is, we are able to find our way through life's struggles and discover true peace in the Lord, a peace not based on our wants but on God's love, a peace that sets aside differences and disputes for the greater good, a peace that can even lead to enemies eventually becoming forgiving friends.

Through the Trinity, we find peace in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and we are called to model ourselves on His example and teaching, being the same loving peacemaker Jesus was. He became human to walk with us and help us understand God more deeply. Each time we are at Mass, the Eucharist nourishes us, strengthening us to be peace filled and peacemakers.

Through the Trinity, we have the Father, who created the universe and, out of love, gave us the incredible gift of life, intelligence and awareness. Let's appreciate what the Father has done for us and not lay waste to what the Father created. Let us turn to peace and be in harmony with whom and what God created out of love for us.

Through the Trinity, we have the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus tells us the Spirit will glorify Him, "because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason, I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you."

The Father and Son sends the Spirit to be our guide, our source of wisdom. Let us turn to the Spirit in prayer, asking for help, prayers like the "Come Holy Spirit" or similar requests for that wisdom and guidance.

Let us go forth every day with the true peace of God in our minds and hearts, ready, through our humble trust in God, to be peacemakers who offer not just words of peace to others but who take actions that foster peace: charitable responses to others, actions of care and concern, a willingness to forgive others for their faults and trespasses, and actions that make amends for our own faults and trespasses against others. Let us benefit from and grow through the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit who created us, nourishes us, and guides us.

Record-breaking 1,236,584 diapers donated during drive

The numbers are in — and they're nothing short of miraculous.

This year, the World's Largest Diaper Drive, a program created and managed by Bottoms Up Diaper Bank in partnership with hundreds of churches, schools, civic organizations and generous individuals across Ohio, collected 1,236,584 diapers for families in need.

As impressive as the results of this year's drive are, Bottoms Up president Jo Welsh kept it all in perspective.

"That's not just a new record. It's a massive outpouring of compassion, measured in tens of thousands of dry bottoms of babies and the relieved sighs of struggling parents," she said.

"At Bottoms Up," Welsh said, "we think that no baby should lie in pain and no mother should cry in shame. Thanks to the many churches, schools, civic organizations and individuals, this diaper drive turned those words into action over 1.2 million times."

Diaper need is more than dollars and

cents. It's about babies who go too long in the same diaper, developing painful rashes and infections that linger. It's about moms who scrape together coins just to buy a few diapers to get by.

It's about dignity.

Many daycares require parents to provide a day's worth of diapers before a child can be dropped off. That means if you don't have diapers, you can't work. If you can't work, you can't afford diapers. It's a vicious, heartbreaking cycle.

The 1,236,584 diapers collected this year are more than just a commodity. They represent broken barriers and hope delivered. They offer some breathing room for a mother who has been in survival mode for far too long.

These diapers didn't appear by magic. They came from caring individuals and organizations -- from a high school class that organized a diaper challenge, from a parish that filled its pews with packs of Pampers, from businesses that turned lobbies into donation hubs, and from

families that bought one extra box each time they went to the store.

There were kids who donated their allowance, seniors who collected diapers instead of birthday gifts, clergy who preached not just about charity but about action, and volunteers who spent hours counting, sorting and boxing 1,236,584 diapers.

Each act of kindness became a thread in the fabric of something extraordinary.

From small rural churches to bustling suburban schools, from city offices to neighborhood food pantries, the movement reached the hearts of many. It's a testament to what happens when people of faith, good will and heart unite for a cause that touches the most vulnerable among us: our babies.

This drive was made possible by everyday heroes — people who chose to give when it mattered most. They didn't just donate diapers. They delivered hope. They gave families something they will never forget: the knowledge

that someone cared enough to help.

Welsh is clear-headed about what lies ahead.

"While we celebrate this record-breaking success, we also remember this: The need doesn't stop when the World's Largest Diaper Drive ends," she explained.

"Bottoms Up Diaper Bank will continue distributing diapers to families all year long. Diapers will go to food pantries, childcare facilities, domestic abuse shelters, pregnancy centers and directly into the hands of those who need them. Every week, more families reach out. And thanks to this amazing display of generosity, we'll be there to say yes.

"I think we didn't just make history. I think we've made a difference."

For more information or to get involved, reach out to Welsh at jo@bottomsup.life or visit www.bottomsup.life.

Sacred Heart pilgrims complete 3-day, 133-mile walk to three parishes

To say that four faithful men worked hard to gain plenary indulgences during the waning days of the Jubilee of the Sacred Heart of Jesus would be an understatement.

These four men, supported by their families and others, covered 133 miles in three days while walking in shifts to visit three of the four churches in the diocese designated by Bishop Earl Fernandes for plenary indulgences.

Starting Thursday morning, June 12, after daily Mass at Cardington Sacred Hearts Church, the men, accompanied for stretches by some of the children in their large families, walked along backroads and highways throughout the day and overnight to reach Coshocton Sacred Heart Church early Friday morning for Mass. They continued on to Columbus Sacred Heart Church after receiving a blessing from Sacred Heart pastor Father Tom Gardner, reaching their final destination several hours before the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday, June 14.

Along the way, these hearty pilgrims stopped to pray, rest and refuel at Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul Church and Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, where they spent time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at both parishes and considered that time a special grace.

One member of the group made a brief visit to Newark Blessed Sacrament Church, and the men spent Friday night resting and praying at Granville St. Edward the Confessor Church before embarking on the final leg of their journey to Columbus.

Visitors to diocesan churches named for the Sacred Heart of Jesus were able to gain a plenary indulgence during the Jubilee Year, which started Dec. 27, 2023 and ended June 27, 2025, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, by praying for the pope's intentions, reciting the Litany of the Sacred Heart, going to confession and receiving the Eucharist within a reasonable time of the visit. A plenary indulgence removes all temporal punishment related to sin for the person fulfilling those conditions.

The jubilee in the worldwide Catholic Church spanned three years celebrating the 350th anniversary of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in France in 1673, 1674 and 1675. During those three years, Jesus requested the nine First Fridays devotion to make reparation to His Eucharistic Heart.

The four men making the diocesan Sacred Heart pilgrimage are members of the Crucifers, a lay organization they formed for Catholic men and boys intended to challenge each other to grow in faith and to provide opportunities for fathers to encourage their sons to live a holy life.

Kurtis Kiesel, 45, a father of 10 whose family attends Cardington Sacred Hearts Church and Columbus St. Leo the Great Oratory, described the intent of the walking pilgrimage as twofold.



Father Ed Shikina blesses the Sacred Heart pilgrims at Cardington Sacred Hearts Church before the start of their walk on June 12.

CT photo by Ken Snow



The Sacred Heart pilgrims and some of their children walk along a highway at the start of the three-day, 133-mile journey.

CT photo by Ken Snow



The Sacred Heart pilgrims stop to pray for the dead at a cemetery along their route.

CT photo by Ken Snow



Kurtis Kiesel carries a Sacred Heart flag on a rural road.

Photos courtesy Sacred Heart pilgrims



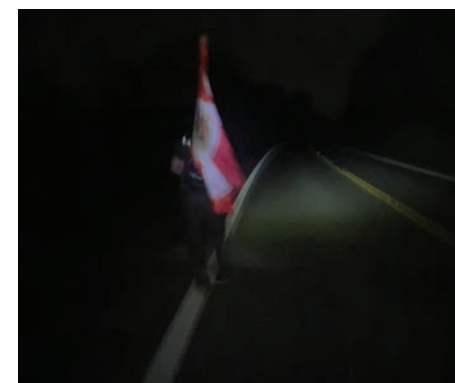
The Sacred Heart pilgrims walk for miles and miles through farm country.

Photo courtesy Sacred Heart pilgrims



The pilgrims spend time in prayer along their route.

Photo courtesy Sacred Heart pilgrims



One of the Sacred Heart pilgrims walks through the night to Coshocton Sacred Heart Church.

Photo courtesy Sacred Heart pilgrims

"Obviously, the primary reason is to gain the indulgences that our bishop has granted us," he said before the start of the three-day marathon. "We're taking advantage of this opening of the treasury of grace by the Church to be able to release souls from Purgatory."

The second virtue associated with the

pilgrimage, he explained, was prowess or strength.

"This was sort of like a challenge," Kiesel said. "We could drive to Sacred Heart in Coshocton from here (Cardington Sacred Hearts) if we wanted to, but walking is a lot more virtuous. So we offer those penances up for other people in the diocese who've given us some prayer re-

quests."

Kiesel and companions – Chad Hamberg, 46, a member of St. Leo Oratory and the father of seven; Patrick Foley, 31, who attends Columbus Holy Family Church and is the father of seven; and Jason Yoakam, 34, a member of Old St. Mary's

See PILGRIMS, Page 13



TAKE ACTION:

Ask Your Members of Congress to Support the Religious Worker Protection Act

St. Vincent Family Center presents Huddy with Corcoran Award



Mark Huddy (second from left) received the St. Vincent Family Services' Corcoran Award on June 5 at its annual fundraising event. Huddy has served as St. Vincent Family Services' (SVFS) resident historian and on the board of trustees since 1998. He retired last year as the diocese's Episcopal Moderator for Catholic Charities and Social Concerns. His leadership saw SVFS through decades of growth and change, helping to keep the organization and campus running safely and effectively. Joining him at the event were (from left) Susan Lewis Kaylor, SVFS president and CEO; Msgr. Joseph Hendricks, who serves as Bishop Earl Fernandes' delegate for community relations in the diocese; and Deacon Dave Bezusko, the diocese's director for Catholic Charities. Also in attendance were Sisters Regina Snyder and Christella Ritchey, members of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity religious order (known as the Stella Niagara Franciscans) who have a 150-year history with SVFS and were the first to minister there. That same evening, SVFS child residents were invited to join in the fun at the annual Columbus St. Catharine of Siena Church festival. The youth living at St. Vincent Family Services' Residential Treatment Center from ages 5 to 12 were treated to an evening of food and fun thanks to a sponsorship by the St. Catharine Knights of Columbus, who provided entry for every SVFS resident and wristbands for rides and food.

Photo courtesy St. Vincent Family Services

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PILGRIMS, continued from Page 11

Church in Cincinnati – came up with the pilgrimage idea about a year ago.

When the day finally arrived to turn the pilgrimage into a reality, they received a blessing after Mass before setting out on foot along Route 42 from Father Ed Shikina, pastor at Cardington Sacred Hearts and Marion St. Mary churches.

The group members knew before the start of the walk that they would encounter some difficulties.

“You know, obviously, that this is something that's going to hurt,” Kiesel said. “Maybe we'll be saying this is kind of crazy. By the time we get to St. Edward on Friday night, we'll probably be like, ‘What were we thinking?’

“But it's a chance for us to not necessarily prove our strength but to do something that's manly and difficult, and also it'll help promote the Sacred Heart ministry at the same time.”

It goes without saying that the walkers were more than pleased to reach the end of the line on Saturday afternoon at Columbus Sacred Heart Church, where the tired but resilient men talked and rested before the beginning of the Vigil Mass.

“We want to get our indulgence for the day,” Kiesel said while waiting for a wedding that was taking place in the church to end.

Reflecting on the arduous trip, the men talked about blisters, cramping, soreness and the challenges presented to them.

One of the men shared that, not even 20 miles into the pilgrimage on Thursday, he was already tired, likely because of the heat and humidity.

One hilly stretch was expected to be a particular challenge, but walkers were able to get through what they expected to be an eight-hour leg of the trip in three to four hours.

Walking through the night didn't bother them. In fact, they welcomed the cooler temperatures. On Thursday evening, the walkers ran out of water but survived due to the cooler conditions.

The pilgrims used lights at night not only to see where they were going but to be seen on the roads.

Passing through miles of farmland, the walkers carried flags representing the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. They found it surprising that Amish horses would go to the other side of the road because the animals were afraid of the flags.

On Friday, the pilgrims arrived at Coshocton Sacred Heart at 4:45 a.m., when Kiesel stretched out a sleeping bag outside the church and waited for the others to arrive before the 9 a.m. Friday Mass.

The longest stretch that any of the walkers finished before being relieved was 19 miles. Some of the beautiful moments that stood out to them in addition to adoration and prayer were watching the sunrise, hearing the chirping and



Kurtis Kiesel (left) and Chad Hamberg walk toward their final destination at Columbus Sacred Heart Church.

deer rustling, witnessing the countryside and enjoying the serenity.

Walking in mostly rural settings, there weren't many opportunities to evangelize. But passers-by did honk or show approval with thumbs-up gestures. Only one driver, they said, felt compelled to angrily honk at them.

“But it's always great when someone asks you, ‘Can I get a prayer request?’ Kiesel said.

And pray they did. Each of them prayed multiple rosaries (up to 25) for special intentions.

They prayed not only for their families and personal intentions but for specific requests that came into the group's website.

And they prayed for the dead at eight to 10 cemeteries along the route.

“That was powerful,” Kiesel said.

The four finishers said immediately after the walk that it was too early to think about making future pilgrimages.

“I think to some degree it gives you time to reflect,” Kiesel said. “It gives you time to really pray and, when you get there (to each destination) it seems like there's a special connection.”

There's also the penitential act that comes from exerting the body to go beyond what's comfortable.

“It's really hard to be attached to venial sin when you're trying to walk all day,” Kiesel said.

In addition to the indulgences the men sought to receive, they hope the graces from their pilgrimage will bear good fruit in their souls.

“We'll be able to see the face of God in our problems,” Kiesel said. “That's a great blessing to have. And it'll be a more unified and a stronger relationship with our Lord.

“I don't speak for everybody, but I think your devotion to the Sacred Heart probably will be increased a little bit too



The end of the three-day journey is in sight for the pilgrims as they approach Columbus Sacred Heart Church on Saturday, June 14.

and we'll think about it more often with First Fridays and First Saturday.

“I think that it'll probably allow them to reflect a little bit more on their own relationship with God. And it'll be like, ‘Well, if they do that, I can certainly go to church a little more frequently. I could put in a little more effort.’

As Hamberg considered the pain he was feeling from blisters, his wife re-

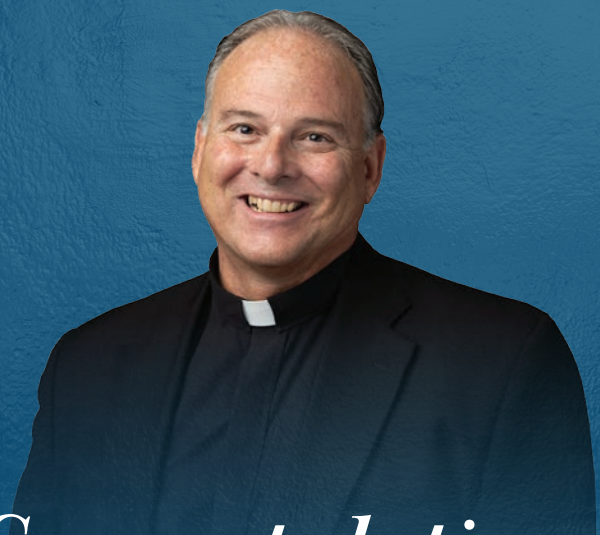


Time for some rest at Columbus Sacred Heart Church with the mission accomplished.

Photos courtesy Sacred Heart pilgrims

minded him that “Jesus was basically filleted and scourged.”

“Pat and I were talking when I was feeling the sharpness from blisters, but when you think about Jesus being scourged, it was almost like the pain went away,” Hamberg said. “I laughed a little bit and said, ‘This is really good.’ It's a small sacrifice to pay for the graces you receive.”



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Acts 3:1-10
Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5
Galatians 1:11-20
John 21:15-19

Mass during the Day
Acts 12:1-11
Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18
Matthew 16:13-19

Celebrating the Solemnity of Ss. Peter and Paul this year is exciting. We, as Americans, can see for the first time a “direct line” of succession from the Apostles to our own land and country. All the world waited anxiously after the death of Pope Francis, the first pope from the new world, for news of the successor of St. Peter as Bishop of Rome. To everyone’s surprise, one who has connections to both South America and North America was chosen. He is “the second pope from South America” and “the first American,” and, given his work throughout the world as a missionary and his many experiences in Rome, Pope Leo XIV is truly a citizen of the world. On the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul, we see the hand of God serving to unite the whole world.

Unlikely companions, a fisherman from backwater Galilee, and a rabbi among the Pharisees, schooled at the feet of the famous rabbi Gamaliel and a Roman citizen by reason of his birth in Tarsus, Peter and Paul found the purpose of their lives in the communion of faith established by the Risen Lord. Each of them followed a journey of faith and suffering that led to martyrdom in the City of Rome. Their blood, along with

14th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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



the blood of all the martyrs, planted the seed of faith that has grown to encompass the whole world. We are privileged to live in a time that experiences this in a profound way.

The readings offered for the Solemnity of Ss. Peter and Paul are rich in content. They present various moments of the life and ministry of the two Apostles. These give us a glimpse of how their ministries would be unified in a world-wide mission.

The first readings from the Acts of the Apostles show us Peter’s boldness and the help he received from Heaven in his witness in word and deed to the truth of Jesus’ Resurrection. The Gospels assigned to the Vigil Mass and the Mass during the day highlight the Petrine Ministry. Peter’s call to be the rock on which the Church is built (Matthew 16) and his “rehabilitation” after the denial, emphasizing the call to love and his witness to Christ by the manner of his death (John 21), are Scriptural foundations for the ongoing ministry of the Pope in our time.

Paul’s account of his ministry and call in the letters to the Galatians and to Timothy, the Bishop of Ephesus, tell of his earliest experience as a Christian and of the interior preparation for the moment when his life would be “poured out like a libation,” as he told Timothy that “the time of my departure is at hand.”

The “glorious Apostles Peter and Paul” reveal themselves to be men whose lives were transformed by Jesus Christ and

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

6/30-7/5
MONDAY
 Genesis 18:16-33
 Psalm 103:1b-4, 8-11
 Matthew 8:18-22

TUESDAY
 Genesis 19:15-29
 Psalm 26:2-3, 9-12
 Matthew 8:23-27

WEDNESDAY
 Genesis 21:5-8-20a
 Psalm 34:7-8, 10-13
 Matthew 8:28-34

THURSDAY
 Ephesians 2:19-22
 Psalm 117:1b-2
 John 20:24-29

FRIDAY
 Genesis 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67
 Psalm 106:1b-5
 Matthew 9:9-13

SATURDAY
 Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29
 Psalm 135:1b-6
 Matthew 9:14-17

7/7-7/12
MONDAY
 Genesis 28:10-22a
 Psalm 91:1-4, 14-15ab
 Matthew 9:18-26

TUESDAY
 Genesis 32:23-33
 Psalm 17:1b-3, 6-7b, 8b, 15
 Matthew 9:32-38

WEDNESDAY
 Genesis 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a
 Psalm 33:2-3, 10-11, 18-19
 Matthew 10:1-7

THURSDAY
 Genesis 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5
 Psalm 105:16-21
 Matthew 10:7-15

FRIDAY
 Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30
 Psalm 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40
 Matthew 10:16-23

SATURDAY
 Genesis 49:29-32; 50:15-26a
 Ps 105:1-4, 6-7
 Matthew 10:24-33

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION: Mass Schedule: Weeks of June 29 and July 6

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 and diocesan website, 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.
 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 and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org. (Saturdays on radio only).

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

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

by the mission entrusted to them to proclaim His Passion, Death and Resurrection to all the world. The Scriptures show their weakness and their growth in virtue and grace and conviction as they went their different ways, and as they joined one another in Rome. Their witness reminds us that God uses human beings to accomplish His purposes despite our faults and failings. It also highlights how even small decisions and moments of acknowledgment of weakness can serve to build up the kingdom.

The Solemnity of Ss. Peter and Paul is in many parts of the world “a Holy

Day of Obligation.” We can miss its importance in the general calendar of the Church since it is not so in the United States. How wonderful it is that in the year when the world looks to America as the birthplace of the new Holy Father chosen by the Spirit who inspired the witness of Ss. Peter and Paul that their feast should be on a Sunday so that we join the whole world in acknowledging the ministry of the Apostles of Rome! May we continue to live as pilgrims of hope seeking unity and peace in communion with Pope Leo XIV. Ss. Peter and Paul, pray for us!

Holy repetitions in sacred scripture

Isaiah 66:10-14C
Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20
Galatians 6:14-18
Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

In Biblical texts, ideas very often get immediately reiterated with hardly any change. These parallelisms seem unnecessarily repetitive to our modern sense of efficiency; usually nothing substantial is added to the original line.

For instance, according to the prophet Isaiah, the Lord says, “Lo, I will spread prosperity over Jerusalem like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing torrent.” In this couplet “river” is intensified to “overflowing torrent” and “prosperity” is expanded to

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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



“the wealth of the nations,” yet the main points are identical. This phenomenon lives on still today somewhat in Mediterranean culture and can be frustrating to those unaccustomed to it who might wonder why a person is belaboring the same thing with practically indistinguishable differences.

It’s what we do with children or foreigners to get them to understand us. We use synonyms and try to restate the thought until we are understood. This

kind of linguistic figure appears in poetry to relish in an idea or emphasize it. Even in short phrases like St. Paul’s “Peace and mercy be to all” we see two concepts intended to be understood as a unit, something more like “peaceable mercy” (Semitic languages lacked a developed adjective system, so this figure substituted). Prayer, particularly adoration, makes use of repetition out of necessity, as nothing radically new is to be said of our unchanging God.

For these reasons, the Lord often employs these reiterations in Sacred Scripture. Passages in verse from the Old Testament are notoriously complex (they are sometimes printed in contemporary Bibles in offset type). The whole book of

Psalms falls into this genre. Today’s appointed Psalm essentially dwells on the world’s worship of the Lord for the first several lines. “Shout joyfully to God, all the earth, sing praise to the glory of his name; proclaim his glorious praise.”

When we pray, perhaps our spiritual expectations are conditioned by our commercialistic environment. We feel we need to “get something out of it” or make some kind of substantial contribution to the project. That’s not the Biblical notion of prayer. When it comes to the worship of the Almighty, we are not going to increase His intrinsic glory somehow. We also have no hope of receiving His grace in an ex-

See SCRIPTURE, Page 15

SCRIPTURE, continued from Page 14

haustive way this side of eternity.

Disciples get sent two by two: This Gospel-based principle holds great wisdom and practicality. Sadly, many of our parishes are served by only one priest. “The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”

Here, the term “ask” very casually renders one of the most foundational and powerful verbs, which is associated with a deep lack of an urgent necessity to the point of affixing or even imprisoning oneself for the sake of the desire. This manifests our human desire for communion and the grace of having someone to share our burdens and blessings, which gets expressed in a variety of ways: preeminently in marriage, the cornerstone of society, but also in vowed life in a religious order or in a parish as a priest.

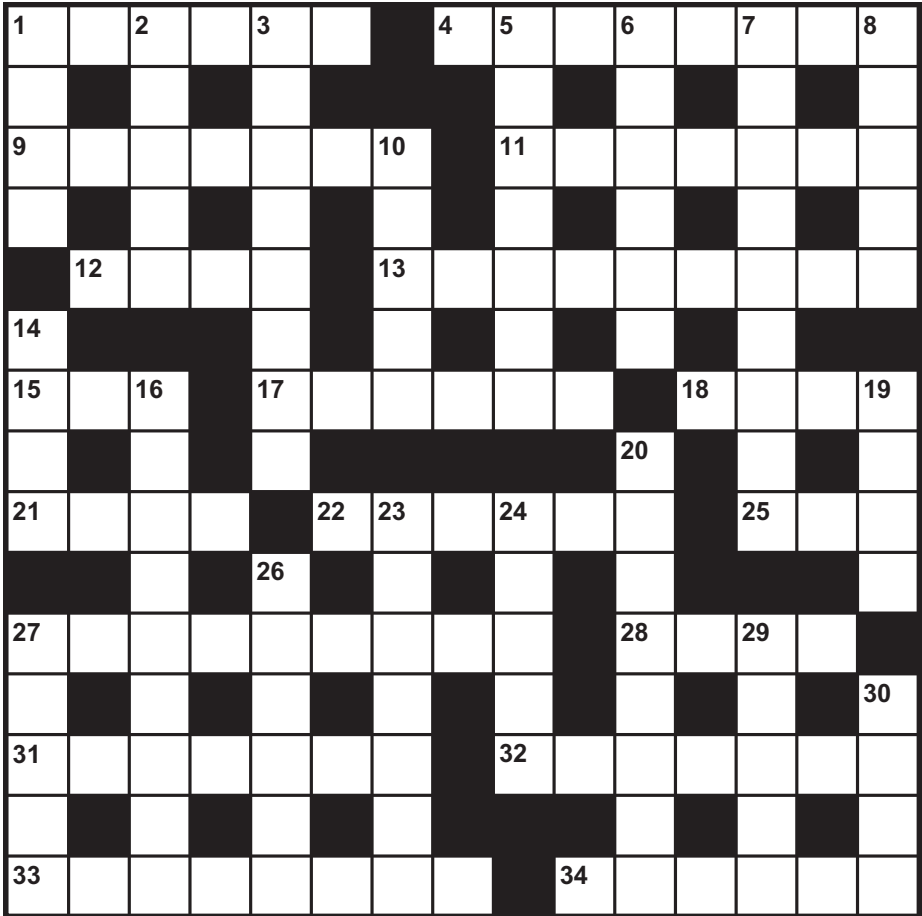
All of these have a generative aspect that expands a nascent society. Isaiah invokes the tender image of Jerusalem (thus the Church) being a mother: “As nurslings, you shall be carried in her arms.” Every child is a kind of genetic instantiation of the original couple, a holy echo.

A loner type of person, which stood

contrary to a culture that highly valued community, hospitality, and family, was called an “idiot” in the language of antiquity. Simply keeping to yourself meant you wouldn’t be educated, experienced and supported. Unsurprisingly, the idea is repugnant to the Gospel as well. The 72 are instructed: “Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way.” Money, possessions, comfort, and even people might become distractions to the mission. An allied partner helps keep us focused.

“Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad because of her.” Since these repetitions so regularly resounded in the ancient ear, a deviating type of parallel yields a forceful disjunctive effect: “Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” Only Christ is only-begotten, sovereign, supreme. He alone can accomplish the work of salvation by Himself. While He doesn’t need co-workers, He desires co-workers, and that we co-work with others. As disciples “sent ahead of him in pairs,” Christians representing Christ, let us simply re-echo Him!

CATHOLIC CROSSWORD



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- ACROSS
- 1 Turn away from sin

4 Pertaining to those who have received Orders

9 Minor Prophet

11 Wool or velvet hat trimmed with ermine and worn by the pope

12 Jacob's first wife

13 Part of the Eucharistic Prayer

15 Latin for "to pray"

17 ___ for the poor

18 Catholic actor Guinness

21 He called for justice to roll down like water

22 Patron saint of jewelers

25 First NT epistle

27 The Holy Land

28 Notre ___

31 Supreme ___

32 Song that begins "Holy, Holy, Holy"

33 These commemorate Jesus' crucifixion

34 Pairs' debarking point
- 2 Prince of ___

3 "Love your ___ as yourself"

5 Catholic opera singer Pavarotti

6 Catholic star of "Everybody Loves Raymond"

7 Title for the Holy Spirit

8 "So the king ordered Daniel to be brought and cast into the ___ den" (Dan 6:17)

10 "For where your treasure is, there also will your ___ be" (Mt 6:21)

14 Sight of Xavier University, briefly

16 Got a toothache? Try this saint

19 "It ___ upon a midnight clear..."

20 Mary Magdalene mistook the Risen Jesus for this

23 Author of Black Like Me who became a Third Order Carmelite

24 Abbr. for two NT epistles

26 Francis' hometown

27 John, Paul and John Paul

29 "___ Dolorosa"

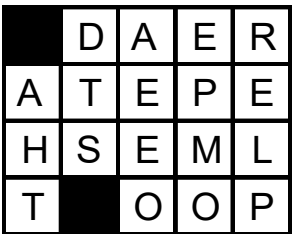
30 "___ was in the beginning, is now..."
- DOWN
- 1 The Upper ___

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by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BAHLMANN, Jerome R. "Jerry," 83, June 11
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

BARNARD, Timothy, 46, June 9
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

BRINKMAN, Martha "Marty," 72, June 10
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

CYBULSKI, Albert B., 87, June 11
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

DAVIDSON, Mary A. (Diemer), 93, June 14
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

DOWNEY, Karen Pauline (Fiedler), 80, June 1
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

FOUST, Angela Marie, 92, June 9
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

GERMAINE, Mary Elizabeth "Liz," 84, May 2
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

HETTINGER, Joseph L., 79, June 9
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church,
Columbus

IMMER, Mary T. (Quinn), 91, June 12
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

JOYCE, John H., 84, June 1
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

NICHOLS, William Donald "Don," 89, June 3
St. Ann Church, Dresden

PLANK, Edward F., 90, June 6
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

RIDER, John Jacob, 59, May 12
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

SALIBA, Dorothy L. (Joseph), 100, June 11
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

SANTILLI, Richard Robert Dr., 93, April 29
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

SCOVERN, Albert W. IV, 42, June 15
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

SERGIO, Stephen A., 70, June 2
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

SMOLAK, Elizabeth A., 82, June 4
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

SOUTHWORTH, Joan E. (Pruski), 78, June 14
Christ the King Church, Columbus

SUGAR, Emily "Mimi" (Smith), 88, June 4
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

Shirley R. Moore

Funeral Mass for Shirley R. Moore, 89, who died Saturday, June 14, was celebrated Saturday, June 21 at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center.

She was born in Wheatland Township, Ford County, Kansas on May 2, 1936 to George and Marie Stegman.

She was an employee and a volunteer at St. Paul Church for more than 40 years and founded its Marian Gift Shop more than 35 years ago, retiring when she reached age 75. The shop began in the school library, moved to the former church building and continues in the current church, where it serves people from throughout the diocese.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, Gene, Gerold, Marvin and Louis, and four sisters, Lalia Stout, Marjorie Wallace, Michelle Bailey and Patricia Dewire. Survivors include her husband, Thomas; sons Verne (Kristin), Jeffrey (Christine) and Patrick (Polly); four grandsons and three granddaughters.

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Patsy "Peg" Whalen

Funeral Mass for Patsy "Peg" Whalen, 88, who died Tuesday, June 10 was celebrated Saturday, June 14, at Chillicothe St. Mary Church. Burial was at St. Margaret Cemetery, Chillicothe.

She was secretary at St. Mary Church for 36 years before retiring. She also volunteered with the Parish Council, the Bishop Flaget School Board, the Heartland Nursing Home, the Adena Board of Volunteers and Relay for Life.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Deacon William T. Whalen; a son, William; a daughter, Deborah; sisters, Shirley Ross and Evelyn Craun; and a grandson.

Survivors include two sons, James (Jill) and Kevin (Becky); four daughters, Michelle, Diane, Margaret and Beth; 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.



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LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Nominees sought for Mother Teresa awards

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is accepting nominations for its St. Mother Teresa Recognition of Charity, Compassion, and Service, which will be presented at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28 at Columbus St. Catharine Church, 500 S. Gould Road.

The awards honor lay women within the Diocese of Columbus who have attempted to exemplify the work of Christ in their everyday lives. The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, July 8. Nominations may be made online at <https://columbuscatholic.org/diocesan-council-of-catholic-women/teresanom>.

If you have questions, contact Annette Roth at DCCW@Columbuscatholic.org.

Holy Family sponsors trip to Carey shrine in August

Columbus Holy Family Church is sponsoring its annual pilgrimage to the Our Lady of Consolation Basilica and National Shrine in Carey on Thursday, Aug. 14, the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Assumption.

Participants will be able to visit the upper and lower levels of the basilica and see relics of saints and remnants from people healed through the intercession of Our Lady of Consolation. They also can see the outdoor shrine with Stations of the Cross, go to the gift shop and the original church on the site and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

There will be an evening Vigil Mass at the outdoor shrine, preceded by a Rosary procession from the basilica. Mass will be offered at the same time inside the Basilica. Food will be available at the shrine cafeteria.

Our Lady of Consolation, also known as Mary, the Consoler of the Afflicted, is a title that highlights the role of the mother of Jesus as a source of comfort and solace for those facing hardship.

The cost of the pilgrimage is \$26 before Sunday, July 13. Checks should be sent to Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215 and made payable to the church with "Carey Pilgrimage"

in the notation line. For more information, call (614) 221-4323 or send an email to office@holyfamilycolumbus.org.

Quo Vadis vocations program set for July at Josephinum

The annual Quo Vadis discernment camp supported by the diocesan vocations office will take place from Sunday to Wednesday, July 27 to 30 at the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus.

The program will be led by priests and seminarians of the diocese of Columbus and is for young men entering grades nine to 12.

It will include Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration, time for personal reflection, interaction with priests and seminarians, recreational activities, sports and fellowship. The cost is \$50 and scholarships are available.

The registration deadline is Saturday, July 18. To register or for more information, contact Shane Gerrity at columbuquovadis@gmail.com.

of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Bishop Earl Fernandes of Columbus will be the celebrant and homilist for the closing Mass.

For more information, contact Father Elias Udeh, CSSP at (614) 622-1956 or elyudeh@gmail.com or Ifeama Uzah-Anigbogu at (614) 377-8872 or ifyuzahchy@yahoo.com. To register, go to <https://naacus.org/events>. The email link to the conference is naacus.treasurer@gmail.org.

Hilliard Knights sponsor Silver Rose service

A special prayer service centered on a silver rose honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe will take place after the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Monday, July 14 at Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church, 4475 Dublin Road. The service is being sponsored by St. Brendan Council 11208 of the Knights of Columbus.

The rose is one of eight similar roses that make a nine-month pilgrimage, sponsored by the Knights that begins each year in March and ends on Dec. 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The roses travel from town to town along eight routes throughout North America. Several of those routes begin in Canada and end in Mexico.

The Silver Rose program began in 1960 when a live rose was blessed by a bishop in Ontario. The rose then traveled to New York and to Texas and was taken into Mexico, where it ended its pilgrimage on her feast day. To ensure annual trips, a silver rose was made. The tradition continued annually and was expanded nationally by the Knights in 2001.

CATHOLIC WORD SEARCH

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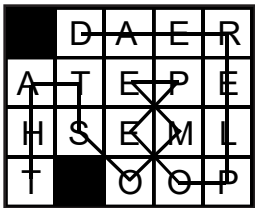
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St. Matthias, DeSales to host national conference

The National Association of African Catholics in the United States is sponsoring a conference from Friday to Sunday, July 18 to 20 at St. Matthias Chapel of Columbus St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, 1582 Ferris Road, and Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, 4212 Karl Road. The two buildings are adjacent to each other.

The theme for the event will be "United in Christ for Evangelization," based on 1 Corinthians 10:13. The keynote speaker will be Bishop Jerome Feudjio



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Newark Catholic finishes as state baseball runner-up

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

Losing in the Division VII state championship game was a disappointment, but Newark Catholic baseball coach Ron Graves views the defeat as a building block for next year.

"We're losing two seniors who were outstanding players, but everyone else is coming back," he said. "Now that they've reached this point and gotten so close to a state championship, they know what's it's like to get here and won't want to feel the same disappointment next year."

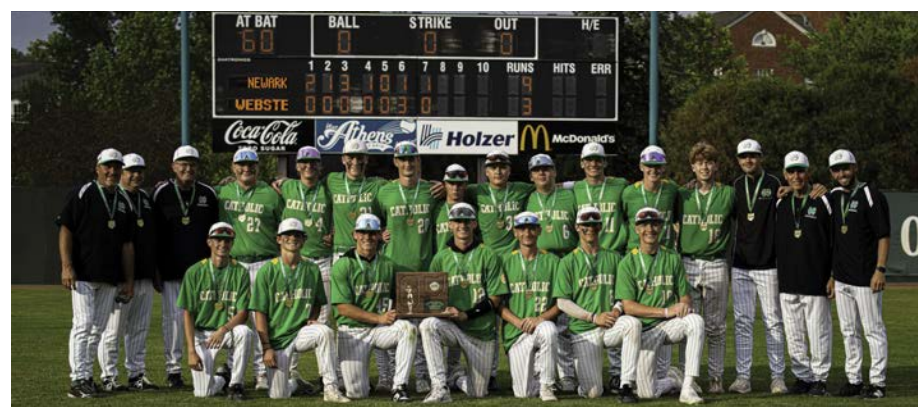
Minster's 8-0 victory over Newark Catholic on Saturday, June 14 at Canal Park in Akron ended a remarkable turnaround in which the Green Wave won 12 straight games after a 9-9 start to finish 21-10 (7-9 for seventh place in the Licking

County League).

The winning streak included playoff victories over Pataskala Liberty Christian, Millersport, Danville, Franklin Furnace Green and South Webster and a come-from-behind decision over Tiffin Calvert in the state semifinals on June 12 at Canal Park.

The turnaround started May 10 with an 8-1 nonconference victory at Cadiz Harrison Central over Toronto, which was 18-2 going into the game and finished with a 22-5 mark. That was followed by wins over Utica, Licking Heights, West Lafayette Ridgewood, Willard and Cardington before the state playoffs began.

"We started a sophomore, Max Moore, against Toronto and he pitched a three-hitter against a strong team," Graves said. "We had no idea what to expect starting Max in that game, but we



Newark Catholic players hold one of the trophies the team earned en route to a runner-up finish in the Division VII state baseball tournament. Photo courtesy Newark Catholic High School

began scoring and everyone's confidence went up. A few games earlier against Heath, we had lost our starting shortstop, Kane Stephey, who also was a pitcher, and we weren't sure how things were going to go, so beating Toronto was a real morale booster.

"I knew at the beginning of the season that we had the right mix of experience and youth. Our problem was a confidence thing. After the Toronto game, it seemed like everyone got the idea 'Oh, we're allowed to win' and picked up on that."

Both of the team's seniors, outfielder-pitcher Miller Hutchison and Mikey Hess, who played right field, center field, second base and pitcher at various times, were selected as second team All-Ohio players by the state high school baseball coaches association. Junior pitcher Owen Przymierski was on the first team. Hutchison and Hess also are football players who plan to play that sport at the University of Dayton in the fall – Hess on a scholarship and Hutchison attempting to make the team as a walk-on.

Przymierski was 7-2 with an 0.92 ERA and 104 strikeouts in 68 1/3 innings. Hess was 4-1 with a 2.47 ERA and a .376 batting average, and Hutchison hit .372, had a team-leading 30 RBI and was 5-4 with a 2.12 ERA.

Przymierski had problems in the state semifinal game against Tiffin Calvert and was relieved with one out in the fourth inning by Hutchison, who struck out a Calvert player with the bases loaded. He pitched 3 2/3 innings of one-hit relief, went 3-for-4 at the plate and scored twice, and the Green Wave tallied three times in the fifth to take the lead for good.

Using Przymierski and Hutchison against Calvert meant they couldn't pitch against Minster two days later because of state high school rules that set a pitch count limit and require recovery time. Hutchison's 39 pitches against Calvert in relief were eight over the amount that would have let him pitch in the championship game.

Moore got the start against Minster, which took a 5-0 lead in the second inning by capitalizing on a bases-loaded

walk, two errors and a bunt single. Referring to Moore's victory over Toronto, Graves said, "We started our winning streak with Max, so maybe it was fitting that we ended it with Max."

Hess pitched the final 5 2/3 innings of the title game in relief, allowing three runs and seven hits, striking out four and walking three. The Green Wave had an opportunity to come back in their half of the second but left the bases loaded, then left a runner on third in the next inning.

"We got behind the 8-ball early and couldn't string together the hits and the runners we needed at the right time. It happens," Graves said. "But I'm extremely proud of this team. I told my daughter at the beginning of the season that I wasn't going anywhere until June 15 and that's what happened. Six of our starters are sophomores and gained tremendous experience and they'll learn from this loss."

This year's success continues a tradition of athletic excellence at Newark Catholic that includes nine state championships, the most recent in 2016, plus five runner-up finishes in baseball and 28 state team titles altogether, including nine in football.

Seven of the baseball championship teams were coached by John Cannizzaro, who died in January 2024 after coaching at Newark Catholic from 1985 to 1992 and from 2004 until his death, winning a state-record 577 games. Graves assisted him for six years and was the school's softball coach for 12 years. Cannizzaro's brother, Rick, has continued as an assistant under Graves.

"There's no question John's presence is still here," Graves said. "Some of our players were the last ones he coached. Our coaching styles are different, but that's because kids have changed a lot, with travel ball in the summer becoming more important. I'm sure he couldn't be happier with how we've continued to accomplish things."

"As Rick puts it, the standard here is what should be the standard everywhere – to excel and to be good people. All of that was built by John and we want to live up to it."

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Columbus Catholic Renewal celebrates Pentecost



Above: Columbus Catholic Renewal celebrated a Pentecost Sunday Mass on June 8 with Bishop Earl Fernandes that began with a procession into the sanctuary at Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church.
CT photos by Ken Snow



Right: A family prays during the Pentecost Mass at St. Matthew Church.

Damascus breaks ground on new building



Damascus Catholic Mission Campus held a groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, June 13 for its new Adventure Complex. Bishop Earl Fernandes (center) was on hand to impart a blessing for the project. Damascus board members, missionary alumni, priests and religious were also in attendance to witness the groundbreaking for a building that will allow Damascus to expand its capacity with over 14,000 square feet of indoor and covered pavilion space that will accommodate up to 375 people. Damascus, located in Knox County, is the home of Catholic Youth Summer Camp.
Photo courtesy Damascus Catholic Mission Campus

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