

The CATHOLIC TIMES

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS' INFORMATION SOURCE
SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 | TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | VOLUME 74:18

Inside this issue



Diocesan survey continues

The diocese's pastoral planning survey, which had received nearly 1,400 responses at the end of August, remains open to anyone who would like to participate, Page 2



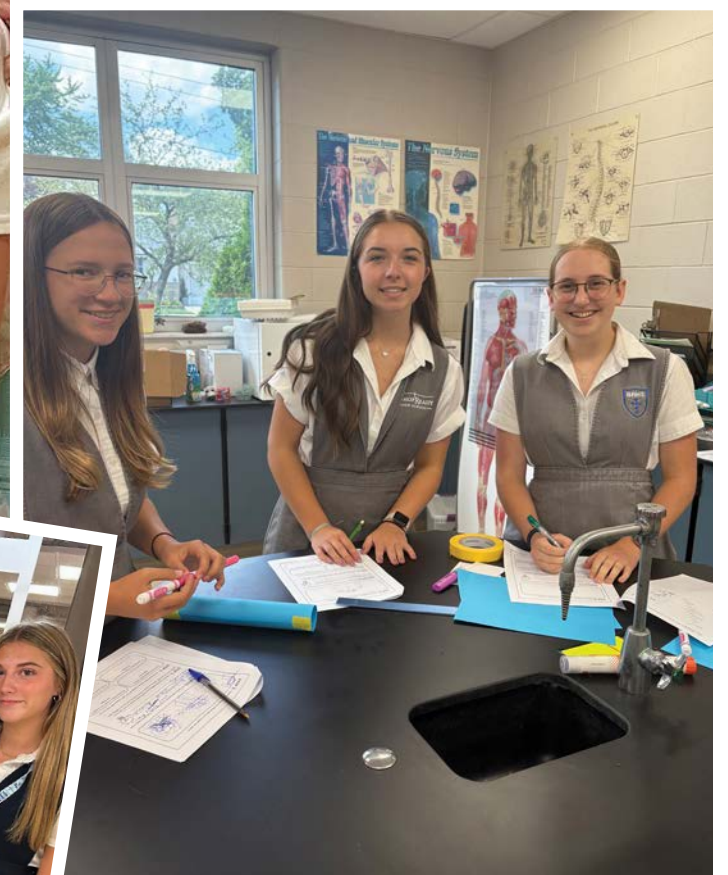
Frassati inspires local group

Young adults in the Columbus Frassati Society follow in the footsteps of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, who was to be canonized a saint by Pope Leo XIV on Sept. 7, Page 3



Sisters mark 100 years in U.S.

The Dominican Sisters, Immaculate Conception Province celebrated 100 years of serving in the United States with a Mass and reception at Columbus St. Patrick Church in August, Page 5



Back to School

Students from (clockwise from top right) Lancaster St. Bernadette, Columbus Bishop Ready, Westerville St. Paul and Logan St. John were welcomed back in August to Catholic schools for a new year, Page 9

Pastoral planning survey continues to receive responses

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

The diocese’s pastoral planning survey, part of a larger diocesan pastoral planning process, has garnered a significant number of responses since it was released in July. With the support of the Catholic Leadership Institute, Bishop Earl Fernandes engaged in pastoral planning to identify actionable goals to address his four priorities: vocations, evangelization, Catholic education and formation, and social outreach. Information will be gathered from individual interviews and focus groups. Feedback was additionally extended to all Christian faithful in the diocese who are invited to participate via a survey. As of the end of August, the survey received nearly 1,400 responses. Females ages 55 and older constituted the largest response demographic.

Father Michael Hartge, diocesan vicar general and moderator of the curia, said the responses have been encouraging and present an opportunity for a more unified, coordinated effort in addressing the bishop’s priorities. “I want to continue to encourage people to fill it out and give us their thoughts on how we’re doing in these four priorities right now, so we can read those with the other feedback that we anticipate getting and hopefully come up with some good actionable items for our four pastoral priorities,” Father Hartge said. For vocations, responses noted good promotion through seminarian postcards that are distributed in the diocese and offer information about the men in formation for the priesthood. Others highlighted the opportunity to visit and tour the Pontifical College Josephinum. Suggestions included better promoting positive aspects of religious life. For Catholic education and formation, participants mentioned Theology of the

Body – a series of addresses by Pope St. John Paul II on the redemption of the body and sacramentality of marriage – as being helpful, and implementing programs and trainings to help schools and families evangelize. Deeper formation opportunities for young adults was mentioned as being in need of improvement. Others suggested better promotion of the diocese’s Emmaus Road Scholarship to make Catholic schools more accessible and attractive to families. Responses also mentioned challenges with accessibility to Catholic schools outside of Franklin County due to density and distance. “That tells us that there might be a demand for more, possibly looking at where we could have more schools in the diocese,” Father Hartge said. As part of the pastoral planning process, an envisioning team compiled names of people to invite to various focus groups. Groups will consist of between eight and 10 people. The team identified priests, permanent deacons, young adults, elementary school teachers, and Fellowship of Catholic University Students, Saint Paul’s Outreach and Damascus Catholic Mission Campus missionaries in the diocese. Focus groups can talk through issues mentioned in the online survey. They will be interviewed through a virtual 90-minute session. “It’s a different avenue to be able to, in real time, drill down on what people mean when they answer a question, and how can they flesh out some more of that?” Father Hartge explained. “We’ll also be conducting some individual interviews with a select group of people as well.” Focus groups and interviews will take place throughout September as part of the data gathering phase. The survey will continue to be open through Oct. 17. Certain individuals will soon be invited to participate in focus groups. The envisioning team also completed a pastoral card sort activity. From it, they identified six opportunities for the diocese to increase its efforts in responding to the bishop’s four pastoral priorities. The six identified opportunities were given to the new Diocesan Pastoral Council, which, Father Hartge explained, is a larger and more stable participatory body. The council discerns and offers wisdom on the bishop’s pastoral concerns in the diocese.

“We want our goals to be consistent and in line with the purpose and vision statement for this pastoral plan.”
– Father Michael Hartge
Diocesan Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia

The council will be tasked with creating a purpose statement for the five-year pastoral plan and a brief vision statement. “We wanted their participation in helping us alongside the envisioning team to come up with these two brief statements that can help then be a way to measure our goals that are going to come out from this,” Father Hartge said. “We want our goals to be consistent and in line with the purpose and vision statement for this pastoral plan.” Pastors have been asked to identify a parish point of contact. The contact will help to promote and encourage participation in an upcoming disciple maker index survey that will be released at the end of November. “We’re in the preparatory phases for getting pastors up to speed about what that is and what their level of involvement will be in that,” Father Hartge said. The disciple maker index survey was offered nearly five years ago in the diocese’s last pastoral planning initiative. It received more than 20,000 responses. “We would like for a similar robust response so that we can really compare apples-to-apples and see how we have improved in our efforts of evangelization, in our efforts of encouraging people in their formation in the faith to be confident in the way they talk about the faith with others, and to see where we are with understanding of some points of doctrine,” Father Hartge said. The survey is accessible online at <https://columbuscatholic.org/>. A Quick Response, or QR code, is also available to scan and complete the survey.

PASTORAL PLANNING SURVEY



VOCATIONS



EVANGELIZATION



CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION



SOCIAL OUTREACH



Please take the brief survey with the QR code



Por favor complete el cuestionario usando el en código QR

Clergy assignments announced

The diocese announced the following clergy assignments during the weekend of Aug. 23-24: Reverend Michael Hinterschied, Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Cincinnati, to Parochial Vicar, St. Bernadette Parish, Lancaster, effective September 1, 2025. Reverend Daniel Moloney, Assistant Chaplain, St. Thomas More Newman Center at The Ohio State University, to faculty,

Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary, Cincinnati, OH, effective August 11, 2025. Confirming the appointment by the Provincial of the Theatine Fathers in the United States, Reverend Sebastian Lopez Ortega, CR, newly ordained, to Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Parish, Dover and Holy Trinity Parish, Zoar, assistance in Campus Ministry at Tuscarawas Central Catholic Schools, effective August 12, 2025.

The CATHOLIC TIMES

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

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

Mailing Address: 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215 Editorial/Advertising: (614) 224-5195 Subscriptions: (614) 224-6530

President & Publisher
Bishop Earl K. Fernandes

Editor
Doug Bean

Reporter
Hannah Heil

Graphic Designer
Kaitlyn Gough



HCatholicTimes
CbusCatholic
cbuscatholic

columbuscatholic
@Columbuscatholic
Diocese of Columbus

Young adult group identifies with Pier Giorgio Frassati

By Hannah Heil

Catholic Times Reporter

St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, canonized a saint by Pope Leo XIV on Sunday, Sept. 7, has made an impact extending to the Diocese of Columbus.

The young saint (1901-1925), who died at age 24, has inspired a new generation of young Catholics to follow Christ. Many apostolates have been created with his name, including in Columbus.

The Columbus Frassati Society was founded in 2013 by Dominican friars and young adult leaders at Columbus St. Patrick Church under the direction of the then-pastor.

Today, more than 300 young adults are on the group's e-mail list, with about 70 regularly participating in various events throughout the year.

"We try to model ourselves after Pier Giorgio Frassati," member Sarah Spaulding said.

The group follows in the young saint's footsteps, seeking to bring the whole person to Christ through Adoration, study, community, charitable activity and love of the outdoors, much like St. Pier Giorgio did.

St. Pier Giorgio Frassati was born to a prominent family in Turin, Italy. He lived a deep life of faith and joined the Dominican Third Order.

He spent much time outdoors and was an avid mountain climber, climbing Alpine peaks. He regularly organized trips to the mountains with time for prayer and conversations about faith.

The young saint also served the poor, distributing food and medicine to the needy in the poorest areas of Turin.

"He built community in his area and was very active in serving his community, and he loved to go hiking in the mountains and so forth. That love of the outdoors, I think, is something that makes us a little bit different from other groups," Spaulding said of the Columbus Frassati Society. "We intentionally make a point of emphasizing that."

The local society has expanded to serve young adults at St. Patrick and other area parishes. Young adults ages 21-35, single or married, are invited to join.

The group is producing vocations. In 2024, two couples who met through the Frassati Society, Matt and Marie Jasiewicz, and Aedan and Emily Maloney, married.

For Spaulding, being part of the group has been nothing short of a blessing.

"Having access to friends that share those same beliefs and values that I have, I think

that's been a tremendous encouragement for trying to live out my young adult years in a right way," she said. "I've been able to learn a lot about our faith through people in our group, too."

Spaulding has been part of the group since 2017. She was raised in Dayton and graduated from Ohio State University in 2014, residing in Columbus since then.

Growing up, Spaulding said, her Catholic faith consisted of attending Mass on Sunday and praying before meals. Being part of the Frassati Society exposed her to faithful Catholics who encouraged her to go deeper in faith.

She said the group was great for meeting people her age post-college. The society's events typically draw various attendees each time.

Its most widely attended event is "Christ in the City," a monthly Holy Hour on fourth Thursdays at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick. It includes Night Prayer (part of the Church's Liturgy of the Hours), the sacrament of reconciliation and socialization afterward at a local restaurant.

With the support of the Dominican friars at St. Patrick, the group has hosted the event almost every month since it was started in 2013.

The Frassati Society organizes varied activities each month, many depending on the time of year.

Outdoor events include camping trips, hikes and kayaking every summer. The group also organizes cultural events – another interest of St. Pier Giorgio – such as going to symphonies and cinema nights.

For about five years, the Frassati Society has held a book club that meets weekly.

Imitating St. Pier Giorgio, the group engages in service projects, typically monthly. Volunteer work has included babysitting foster youth, providing foster parents a break and quality time together through Alicia's Closet, a central Ohio non-profit organization benefitting foster families.

Columbus Frassati Society attendees sometimes meet for brunch after Sunday Mass. Group members often attend Mass together at various parishes.

"If we see each other at church, we'll sit together sometimes because it can be hard when you walk into church and you feel like it's mostly families, like everybody who's there is with somebody," Spaulding said. "It's been great to have that context for knowing more people and not feeling as alone."

The group organizes events that draw many outside individuals, not only regular group members.



Young adults in the Columbus Frassati Society (from left) Maria Blank, Karen Gallant, Michael Jacobs, Morgan Bonifas, David Kelly, Dustin Davidson, Paul Borchard, Nathan Halbisen, Joe Michalowski, and Mary Rose Finneran participate in a Christmas rocks hike, one of the group's activities inspired by St. Pier Giorgio Frassati's love of the outdoors. Photo courtesy Frassati Society

Frassati Society changed direction of my life

I had grown up in the Catholic faith and I had fallen away during my early 20s for various reasons. I had reached a low point in my life where I had to move back in with my parents and it was then when I was allowed to spiritually heal.

My mother had long encouraged me to attend Frassati Society events as a way to meet Catholic professionals, as all my secular friends I had made in high school had drifted away for one reason or another. Eventually, I decided to take the chance at socialization and it worked out very well.

I was accepted with open arms and found many like-minded people who had a strong love for the faith. Frassati Society has been a light for me after the worst years of my life, and I am forever grateful to our local organizer and the friends I have made along the way.

As a bonus, it kindles my spirit and gives me more zeal than I would have just on my own. After a year or so attending events, I have grown spiritually, emotionally and financially as I am now a home owner. Everything in my life has improved as a result of my involvement.

My favorite things to do at Frassati events is to go on pilgrimages to other churches to admire the architecture, and for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and fellowship (known as Christ in the City).

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend the canonization of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. Regardless, on that day, I will be celebrating along with all my brothers and sisters in Christ!

-- Paul Deliduka

The society had a ballroom dancing crash course and social party at a local ballroom, attracting about 40 people, many of whom were not regulars. A Catholic speed dating event, organized by professional dating coach Monica Braun, drew 50 young adults from across Ohio.

The Columbus Frassati Society has ventured out of the diocese for a pilgrimage to the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption in Covington, Kentucky. The group also traveled to Pittsburgh to visit St. Anthony Chapel, which houses a vast collection of relics; St. Stanislaus Kostka, a historic Polish church; and St. Patrick, the first Catholic church established in Pittsburgh

that includes "Holy Stairs," a replica of the original at the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome.

St. Pier Giorgio Frassati was originally set to be canonized on Aug. 3 during the Jubilee of Youth, part of the Church's 2025 Jubilee Year. His canonization was rescheduled to Sept. 7, taking place with St. Carlo Acutis, another young saint, who died at age 15.

"I hope it gets more people interested and attracted to what our mission is, too," Spaulding said of the recent canonization.

St. Pier Giorgio is the patron saint of students, young Catholics and youth groups.

Carlo Acutis canonization inspires DeSales students

By Hannah Heil

Catholic Times Reporter

Nearly 20 years after his death, Carlo Acutis has continued to inspire teenagers and young people with hope that sainthood is possible.

The Church's first millennial saint, who was to be canonized by Pope Leo XIV on Sunday, Sept. 7, was diagnosed with leukemia as a teenager and died at age 15 in 2006. He was canonized alongside Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901-1925), another young Italian who died at age 24.

Carlo Acutis, from Milan, Italy, enjoyed video games and computer coding. He used his computer skills to create a website documenting Eucharistic miracles.

An exhibition of his documented

Eucharistic miracles has been displayed at parishes on multiple continents. Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School had the exhibit on loan from Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics in Maria Stein, Ohio, for two weeks at the beginning of the school year.

Students at the high school, roughly the same age as the saint at the time of his death, observed and learned about the Eucharistic miracles he documented.

Rebecca Metzger, director of campus ministry at St. Francis DeSales, hoped the exhibit starts a conversation about the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

"For our students, we have maybe 70 or 75 percent are Catholic, but 25 percent aren't, and so, if seeing this brings to mind just even the thought process of, 'Let me think about that; this is really the Body and Blood of Christ because of these miracles,' that's

my hope," she said, "that some of this will spark those thoughts and conversations."

Students read "Carlo Acutis: The First Millennial Saint" by Nicola Gori for a summer reading assignment this year.

The school received the "Blessed Carlo Acutis International Exhibition of Miracles of the Eucharist Across the World" before the first day of school. The exhibit was set up in the school's Little Theatre.

"When they went to pick it up, the gentleman that takes care of the Shrine and was giving it to one of our employees ... he said that he was praying over all of it to ask God that it would have an impact on the kids while it's here," Metzger said.

St. Francis DeSales students were



St. Francis DeSales High School senior Emma Minser reads about a Eucharistic miracle in Switzerland at an exhibition of Eucharistic miracles on display at the high school last month. Photo courtesy DeSales High School



The Appeal
Together in Mission
2025

Together in Mission we can do great things for the people of the Diocese of Columbus.

The Diocese of Columbus has been able to evangelize, educate, nurture, and support the needs of our 23 county diocese because of your support of The Appeal.

*Thank you for your gift to The 2025 Appeal.
It's not too late to give or support another parish's goal for The 2025 Appeal.*

Diocesan Goal: \$8,000,000

Pledged to Diocese*: \$7,295,908

**Pledges as of 8/22/25*

EVANGELIZATION:

Reaching out to our communities and spreading the Good News



700 adults became Catholic last year, which has more than **tripled** in the past three years.

1,110 students now attend Mass at St. Thomas More Newman Center – a **38% increase** from last year.

255 engaged couples were assisted by **150** couples, priests, and deacons in their preparation for the sacrament of Marriage.

VOCATIONS:

Nurturing and supporting seminarians, priests, deacons, and religious men and women who are answering God's call



122 Deacons are serving the Diocese of Columbus, **9** ordained in 2024, **39** are in the stages of discernment, aspirancy, or candidacy.

40 men are in formation at **3** seminaries (Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus; Mt. St. Mary's, Cincinnati; Pontifical North American College, Rome).

26 new men have discerned the priesthood in the last two years, with **5** being newly ordained, which more than doubled from the previous two years.

SOCIAL DOCTRINE:

Addressing the needs of the poor, the marginalized, and those suffering in our diocese



22,330 summer meals were served to families by St. Francis Evangelization Center (Vinton County). They also provided **10,386** individuals with a 6-day supply of food, and **4,550** individuals with clothing.

8,395 individuals were assisted with rent and utility assistance, hygiene supplies, medication assistance, COTA passes, and so much more by the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs (JOIN).

23 counties across central Ohio have been served by **dozens** of mission partners who feed the hungry, cloth the naked, and serve the poor.

12 prison facilities in the diocese were served by diocesan staff that met the spiritual need of **hundreds** of prisoners.

EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION:

Ensuring that our schools and religious formation programs provide the best foundation in faith and academics



30,175 elementary students are in parish youth catechesis programs.

50 schools throughout our diocese are served by dedicated staff who provide curricula and academics, licensure, government and program support.



18,000 students in Our Catholic Schools were provided crucial support including safety and security services.



1,834 high school students are in parish faith formation programs.



To give online, scan the QR code or visit columbuscatholicgiving.org/appeal

Dominican sisters celebrate centennial of service in U.S.

By Hannah Heil

Catholic Times Reporter

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Dominic – commonly known as the Dominican Sisters, Immaculate Conception Province – celebrated 100 years in the United States with a Jubilee Mass at Columbus St. Patrick Church on Sunday, Aug. 17.

The order's provincial house is located in Justice, Illinois, with other provincial sites in Columbus, Ohio; Mountain Home, Arkansas; and Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

The Jubilee Mass was celebrated by Father Michael Mary Dosch, O.P. (Order of Preachers), Socius and Vicar Provincial for the Dominican Order, Province of St. Joseph, in the eastern United States. He formerly served in Columbus as pastor at St. Patrick Church.

Father Stash Dailey, pastor at Worthington St. Michael the Archangel Church, concelebrated the Mass and preached the homily. The former diocesan vicar for religious was instrumental in bringing the Dominican Sisters to Columbus in 2013.

Other concelebrants included Father Michael Hartge, diocesan vicar general, moderator of the curia and moderator of mission advancement; Father William Hahn, vicar general and director of priestly life; and Father Victor Moratin, a priest of the Fathers of Mercy religious order and a spiritual director at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus.

The Fathers of Mercy are friends of the Dominican Sisters, both under the patronage of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The two orders connected a few years ago and celebrate their feast day together, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, on Dec. 8.

Several seminarians in formation for the Fathers of Mercy order were present at the Jubilee Mass.

Father Paul Marich, O.P., current pastor at St. Patrick Church, was also present. The downtown church has been served by the Dominican Order since 1885.

"The Dominican Sisters bring such joy to our parish community at St. Patrick's. We are blessed to have them present, not just in various ministries, but more importantly, because of their witness as consecrated religious, formed according to the way of life set out by St. Dominic," Father Marich said.

"As religious sisters, they offer an invaluable gift to the people of God, especially for girls and young women who may be discerning God's will for their lives. As Dominicans, we are blessed to have them be part of the various customs and traditions that are part of the order's history, such as our Good Friday celebration and the Rosary Sunday procession."

The Sisters of St. Dominic arrived in the United States from

The moment I went through the door of the convent I knew this was my place.

– Sister Marta Gawron, O.P.

Poland in 1925. The order was founded in their home country decades earlier in 1861 by Mother Kolumba Białecka.

The congregation was formed to preach the truth of the Gospel to people in greatest need. Its apostolates include education, evangelization, and aid to the sick and suffering.

Two Dominican Sisters came to Chicago in May 1925 to raise funds for the order. More sisters soon came to the United States and joined them. After residing in Illinois for several years, they felt called to remain and serve the locality.

The Immaculate Conception province, or region, in the United States was officially established in 1951.

The Aug. 17 Jubilee Mass at St. Patrick Church was held on the feast of St. Hyacinth, O.P. (1185-1257), known as the "Polish St. Dominic" and patron of Poland.

St. Hyacinth, born in Poland, was the nephew of the Bishop of Cracow. His uncle brought him to Rome, where Hyacinth observed St. Dominic preaching and felt a desire to join him.

St. Dominic accepted Hyacinth into the new Order of Preachers (founded in 1216), giving him his habit in 1220. Soon after professing vows, Dominic sent Hyacinth and his companions back to Poland to preach and promote the salvation of souls.

St. Hyacinth later traveled to various countries, converting souls, before his death.

Since their arrival in the Diocese of Columbus in 2013, the Dominican Sisters, Immaculate Conception Province have undertaken various apostolates.

Sisters work in the Office of Catholic Schools and teach in diocesan schools.

Sister Leonarda Zielinska, O.P., who was recently reassigned to the provincial house in Justice, served as parish director of religious education at St. Patrick Church since the order's arrival in Columbus. A number of sisters assisted in the church's high school youth ministry.

Sister Marta Gawron, O.P. will take Sister Leonarda's place as director of religious education at St. Patrick. She arrived in Columbus last month.

Sister Marta, a native of Poland, spent the past 10 years at the order's provincial house in Illinois. She will continue to serve as the province's archivist.

"When it comes to life in the U.S. itself, I found myself

at home," she said. "I greatly appreciate American people's kindness. Almost everywhere I go, I (am) met with a smile and a good word."

Sister Marta professed her perpetual, or final, vows five years ago.

"Religious life is something that many do not understand, but it is absolutely beautiful," she said. "It is also demanding."

"Many times I experienced how little I am and really unable to do anything on my own, but at the same time how wonderful it is to come with these inabilities and deficiencies to Christ, Who only waits for such acts of complete trust and showers His grace upon me."

Sister Marta said she first thought of consecrated religious life at age 13. She wondered how life would be as a religious sister, but she did not spend much time on the thought.

"Becoming a religious seemed so extraordinary that I thought it was not for me," she remembered.

She later graduated from high school and began college. She studied for a semester before leaving.

"I realized that I could not go on living my life like that. I knew I was missing something that was the most crucial: I was missing the purpose, the absolute point of reference," she said.

"I was missing God. I realized that He is the only One who could fill this great aching void in me. It became clear in an instant: the closest I can be to Him in this life before He takes me to Himself is by becoming a sister."

Sister Marta began looking for a religious community. She read about various communities while not having any specific charism or apostolate in mind.

"I basically Googled a list of religious congregations in Poland," she recalled.

"I believe He guided that search. Quickly I found the Dominican Sisters and something drew me to them, although I cannot say what exactly. Something just warmed my heart."

Sister Marta contacted the congregation. She was invited to a "come and see" with the community.

"The moment I went through the door of the convent I knew this was my place," she said. "I entered one week later."



Dominican Sisters, Immaculate Conception Province celebrate their 100th anniversary of serving in the United States this year with balloons.

Photos courtesy Dominican Sisters, Immaculate Conception Province



Dominican Sisters attend a Jubilee Mass at Columbus St. Patrick Church on Sunday, Aug. 17 to celebrate 100 years in the United States.



Dominican Sisters gather after Mass in Patrick Hall at St. Patrick Church for a reception.



Dominican sisters carry the gifts to the altar during the Jubilee Mass at St. Patrick Church.



Dominican Sisters (back row left) Celestyna arrived in the United States in 1925 followed by Felicja, Leona and Ignacja in 1928. Religious sisters dressed in black are the order's original postulants, women in the first stage of consecrated religious life.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE BRIAN MUHA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL

Night of Champions

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

ST. CHARLES PREPARATORY SCHOOL
2010 E. BROAD STREET
BEXLEY, OH 43209

DOORS OPEN 5:30PM

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, DONATE OR VIEW AUCTION ITEMS VISIT
[HTTPS://ONE.BIDPAL.NET/NIGHTOFCHAMPS25](https://one.bidpal.net/nightofchamps25)

The Brian Muha Foundation memorializes Brian Muha, a graduate of St. Charles Preparatory School and student at Franciscan University, who was killed in a random act of violence at the age of 19, twenty-six years ago. The foundation honors his kind and charitable spirit by helping others who are in need. The Run the Race Club (RTR) was started by Brian's mother, Rachel Muha, and the foundation. RTR offers a safe and loving atmosphere on Columbus' West Side (The Hilltop) where children can go to play, learn and study. RTR provides education, clothing, food, furniture, toys and more to families in our community, at no cost. The Muha Foundation is able to help others continue to 'Run the Race' through its generous donors and fundraising events such as the annual 'Night of Champions'.

To learn more visit
<https://brianmuhafoundation.org>

YOUR *Catholic* RETIREMENT™



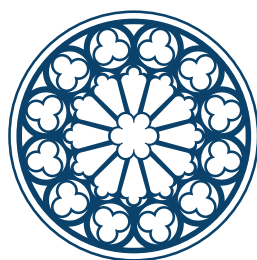
THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION



Preparing for retirement living financially *and* faithfully.

Have you considered how your faith will impact your retirement?

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



THE
CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION

catholic-foundation.org



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

To learn more, contact
Scott Hartman at 614-443-8893 or
shartman@catholic-foundation.org.

Diocese rolls out new digital map with parish boundaries

For the first time in its history, the Diocese of Columbus has established boundaries for every parish, and a map of these boundaries was made public the first week of September on the diocesan website. These are the results of a nearly two-year project initiated by Bishop Earl Fernandes.

“Historically, we had a lot of gaps in the parish boundary descriptions in our diocese, especially in our rural counties,” said Deacon Tom Berg Jr., diocesan Chancellor and coordinator of the project. “Even in the city of Columbus, there were areas not covered by parish boundaries, so it was vitally important that we addressed these situations.”

Deacon Berg cited reasons such as being able to inform people new to a particular part of the diocese exactly which parish they reside in as well as knowing which parish would be responsible for pastoral care if a new hospital or nursing home were built, determining Catholic schools’ geographic boundaries, clarity regarding sacramental record keeping and delegation questions, and so forth.

He added that for Catholic charitable entities, it is very helpful for their service delivery efforts to know in which parish a family or individual in need lives, which in turn improves the mustering of local resources, providing spiritual care, and so forth.

“With all these boundaries set, these kind of questions can be answered much, much more quickly and efficiently,” Deacon Berg said.

The project was a team effort involving several diocesan offices. “We never could have finished this project in the time frame we did without offices collaborating with each other in a collegial and dedicated spirit,” Deacon Berg said.

Team members in addition to Deacon Berg included Wendy Piper and Robert Franz from the Vicariate Support Office; Dr. Adam Dufault, Superintendent of

Catholic Schools; Michael Martz and Daidree Westbrook from the Information Technology (IT) Office; and Yvette Reategui from the Chancery Office.

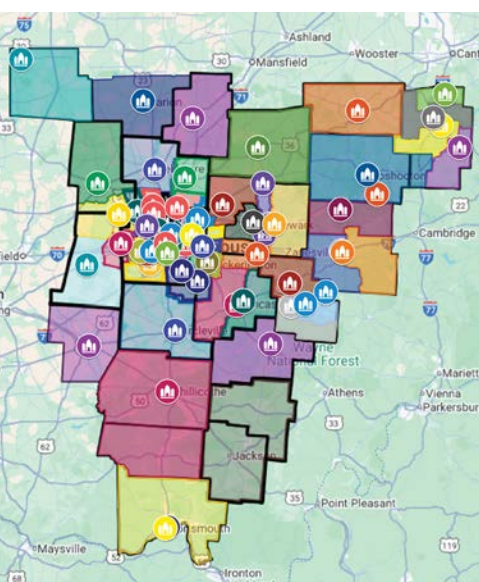
“I can’t thank everyone on the team enough,” Deacon Berg said. “Everybody took to the work with a dedicated and friendly attitude. We really enjoyed working together, even though the effort was so extensive and, at times, very, very tedious.”

The effort had several phases, including verifying existing parish boundary descriptions, studying which parts of the diocese were not covered by boundary descriptions, researching diocesan and parish archives to search for boundary descriptions that were not currently known to diocesan staff, and studying current population trends.

Piper and Franz were heavily involved in the research aspect of the project, which included searching through numerous archive files to ascertain what bishops and pastors had written in the past about parish boundaries.

“The process of reviewing parish files revealed that technology has allowed for faster, if not instant communication,” Piper said. “The art of letter writing has been nearly lost. Thirty, 40 or 50+ years ago, letters were the primary form of communication and a key element of documenting parish history. Those documents from the past gave us great insights into the thinking and the growth of the diocese back then, which informed and guided what we worked on the last couple years.”

“Conducting research on parishes for the boundary project was fascinating,” Franz said. “It gave us a wonderful opportunity to learn a great deal about the history, the pastors and priests who were there, as well as the members of the parish. Sifting through all of those old documents affirmed to me how incredibly rich our history is and how far back it goes. I was



A digital map that shows boundaries for every parish in the diocese is being made available the first week of September as a result of a two-year project involving the collaboration of several diocesan offices.

Digital screenshot

surprised how it has deepened my faith.”

“The two main things in my mind about this project,” said Michael Martz, director of the IT office that provided necessary technological support, “were it helped clarify which pastors should be involved in aspects of the life of the Church: weddings, funerals, visiting the sick.

“It also helped set boundaries with an eye toward population trends and movements,” he added. His office developed digital tools that enabled the team to see visually how those trends were occurring across the diocese’s 23 counties.

Additionally, the project required, in accordance with Church law, multiple consultations: Information proposals about possible new boundaries and boundary changes were presented to all

pastors in areas needing to have boundaries set or changed, including pastors of areas contiguous to those places. Then there were subsequent consultations with the diocesan Presbyteral Council.

“The priests with whom we consulted were exceptionally helpful. Their knowledge of the local areas was extensive, and those communications also helped shape the results of the project,” Deacon Berg said.

Once these phases were completed, proposed new boundaries and boundary changes were presented to Bishop Fernandes, who gave final approval to all new and changed boundaries. Afterward, decrees about new parish boundaries and changed parish boundaries were written and issued.

“Father Mike Hartge joined in the effort at the decree phase,” Deacon Berg said of the diocesan Vicar General. “His canon law expertise and excellent writing skills made this stage of the project proceed very smoothly and quickly.”

The final stage of the boundaries project was the drawing of a digital map of all the parish boundaries in the Diocese of Columbus. Personnel in the Diocesan Information Technology Office took on this task. Westbrook in the IT Office did the work of drawing the map.

“Daidree’s work is remarkable,” Deacon Berg said. “Drawing the map was painstaking and took several months.

“I have told people Daidree works in digital colors the way Michelangelo worked in frescoes, and I mean that. She took on a very, very difficult challenge and succeeded. She went about the work cheerfully and always responded patiently as countless edits were requested in order to perfect the map. I’m so grateful to her for being part of this team.”



**SAINT
MICHAEL
FESTIVAL**
WORTHINGTON, OHIO

**Thank You For
Supporting the
St. Michael Festival**

**We Couldn't Have Done
It Without You!**

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
5750 N. High St., Worthington

FESTIVAL SPONSORS		
DIAMOND		
The Bakhshi Family		
Orthopedic One, Inc.		
Gameday Men's Health Grandview Heights		
The Phillips Family		
The Harmeyer Family		
Roosters		
TopDog Event Rentals		
Worthington Tavern		
Front Porch Solutions		
Anonymous		
PLATINUM		
Meyers & Associates		
The Popovich Family		
The Waldmiller Family		
The Maher Family		
NAI Ohio Equities Office Brokerage Group		
Knights of Columbus Council 11445		
Philanthropia, LLC, The Schmitt Family		
The Woolum Family		
The Schmitt Family		
GOLD		
Derek Voytovich, Edward Jones	The Damo Family	The St. Michael Class of 2025
Dee Printing, Inc.	Jimenez-Haid	Joe Fiala
The Murnane Family	Builders	The Rankin Family
Shirk & O'Donovan	Rutherford Funeral	Hutta Orthodontic Specialists
Consulting	Homes	The Gerlach Family
Engineers, Inc.	Watershed Distillery	Rutherford Corbin Funeral Homes
The Bartholomew Family	Echo Spirits	Capri Sausage and Meatball
B2B CFO	Catholic Treehouse	Acceleration Foreign Automobile Repair
Car Doctors	MAC Construction Inc.	Doers of the Word
St. Gabriel Radio	The Arlington Group	Scott A. Pealer
Rob Fann Auto Repair	Viribus Wellness and Counseling	The Klooststra Family
Triple T Transport, Inc.	The Buschur Family	Bishop Watterson
Kristen Leigh Acrobatics	The Walker Family	Anonymous
The Daniels Family	Joseph and Kathleen Kohler	
The LaDuke Family	Jim & Elizabeth Van Paeppegem	
Ethan Allen	St. Francis DeSales High School	
SILVER		
Dublin Dance Center and Gymnastics	Egan-Ryan Funeral Service	Dentistry The Chesterton
Bazemore Pizza Co.	The Joeright Family	Academy of St. Benedict
Laurie Luft RE/MAX Realty	Granville Mechanical	Klosternan Baking Company
Richard and Claudette Wade	Robbies Hobbies	Kerbler and Co.
Audrey Lower	Creative Spot	Anonymous
The Drenik Family	Velvet Ice Cream	
Splatter Park Paintball	Doyle Memorial Fund for Children	
	Clintonville Pediatric	
BRONZE		
Therapy Advantage	Denig Jewelers	Turtle Creek Tavern



YOUR PATH TO BETTER BREATHING STARTS HERE.

At Mount Carmel, we prioritize your respiratory health with state-of-the-art diagnostics and personalized treatment plans. Our expert team of pulmonologists are dedicated to providing compassionate care tailored to your unique needs.

From asthma management to lung cancer screenings, we cover all aspects of pulmonary health because here, we're committed to providing **more care for all of you**. Schedule your appointment today and experience the difference our pulmonary care can make.



EXPERT CARE FOR ALL OF YOU. | mountcarmelforyou.com



MOUNT CARMEL
A Member of Trinity Health

Anchored in hope: A new year in our Catholic schools

By Dr. Adam J. Dufault

Superintendent of Catholic Schools

The start of a new school year always brings with it a sense of possibility, excitement, and renewal. This year, as nearly 18,000 students return to our 50 Catholic schools across the Diocese of Columbus, we do so under a theme that is especially fitting: Anchored in Hope.

Hope in the context of our Catholic faith is the confident assurance that God is faithful to His promises. It is the anchor that keeps us steady amid the storms of life, and the compass that orients us toward heaven. This theme was chosen in prayerful discernment by the Office of Catholic Schools as a way of reminding ourselves that, no matter what challenges may come, our foundation in Jesus Christ is secure.

The theme connects beautifully with

the universal Church. Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year, and he has chosen the theme Pilgrims of Hope. A Jubilee is a time of renewal, reconciliation, and celebration of God's mercy. To be pilgrims of hope means we are not only anchored in Christ but also moving forward together in faith, journeying toward the fullness of life that God desires for us.

In that spirit, many of our school administrators will make a special pilgrimage to Rome this fall for the Jubilee of Educators. Accompanied by Bishop Earl Fernandes, our principals and school leaders will spend time in prayer, study, and renewal at the heart of the Church. It is my hope that this pilgrimage will strengthen them in their vocation as Catholic school leaders and allow them to return with renewed zeal for their mission. Their example will help to anchor our entire school community in hope.

Of course, none of what we do in Catholic schools would be possible without the dedication of our teachers and administrators. These men and women are not simply employees—they are witnesses of the Gospel. Every lesson taught, every hallway conversation, every moment of prayer is an opportunity for them to witness to Christ and to form disciples. Their service in education is demanding, but it is also beautiful, and I am profoundly grateful for their service.

I am also deeply grateful to our parents. By choosing Catholic education, you are making a bold statement about what matters most in the life of your family. You are prioritizing faith formation alongside academic excellence, and you are entrusting your children to the care of a community that sees them as beloved sons and daughters of God. Thank you for making that choice, and for partnering with us in the sacred work of forming

young people in truth, goodness, and beauty.

As we enter this new academic year, let us all take inspiration from the words of St. Paul: "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" (Hebrews 6:19). May our students, teachers, administrators, and families be anchored in hope—confident in God's love, courageous in living the faith, and joyful in the journey ahead.

Catholic education is a gift, not only for those who receive it but for the whole Church. When our students grow in holiness, knowledge, and service, the entire Body of Christ is strengthened. Let us pray for one another, support one another, and remain anchored in the hope that does not disappoint.

May this year be a time of grace, growth, and great joy for all of our Catholic schools.

Schools welcome new administrators amid growing enrollment

As enrollment continues to rise in the Catholic schools across the Diocese of Columbus, many schools are strengthening their leadership teams to better meet the needs of their growing student populations. For the 2025-26 academic year, nearly 20 new administrators have joined the leadership teams at schools throughout the diocese, bringing the total number of administrators to 107, up from 72 just five years ago.

Dr. Adam J. Dufault, superintendent of Catholic schools, credits the increase in administrative staff to the evolving demands of school operations. "The blessing of more students to serve

naturally comes with a wider range of student needs," he said. "Our Catholic Schools pride themselves on fostering academic excellence while also providing more focused support, so broadening leadership teams to share responsibilities is a necessity."

The 12 individuals filling newly created administrator positions are assistant principals Mark Watts, Columbus Immaculate Conception; Mackenzie Veeder and Chris Mazon, Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare; Carey Wrigley, Columbus St. Mary Magdalene; Ashley Babb, Worthington St. Michael; Emily Wu, Delaware St. Mary; Michelle VanDyke,

Lancaster St. Mary; Colleen Wendt, Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul; Ashley Jones, Zanesville Bishop Fenwick; Luke Hanson, Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans; Cullen Harris, Portsmouth Notre Dame; and Dean of Students AJ James, Lancaster Fisher Catholic.

Other new administrators include:

- Courtney Kreber and Lorin Pankewicz, assistant principals, Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator
- Dr. Derya Rix, principal, Chillicothe Bishop Flaget
- Gail Murrell, principal, Bishop Fenwick
- Rachel Wayne, vice principal of academics, Columbus Bishop Ready High

School

- Patrick Murphy, vice principal of operations, Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School

- Rob Rodgers, principal, Bishop Rosecrans

Some seasoned administrators also have changed roles at diocesan schools, including Kate Cavello and Rick Logue from St. Brendan and London St. Patrick, respectively, to principal and assistant principal at Columbus St. Catharine; and Leslie Kraus from assistant principal to principal at Columbus St. Josephine Bakhita.

Diocese continues to pray for victims in shooting

The Diocese of Columbus offered its heartfelt prayers for the victims of a tragic shooting on Wednesday, Aug. 27 at Annunciation Catholic Church in Minneapolis that took the lives of two children and left 18 others with injuries, according to police.

"Along with Bishop Earl K. Fernandes, we are saddened by the horrific shooting that transpired today at the Annunciation Church in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. We join with our Catholic brothers and sisters in prayer for the victims, their families and for first responders. May God the Father, the Author of Life, grant comfort during this difficult time," the diocese said in a statement last week.

The shooting occurred when a gunman sprayed bullets through the windows of the church from outside. Children from the parish school were assembled for the start of a Mass during the first week of classes in the new academic year.

The two victims were 8-year-old Fletcher Merkel and 10-year-old Harper Moyski. The injured included 15 students and three adults.

The suspected shooter, identified as 23-year-old Robin Westman, was a former student at the school who died from a self-inflicted gunshot at the back of the church, police said. His mother had previously worked at the parish.

Police said the heroic actions of teachers, staff and other students inside the church undoubtedly saved other lives.

Prayers continued to be offered from Pope Leo XIV and from around the world.

Newark Catholic launches house system

Newark Catholic High School has instituted a house system to build and foster a sense of community and camaraderie among students.

The Houses of Service at Newark Catholic was conceived with a two-fold mission.

First, the administration and faculty identified the need for service to our community. As such, the houses put the focus on the surrounding area and gives our students the resources and knowledge to build projects that will better our community while sharing the faith of Jesus Christ.

The second is to enhance the enthusiasm for all the things that are done at Newark Catholic. School spirit can take a variety of forms and the houses are looking to highlight the activities that students excel in. Whether its Battle of the Books, the drama department, or football Friday nights, the goal is to let students and families know the school is there for them.

Newark Catholic is committed to making the school a place where everyone belongs, help others see beyond themselves and explore what it means to be a servant of God.

In each house, students are placed into four different groups, each involving a variety of grade levels, student mentors and faculty. Each group will meet monthly, select a community organization to support and engage in friendly competition with one another.

Houses will encourage students to be part of something bigger and help answer the question, "What is God calling us to do?" while working together to address needs in the Licking County area.

Tying into our heritage as the Green



Courtesy Newark Catholic High School

Wave, each House is named after one of the borders of ancient Israel: House Red (the Pathfinders, inspired by Moses and Exodus), House Mediterranean (the Voyagers, inspired by St. Paul), House Jordan (the Messengers, inspired by John the Baptist) and House Galilee (the Fishermen, inspired by the Apostles Andrew, James, John and Simon Peter). Each chose a patron saint and has a scriptural motto fitting their name and the mission of the Houses of Service to share the faith with compassion and love for each other and the surrounding community.

Houses encourage students to get involved in school and support one another with a bit of friendly competition

to earn points in things like attendance, school spirit at games and participating in extracurricular activities. Students will compete throughout the school year in activities and games in hopes of winning the House Cup.

Starting with the Greenie Games on the first day of school, houses can earn points by attending spotlight events, through school attendance and in competitions such as the House Olympics at the end of the year.

Houses are made up of individuals who are talented in many different arenas. They will be encouraged to use those talents to bring their house closer. At the end of the year, the group with the most points will earn the coveted house trophy.

It has been through the leadership of the administration, the willingness of the faculty and the drive of the students that Newark Catholic was ready to launch the Houses of Service this fall. We must, as the motto of House Jordan states in Mark 1:3, "prepare the way of the Lord," working to bring about His Kingdom in this time and place.

Schools recognized for Excellence in STEM Education

Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School and Lancaster St. Mary Elementary recently were recognized with the prestigious Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research from the Ohio Academy of Science for the 2024-25 school year. This marks Bishop Flaget's 20th consecutive year of recognition and St. Mary's third.

"It is an honor to receive this award again, and we are extremely proud of our students and staff members for making this possible," St. Mary principal Kayla

Elrich said of the award. "Their creativity, curiosity and hard work is unmatched, and we look forward to seeing how they continue to flourish this year."

Established in 1985, the Thomas Edison Award recognizes Ohio schools and teachers who "stimulate student research, technological design, and extend experiential opportunities beyond traditional classroom activities." Seventy-six schools and 1,244 educators were honored in this cycle.

What's old is new again: Trinity reverts to St. Christopher School

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

For the first time in almost half a century, students started classes in August at a diocesan school named St. Christopher.

On July 1, the former Trinity Catholic School returned to being known as St. Christopher School, which is located next to the parish in the Grandview Heights area of Columbus.

Trinity Catholic School had been established in 1977 when a merger took place between Columbus Our Lady of Victory and St. Christopher schools. Also clustered with them was Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church, which did not have a parish school.

For the two years after the consolidation, St. Christopher housed the elementary students and Our Lady of Victory the middle school students. In 1979, all classes were moved to the St. Christopher building.

Trinity Catholic School had served the three parishes and other students for the next 40 years before, as part of the diocese's Real Presence Real Future strategic plan, St. Margaret of Cortona was notified in 2023 that the parish would be affiliated with Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator School rather than Trinity.

That decision set the wheels in motion for Trinity to eventually revert to St. Christopher, the school's name from the time it was established in 1948 until the 1977 merger. Bishop Earl Fernandes, the Office of Catholic Schools and St. Christopher's pastor, Father Andrew Kozminski, SAC offered their support for the switch.

Students were notified on April 25 of the forthcoming change and principal Angie Eisenacher said they embraced the renaming. A new logo was created and students were given the opportunity to vote on a new mascot that reflected the school's patron, St. Christopher.

Additionally, parents and supporters were invited to a town hall to discuss the situation and an online survey was made available for feedback.

A similar situation had occurred in north Columbus before the start of the previous school year when a parish merger between St. Elizabeth and St. Matthias resulted in St. Matthias School becoming St. Josephine Bakhita School.

"So far, the response has been really good" at St. Christopher, Eisenacher said. "We listened to parents' concerns. A lot of our parents went to what is known as Trinity, but a lot of grandparents were here as St. Christopher."

There's hope that the school once again sharing the same name



Columbus St. Christopher School has new logos. Photos courtesy St. Christopher

with the parish will attract more recognition in the community.

"Quite honestly, some people had no idea, even in Grandview, that we had a school here," Eisenacher said. "Even people who have lived here forever, they just didn't know."

When the doors opened in August, the school had 156 students (approximately 60 percent Catholic) enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade, drawing from parishes that include St. Christopher, Our Lady of Victory, St. Margaret of Cortona, West Jefferson Ss. Simon and Jude, Plain City St. Joseph, Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus Holy Family and Columbus St. Francis of Assisi.

St. Christopher also offers a preschool that attracts more children from young families in

the Grandview area, Eisenacher said.

In addition to the name change, the school has adopted a new approach to teaching, defined as authentic learning experiences.

"Rolling out this new approach to teaching and learning, with more authentic learning experiences, we feel like it's a good opportunity for us to rebrand," Eisenacher said.

Authentic learning involves applying different teaching techniques to engage students in various content areas.

"We had a couple of middle school teachers that piloted a basic research project they redesigned so that it was very authentic in nature," Eisenacher said. "They had the same topics that they had done before, but they allowed the kids, instead of just making

a slide show and presenting it in the normal fashion that they had always done, they had options of presenting that material in any way, shape or form."

Some students used coding to make a video game about a topic. Others took a historical figure such as St. Joan of Arc and developed what her social media account might look like today. Another student used 3D printing to make pieces for a game.

"It takes whatever their interest was and made it very applicable to them," Eisenacher said, "and then they presented it to the rest of the school."

The authentic learning experiences approach is not confined to academic performance. It has made a positive impact on students' Catholic identity as well.

Eisenacher recalled that at the end of the previous school year when a middle-school religion teacher announced she was leaving, students came to her with a slide-show presentation they had made about starting a Marian garden to honor the beloved teacher.

"They had researched everything, what plants they wanted and how they relate to Mary, and they went and got a statue," Eisenacher said. "It's really empowered their learning."

Hartley takes holistic approach to student care

School counseling is far more than course scheduling and college applications. Rooted in faith and a commitment to the whole person, Columbus Bishop Hartley High School's comprehensive school counseling program supports students from their first day on campus to graduation, providing academic, emotional and spiritual support.

For more than a decade, Bishop Hartley has quietly provided space for students experiencing loss.

Each year, in partnership with OhioHealth, the school hosts a grief group for students who have lost loved ones in their immediate families. Now in its 14th year, the group remains one of the most impactful – and often unseen – ministries of care at Hartley.

The school also prioritizes proactive mental health education.

For 11 years, counselors have facilitated Signs of Suicide, a nationally recognized program created by Nationwide Children's Hospital. Over the course of two days, students receive behavioral health education, participate in wellness assessments and learn how to care for their peers and community in moments of crisis.

Bishop Hartley's counseling program stands out with a student-to-counselor ratio of less than 200-to-1, below the national average of 500-to-1 and better than the American School Counseling Association's recommended ratio of 250-to-

1. This allows counselors to be visible, accessible and deeply invested in each student's journey.

Beyond classroom programming, students receive individualized attention for academic planning, emotional support and college and career readiness.

"Our primary purpose is to help students thrive in education and holistically during their adolescent years," said Lauren Gruenwald, counselor at Bishop Hartley. "We achieve this by assessing need, implementing programming through classes that benefit all, and being available for one-on-one counseling meetings."

What makes Bishop Hartley's counseling program distinct is the way it integrates academic, social and emotional care with faith.

Whether guiding students through challenges of adolescence, preparing them for the future or offering a listening ear, the counseling team embodies the school's mission: transforming lives through the teachings of Jesus Christ within the Catholic tradition.

Bishop Hartley's school counseling serves as part of a comprehensive student services program supporting students holistically by addressing spiritual, academic, physical and emotional needs.

Student services team members include the principal, chief education officer, vice principal

of academics, vice principal of student life, dean of students, school nurse, clinical counselor, safety director, school counselors, school psychologist, intervention specialists, campus minister, director of enrollment and school chaplain. The team meets weekly to discuss plans of action.

The plan addresses the student's needs and may require support from parents, teachers and outside services. Team members implement, monitor and report back to the team the plan's implementation and effectiveness in improving areas of concern.

The student services team reviews student progress on a weekly basis and revises action plans as necessary.

From supporting a change in family dynamics to addressing behavioral shifts and grade drops, student services is the active system of care for Bishop Hartley students, supporting them in mind, body and spirit.

Each fall, freshmen participate in Freshmen Focus, a series of classroom presentations designed to help students adjust to Bishop Hartley culture. Counselors teach essential skills: organization, exam preparation, grade-point average calculation and appropriate technology use.

The program also tackles topics that shape life beyond the classroom. Students learn about

Zanesville Bishop Fenwick School collected bookbags at the start of the school year to donate to the homeless population in the area in an effort to put the Corporal Works of Mercy into practice. Photo courtesy Bishop Fenwick School



Bishop Fenwick helps homeless

Zanesville Bishop Fenwick School, under the direction of kindergarten teacher Gail Murrell, and campus ministry, under the guidance of Jonathan Medaugh, gathered bookbags for the homeless population of Zanesville at the start of the school year.

Murrell asked parents of her students to bring in gently used bookbags at Bishop Fenwick's open house and 25 were collected.

The need for bookbags in the community had been relayed to Medaugh by Mary Gunkel, who runs Mary's Mission.

Gunkel started Mary's Mission to address the needs of the homeless in the Zanesville area. Last winter, she handed out 450 hand warmers and more than 120

coats. In addition to clothing and other items for physical comfort, she distributes Catholic prayer booklets, rosaries, miraculous medals and personal journals.

As campus ministries at Fenwick strives to follow the Corporal Works of Mercy, this project helped the students understand "Shelter the homeless" and put their faith into action.

Mrs. Murrell intends to make this an annual event at the beginning of each new school year. By following the Corporal Works of Mercy (in this case giving shelter to the homeless), students are making an effort to follow Bishop Earl Fernandes' pro-life agenda and support life in all of its stages and conditions.

CYO adopts new logo, pursues continued growth

By Elizabeth Pardi

For The Catholic Times

The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), a program that provides opportunities for children to grow in multiple areas of life through participation in sports, has endeavored to become more relevant across the diocese. A recent change is usage of a new logo that more accurately portrays its purpose.

The old logo contained the CYO acronym with a mission statement.

The new logo specifies Columbus as its location. It also includes a profile image of two children running.

"We wanted to re-brand to bring a spark and uniqueness to the CYO," said Michael Berndt, the organization's new director of athletics.

Berndt began as director about two months ago after having volunteered for roughly two years. During that time, he witnessed much progress in the CYO.

"Ryan grew the program exponentially," he said, referring to previous director Ryan Aiello.

"One of the biggest achievements (I saw) over that two-year timeframe was the (technological) modernization.

"We went from a largely paper-and-pencil type registration process to a modern registration platform that's internet-based."

Payments can also be processed, and coaches can communicate with parents more easily and efficiently with technology the previous director implemented.

The CYO's primary goal is to increase the variety of sports it sponsors and the number of athletes.

"Our goal is to get as many kids involved in as many sports as possible," Berndt said. "There are certain sports out there that are not technically CYO right now, and we're looking at what avenues and what steps we would have to take to make those CYO sports."

Being under the CYO umbrella benefits teams because of financial support. It also adds more organization to athletics in the diocese.

"It's really hard to organize something if (we) only have control over half the teams," Berndt said, referring to sports



The diocese's Catholic Youth Organization has a new logo.

where some teams are diocesan and others are not. "If we don't have enough teams to field an entire ... league, then it's hard to absorb that sport and make it a consistent product."

As a result, some sports may be offered one season but discontinued the next. "That's a disservice to the kids," Berndt said.

CYO also brings the benefit of incorporating faith into training.

"I think CYO programs are just built a little bit differently just because of the faith aspect," Berndt said. "They're all run

through the Catholic schools, so we emphasize sports as a way to kind of educate kids on the Catholic faith.

"One of the things we do is prayer before games. ... We emphasize the holistic person and growing kids spiritually but also athletically."

Berndt attended Westerville St. Paul the Apostle School. He said he is honored to be making a difference in the community where he grew up.

Berndt's three children attend Columbus St. Catharine of Siena School, where his wife serves as principal.

He noted that lacrosse, golf and cheerleading are three sports quickly growing in Ohio. He hopes they soon become CYO sports.

To gauge if certain sports will be successful, quarterly meetings are held for athletic directors from around the diocese to gather and provide input.

"We've got to think through all aspects of it," Berndt said, "whether that's insurance ... venue management ... creating a sport in this time of year - is that going to take away from another sport that we're trying to drive?"

The process of acquiring and successfully launching a sport is complex and often requires trial and error.

"We tried to launch flag football this year for fifth through eighth grade girls," Berndt said.

"The timeframe that (was) determined prior to my existence here was the volleyball season. We just have some communities that are so entrenched in volleyball that they didn't want to take away from (that) to sign up for this new venture.

"That doesn't mean we're giving up on it. It just means we have to pivot the way we look at it."

Berndt said he finds the work rewarding despite its many requirements.

"We have these 'Play Like a Champion' coins that we're starting to award (student-athletes)," he explained. "We started it this soccer season, and handing those coins out to the handful of kids that I've presented them to, the smiles on their faces, it makes all the late nights and all that kind of stuff worthwhile."

For more information about Columbus CYO, visit ccyo.doodlio.com.

CANONIZATION: Carlo Acutis canonization inspires DeSales students, Continued from Page 3

encouraged by the saint's life and dedication to Christ.

Cori Gaddis, 16, a junior at the school, enjoyed reading about the various Eucharistic miracles.

"I've always loved stories of saints and Eucharistic miracles and all of that because my grandma used to show them to me when I was younger, and so, this brings me back to why I fell in love with my faith in the first place," she said. "Reading the stories, like, wow, this happened, and it so much uplifts my faith."

Gaddis said she loves that the newly canonized saint is a teenager.

"Everybody loves that about him, but it takes so much faith for somebody to be young and still give their life to Christ like that," she said.

"You read stories about these guys who lived a while ago, who spent years and years perfecting who they are and becoming a saint, and then, for somebody to have such trust in God that they could be a saint so young is just really inspiring."

"It's hopeful because it's not impossible. Sometimes it feels like it is, or that it's too hard to attain, but it's not, and he showed that through his life," Cameron Rudolph, 15, a sophomore, said of sainthood.

Rudolph visited the tomb of Carlo Acutis in Assisi, Italy, this past summer with her family.

The saint's tomb opened for public veneration in Assisi in October 2020. Carlo asked to be



Principal Dan Garrick and Father David Johnstone, school chaplain, lead a Eucharistic procession at St. Francis DeSales High School on Aug. 22. Photos/DeSales

buried there because of his love for St. Francis of Assisi.

Rudolph said she was struck by how much Carlo Acutis loved Jesus in the Eucharist and centered his life around the Eucharistic Lord.

"He really has an inspirational story and hope for us young people," she said.

For Rudolph, the exhibit was also an opportunity to read about Eucharistic miracles in greater depth.

Brayden Steller, a theology teacher at the school, created an assignment based on the exhibit. His senior class was instructed to select three Eucharistic miracles and describe how it impacts their belief about the Real Presence of Jesus.

As juniors, the students learned

about the Eucharist and the Church's teaching. This year, they are contemplating the Eucharist more deeply, Steller explained, and how such miracles impact belief.

He believes many students can relate to Carlo and the way he lived.

"I think a lot of them really grasp onto the fact that he was really interested in coding and using the internet," Steller said.

"I think they thought it was really cool that he developed his own website, and that they can still see the fruits of that and see how somebody who's just like them, who's just their age is able to make an impact on the broader Church, and I think that really inspires a lot of my students to hopefully make an impact on the Church, too."



Cameron Rudolph, 15, reads a poster about a Eucharistic miracle documented by St. Carlo Acutis, who was to be canonized a saint on Sept. 7.

Emma Minser, 17, a senior at St. Francis DeSales, completed the assignment as part of Steller's class. She was inspired by Carlo's humility.

"Even though he was blessed with a lot, he still put all that aside ... and helped people through anything they were going through and taught them about the Eucharistic miracles, which I think is really important in helping people believe in Jesus and believe that He's truly present in the Eucharist," she said.

"It's just a beautiful thing that such a young person did that and wasn't afraid to do that despite the judgment that they may face."

On Friday, Aug. 22, Father David Johnstone, school chaplain and parochial vicar at Worthington St.

Michael the Archangel Church, led a Eucharistic procession in the high school. The procession took place while Carlo's Eucharistic miracles exhibit was on display.

Students and teachers were asked to kneel as Jesus in the Eucharist passed by their classroom.

"I think (the procession) will help us to set the tone for the year, especially as we have Blessed Carlo Acutis being canonized," Father Johnstone noted.

It will "bring the two of those together for the students who just read the book; we have the display here, and now we're going to have the reality of the Eucharist as central to our faith and have everybody recognize that through the procession," he said.

HARTLEY: Hartley takes holistic approach to student care, Continued from Page 10

healthy relationships, how to make "healthy choices for now and beyond," and how to seek help when they feel overwhelmed.

Bishop Hartley's clinical counselor partners in this work, guiding freshmen through challenges such as the "winter

blues" and other common stressors.

"The goal is to give students the tools for self-discipline early,"

Gruenwald said. "We've seen how these strategies increase retention, academic performance and post-secondary success."

Diocese recognizes Chesterton Academy as independent Catholic school

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

The Chesterton Academy of St. Benedict began its second school year in the diocese with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes on Thursday, Aug. 21 at Worthington St. Michael the Archangel Church.

In addition to the Mass, there was another reason to celebrate. The Chesterton Academy was recently designated by the diocese as an independent Catholic school.

The official diocesan recognition for the school, which opened last year as part of the worldwide Chesterton Schools Network and includes grades 9-12, allows Chesterton Academy to work with Office of Catholic Schools to receive accreditation and a state charter while remaining faithful to its Catholic identity and the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.

Receiving the diocese's blessing also permits Chesterton Academy to offer Mass and confession specifically for its students, have a chaplain assigned to the school, gain formal access to diocesan resources and provide support for faculty to obtain state teaching licenses.

In a letter to parents and supporters on its website, Chesterton Academy said that its finances and board of directors remain independent of the diocese. Students are permitted to attend from anywhere within the diocese.



Chesterton Academy of St. Benedict faculty and staff recite a Profession of Faith during the Mass.

"We are overjoyed by the blessing of the bishop," said Jessica Walker, executive director for the Chesterton Academy of St. Benedict, "and now to have additional resources, a bigger community to coincide with our community, it just means the world to us."

Attending the Mass on the feast of St. Pius X celebrated by the bishop at St. Michael were 19 students, seven faculty members, administrators, board members, parents and supporters. The parish church, where Chesterton students go to daily Mass, is just a short walk from the school located on North High Street.

During the Mass, each faculty, staff and board member made a Profession of Faith and signed an Oath of Fidelity that was presented to the bishop.



Chesterton Academy of St. Benedict students are pictured with Bishop Earl Fernandes after Mass on Thursday, Aug. 21 at Worthington St. Michael the Archangel Church.

Enrollment has more than doubled from last year to include five juniors, six sophomores and eight freshmen in 2025-26. Students' educational backgrounds are varied. They come from all parts of central Ohio. Some drive up to an hour.

"Last year, it was all homeschool," Walker said, "but this year we have students from parochial schools, homeschool and public school. It's a really good balance and it cultivates more opportunity to learn from each other when you come from different experiences."

The first Chesterton Academy school started in 2007 in a suburb of Minneapolis to provide a classical high school education that was affordable and faithful to Catholic teaching using renowned author G.K. Chesterton

as its model. Its motto is *Cultura Vitae*, the culture of life, inspired by Pope St. John Paul II.

Since then, the network has expanded to 30 states and 12 countries. Ohio now has five locations.

"We teach the Socratic method in everything we do, even in math," Walker explained. "Our priority is spiritual formation, including daily Mass. It's integrated in literally everything we do in our curriculum, even when you're teaching about organization and organizational skills, just having an intentional order, because God is a God of order."

Students and faculty pray the Morning Offering and Angelus each day. Outside of daily Mass, there are regular opportunities for Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament, retreats, confession, spiritual formation and visits with priests and religious.

Chesterton Academy students participate in a House system based on a traditional Christian education model. They also have the opportunity to be involved in the arts, including drama, and classes are offered in ballroom dancing.

Students are engaged in giving back to the community, particularly the pro-life community. They will be going to the Ohio March for Life in downtown Columbus in October for the second consecutive year.

"We'll be evolving more clubs as we grow," Walker said. "We are looking forward to possibly doing sports in the future, but we need a different space for that."

The Chesterton Academy of St. Benedict's founding headmaster is Ismael Rodriguez, a former FOCUS missionary and seminarian in the Diocese of Dallas who has taught theology at the high school and college level. In addition to his administrative duties, he is teaching Latin and philosophy during the 2025-26 school year.

"Our faculty comes from all over but have a connection to G.K. Chesterton," Walker said. "Being able to joyfully and in good charity share the faith really resonates with them, and then making sure that our priority is the next generation to cultivate saints and scholars. ..."

"This is really just a joyful time. There's a lot happening and we're so excited for the support."

Bishop dedicates St. Charles chapel enhancements, altar

Bishop Earl Fernandes dedicated a new altar on Aug. 13 at the Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School's Mother of Mercy Chapel.

The ceremony marked 95 years to the day when the building was dedicated to Our Lady of Mercy in 1937.

The chapel is used daily by students as a place of prayer and reflection, for weekly student Masses, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, confession and penance services. It is also used for a number of alumni-related Masses and gatherings.

Bishop Fernandes was assisted throughout the liturgy by deacons, alumni seminarians and priests, and Knights of the Chair (St. Charles students who serve the bishop at Masses, mainly at St. Joseph Cathedral and St. Charles).

The dedication of the chapel's new hand-carved wooden main altar was an essential component of the Mass. The Prayer of Dedication and the Anointings included a blessing and sprinkling of water, an anointing with oil and incense, and the lighting of the altar's candles.

The 10-month construction project was necessary to address the school's significant enrollment growth. St. Charles began the school year with 678 students, the highest in its 101-



Bishop Earl Fernandes anoints the new altar in St. Charles Preparatory School's Mother of Mercy Chapel with oil on Aug. 13. Photo courtesy Anna Lincoln



St. Charles Preparatory School's Mother of Mercy chapel.



Bishop Michael Ready addresses college seminarians, faculty and guests in Mother of Mercy Chapel in 1948.

of seven stained glass windows depicting the sacraments. That work is now encircled by a colorful set of iconic figures, symbols and images.

New sets of inspiring young male and female saints line the space above the northern and

southern arcades beneath newly added Marian quotations.

Other artistic additions include new marble steps around the back altar and tabernacle and beautified side shrines to Mary and St. Joseph. The Stations of the Cross, originally in simple metal settings, now boast wooden frames. A reredos with a limestone and mosaic depiction of the virtues of Our Mother of Mercy, religious imagery and a crucifix will be arriving from overseas in the coming weeks to secure behind and above the tabernacle.

In addition to increasing its seating capacity, the choir loft was expanded. The building's mechanical systems were overhauled; its sound and lighting systems were upgraded to significantly brighten the space and improve its acoustics. Overall, a more pleasing ambience was created.

A vaulted barrel ceiling was added to the connecting hallway and stairs between the Main Building and the chapel's front doors. A beautiful new brick and limestone entryway with wooden doors now adorns the exterior of that hallway's northern exterior entryway. "Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy" is engraved in Latin over the doorway.

Fisher Catholic adds courses, outreach club

Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School began the new academic year in August with the addition of class offerings and a new student-led club dedicated to serving the school and local community.

Fisher Catholic students will be able to take courses in AP Biology, AP Calculus, AP Chemistry, AP English Composition, AP English Literature, AP European History, AP Physics, AP PreCalculus, AP Psychology, AP United States Government and AP United States History.

In addition, the school launched Fisher Catholic Outreach (FCO). Its mission is to provide students with opportunities to make a positive difference through volunteer work, service projects and community engagement.

FCO's activities will include organizing service events and Encountering Christ by Helping Others (ECHO) opportunities, partnering with local charities and community groups, and building leadership skills through hands-on projects.

Lancaster St. Bernadette expands to middle school

By Rachel Cavello

St. Bernadette School principal

Lancaster St. Bernadette Catholic School has a long and proud history of serving students in Pre-K through fifth grade. For generations, including when I was a student here, children would transition to another Catholic school after fifth grade to continue their middle school education.

Over the years, many families, parishioners, and stakeholders have expressed a heartfelt desire to see St. Bernadette grow beyond fifth grade. Parents often share how much they value our Christ-centered, family-oriented environment and how they wished their children could remain part of our school community through middle school.

Last year, that longtime

dream became a reality with the addition of our sixth grade class. This school year, we are proud to welcome seventh grade, and in fall 2026, we will complete our expansion by adding eighth grade. To support this exciting growth, building plans are in the works, and we anticipate breaking ground within the coming year.

Our expansion is not limited to the middle school. St. Bernadette now offers a full-day preschool program, providing our youngest learners the opportunity to grow in a Christ-centered environment. Once the new building is complete, we hope to expand our preschool offerings even further by creating two dedicated classes — one for Pre-K 3 and one for Pre-K 4.

What makes St. Bernadette unique is the strength of our community and the generations of families who stay connected to our school. Many alumni have

returned to serve, including our beloved secretary, Barb Huber, who graduated from St. Bernadette herself and has faithfully served our school for 32 years. Several other alumni now teach here as well: Dominic Neighbor, our sixth grade homeroom and middle school religion and social studies teacher; Caroline Bafus, our first grade teacher; Amber Schneider, our third grade teacher; and myself. In addition, many of our veteran teachers have been with us for decades and have had their own children pass through the halls of St. Bernadette.

Once you become part of the St. Bernadette family, you don't want to leave. And now, as we make history with both the expansion of our school and the growth of our preschool program, it is an especially exciting time to be part of this vibrant, faith-filled community.



Students return for the new year to Lancaster St. Bernadette School, which has added seventh grade as it continues to expand its enrollment.

Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School

St. Mary continues Schultüte tradition at German Village school



Father Tim Lynch, pastor of Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church, presents a Schultüte to a student. Photo courtesy St. Mary School

By Meredith Keller

For The Catholic Times

Students at Columbus St. Mary School in the German Village area celebrated the transition from kindergarten to first grade with the German Schultüte tradition on Friday, Aug. 22.

As part of the ceremony in the parish church, each first grader was called by name and came forward to receive a cone of goodies from other students.

Each grade gifted the first graders with sweet treats and spiritual encouragement such as Smarties and guardian angel

bookmarks.

Mrs. Linda Cotter, who has been a teacher for St. Mary for 51 years, explained the roots of the Schultüte tradition, which was adopted by the school about 20 years ago.

"This is an Eastern German tradition where a tree grows in the school yard, and it has little tiny cones on it," she said. "When the cones grow through the summer, they are picked in the fall and brought to school for the children."

"The cones are filled with sweet things that the kids would use for school. This tradition is meant to sweeten the start of the

school year, to make it a lot more fun and a little less scary."

Historically, most children didn't attend kindergarten, so first grade was the beginning of their schooling. This tradition in the German culture served to welcome students to their educational journey.

"The community would also celebrate the students in addition to their parents, family and friends," Mrs. Cotter said.

Bishop Earl Fernandes attended the ceremony and prayed over the students, asking, "God, would You pour out Your Spirit upon this school. Bring these students a spirit of love, wisdom and

grace. May they have a safe and successful school year. Mary, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us."

The celebration at St. Mary School took place on the Feast of the Queenship of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth. Bishop Fernandes encouraged the students to foster a relationship

with Our Mother, saying, "Mary is our Mother in heaven who pleads our cause. She prays for us and helps us."

Father Tim Lynch, the parish pastor, then led the students in praying the Hail Mary.

All Saints Academy expands House system

St. Rose of Lima, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Josephine Bakhita and St. Francis of Assisi have become special to the students of Columbus All Saints Academy. Those are the names of the multi-grade student groups that are part of the House system the school began using last year.

Each house spends time worshipping together, planning and completing service projects, learning about their house saint and other saints, and about scripture and each other.

The system began last year with fifth through eighth grade students. Because of its success last year, the school decided to expand the system to include all students for the 2025-2026 school year.

Kindergarten students are in the Kinder house and first through fourth grades are in the Junior Pillar house. All houses and activities are based on our four school pillars of Kindness, Honesty, Respect and Service. The virtues of faith, hope, love, temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice are incorporated into all house work and into the

school community.

Each house has staff and faculty leaders who help facilitate the activities and lessons. The Junior Pillar house will be choosing a saint this year. The third and fourth graders are house buddies to first and second graders, and ambassadors from upper grades are buddies for the Kinder house.

Incorporating Catholic Identity and building a culture of faith are among the goals for the house system.

"We incorporate our Catholic identity by showing love and the face of Jesus to each other and the students which helps encourage all of us to remain strong in our faith," said Mrs. Elizabeth Hessler, the St. Rose house leader.

Asked about the virtues, eighth grader Isaac Botello said, "I want to work on fortitude because I struggle sometimes to keep going when things get really hard, but remembering how Jesus kept carrying that cross made me want to practice this virtue more and get stronger."

Students have embraced the service component of the program.

"My favorite part is to help in the community and to experience diversity in the classroom with the different grades," Trent Johnson of St. Josephine Bakhita House said.

Some of the community service activities included making and delivering blankets to Nationwide Children's Hospital and helping at the Bishop Griffin Resource Center on the east side of Columbus.

"We can't wait to see what acts of kindness and service we achieve this year," All Saints principal Laura Miller said. "We are excited for the new year and we look forward to seeing the Holy Spirit working through our staff and students at All Saints Academy."

"It has been a wonderful addition to our school culture and to see the kids alive and growing in their faith is exciting. I can't wait to see these kids change the world with what they are learning with our House activities. Thanks to the House system, we are on fire with the Lord and can't wait to grow in the virtues and pillars."

Lancaster St. Mary begins year with house sorting ceremony



Lancaster Saint Mary School celebrated its annual house sorting ceremony during the first week of school. Each middle school house is named after a saint and composed of eight to 10 sixth through eighth grade students who gather monthly to perform various service activities. During the sorting ceremony, new middle school students were welcomed into their respective house and spent some time learning about their saint and creating a prayer to be used during the all-school morning announcements on the saints' feast days.

Photo courtesy Saint Mary School



Every parent wants their child to reach their full potential – in the classroom and beyond.

In the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Columbus, our students are challenged daily to excel **academically** while growing in **faith, virtue, and leadership**—ultimately preparing them to serve their communities and the world.



Discover the difference at *Our Catholic Schools*.

<https://education.columbuscatholic.org>



Draft day at Cristo Rey Columbus kicks off new school year



Students at Cristo Rey Columbus High School began the 2025-26 academic year on Aug. 19 with an NFL-style Draft Day at Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library downtown. Students were paired with corporate partners for a yearlong professional work-study program during the draft event. More than 100 employers partnered with Cristo Rey Columbus High School, including the Diocese of Columbus. Students will work one day per week for their employer, which offers job experience and helps to fund the cost of tuition. *Photos courtesy Cristo Rey*



CCL fall sports teams attend opening Mass



Central Catholic League schools kicked off the 2025 fall sports season with an opening Mass attended by 450 student-athletes, parents, family members, coaches and school administrators on Sunday, Aug. 10 in the Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School gym. The celebrant for the Mass was Father Jerry Rodenfels, a retired diocesan priest. Participating Columbus high schools were DeSales, St. Charles Preparatory, Bishop Hartley and Bishop Watterson. Student-athletes are participating in Ohio High School Athletic Association-sanctioned fall sports that include football, golf, girls volleyball, soccer, cross country, girls tennis and field hockey.

Photos courtesy Office of Catholic Schools

Our Lady of Bethlehem students happy to be back



Students at Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School, which serves children ages six weeks through kindergarten, began classes in August. The beginning of the school year brought fun, faith and smiling faces. Students were immersed in the school's mission to lead all children to Jesus in faith, learning, family and community.

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Bethlehem

Ready students attend international conference



Columbus Bishop Ready High School seniors Raymah Moore and Victoria White attended the DECA International Career Development Conference earlier this summer in Anaheim, California. They represented not only Bishop Ready at DECA, which is a career and technical student organization, but the state of Ohio while competing against more than 15,000 students in hundreds of events. Bishop Ready Future Business Leaders of America adviser Mr. Will Perry shared, "This was a great opportunity for our students to network, attend workshops and meet college admissions reps – all while competing in their categories. I'm really proud of how well they did and can't wait to see them compete again next year."

Photo courtesy Columbus Bishop Ready High School





Pilgrimage to

POLAND

In the Footsteps of St. John Paul II, St. Faustina & St. Maximilian Kolbe

June 01 - 09, 2026

\$5,184 per person
from Columbus (CMH)
*All Pricing Based on Double Occupancy.
Pricing available from any airport: www.206tours.com/airports



SCAN



Spiritual Director:
Fr. Daniel Dury



Questions? Contact:
liz@206tours.com
hope@206tours.com
(800) 206-8687

Book Now:
www.206tours.com/frdury/poland
Booking Code: DD060126

Follow Us @206tours!


23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C

Being disciples of Christ requires relinquishing control of worldly things

Wisdom 9:13-19b
Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17
Philemon 9-10, 12-17
Luke 14:25-33

We prefer to have everything under our control; therefore, we plan, have A, B, C options, a backup plan and insurance. We do not like to be vulnerable. We want to secure everything possible – health, property, car, personal belongings, etc. There is nothing wrong with this attitude. Nevertheless, certain aspects of our life do not work in this way. Relations for example. You cannot ensure a relationship, even less put it on insurance. Necessarily, you are vulnerable. The same applies to our relationship with Jesus. Today, as we listen to this Gospel, he makes it very clear.

There are three principles to consider – hate your father, mother, wife, etc.; calculate the effort to build; and finally accept there is someone much stronger than you. What is the point of this requirement? Jesus again makes it clear: Any one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple (Lk 14:33). The Greek original means who does not detach/renounce/set away from what is under his control. In other words, being his disciple, you are not in charge of this relation. You are not the one to set the direction, to control or even secure anything.

It is this climax that explains the three requirements. To hate your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even one's own life (v. 26) is figurative saying, otherwise Jesus' command to love your neighbor as yourself does not make any sense (Mt 22:36-40). Such a strong expression emphasizes that no one and nothing can take the place that belongs to Jesus. There is no one and nothing that you can consider more important than him, and therefore, there is no other 'secure, reliable backup plan' but him. You cannot base your life on your spouse, children, parents – your family ties, how great and strong they may be. Not even on your own skills, talents and experiences (one's own life). Only Jesus. It is evident that Jesus does not take you away from your biological and human relations. He is not stripping you of your talents and skills, but they are not the decisive elements for your discipleship. Carrying the cross and following Jesus is the critical principle. Imitating his lifestyle.

To build a tower, literally a fortified high structure that saves from attacks and allows to control waste territories, recalls the image of an accomplished life, where everything is secured. You cannot build such a life on your own. You do not have "the resources" necessary to accomplish it.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Robert Jager, Ph.D.
Father Robert Jager, Ph.D., is pastor of Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church.

Even though you try your best, you will end up as a fool. It is a matter of a second and all the efforts will burn up like straw! Sickness, betrayal, loss of a beloved, etc. The onlookers will say 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.' (v. 29-30). The laugh of the people recalls another verse from the Scripture: The righteous will see and fear, and will laugh at him, saying, "Behold, the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches and was strong in his evil desire." (Ps 52:6-7). For the house of

your life must be built on the rock. Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been built on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell and great was its fall." (cf. Mt 7: 24-27)

Finally, to oppose another king advancing upon him with 20,000 troops, reminds the listener of the fact that you cannot fight God and win. You can fight him but never prevail. You can ignore him but never be truly successful and happy. The success lies in the fact of recognizing the Stronger and reconciling with him. This will bring peace!

You cannot be a disciple unless you give up total control of things you possess. You cannot be a disciple unless you become vulnerable with Jesus and set out to imitate him. We should never forget, however, that being a disciple implies a great mystery becoming a personal experience. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him (Jn 14:23).

Exaltation of the Holy Cross Year C

Cross serves as ultimate sign of God's love

Numbers 21:4b-9
Psalm 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

Ordinary Time Sundays have an interesting quality that distinguishes them from the Sundays of other seasons in the liturgical calendar. When a feast of the Lord or a solemnity falls on a Sunday of Ordinary Time, it takes precedence over the Ordinary Time Sunday. This happens a number of occasions this year. Today's feast, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, is a feast of the Lord because it holds up for our adoration the very instrument of our salvation. The cross of Jesus Christ triumphs over sin and death and accomplishes the redemption promised.

The act of crucifixion was an extreme form of the Roman manner of punishment, a way of creating an awareness of the power of the Roman emperor and his armies. When Romans wanted to show their might, they used the cross as a form of public expression of their dominance. Students of Latin and Roman history recall tales of its use and the cruelty of Roman emperors who wanted to impress their guests even at dinner parties. Capital punishment could be simple and straightforward for Roman citizens (Paul's beheading with a sword) or brutal, as hap-



SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

pened to Jesus and to other disciples who did not have such status (Peter and Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew and Matthias, just to name a few).

Romans also had a custom for emperors and generals who were returning to the City of Rome to be honored for their victories, which was called a triumph. This involved a public parade down the Via Sacra in the Roman Forum, publicly displaying various spoils, both material and human, that were

won by the victorious general. It is the irony of the turns of history that now we celebrate such a triumph, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The paschal mystery transforms suffering and death into the promise of Resurrection for all who will follow the Way of the Cross with the Lord.

Our celebration is not meant to show human victories but God's victory on behalf of human beings over sin and death. Paul's letter to the Philippians quotes an ancient Christian hymn, highlighting the role of the Cross. "Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross." From there, Paul expresses the Father's response to the humility shown by Jesus' embracing of His human estate in its completeness, to the point of death and the humiliation of the crucifixion. "God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The Cross triumphs and we acknowledge

its power, not as something outside ourselves but as something we are called to live. As Christians, we live under the sign of the Cross. Every sacramental encounter is an expression of its triumph. Our sufferings are to be united to the Cross. As many religious sisters told little children in their care when they encountered difficulties in life's journey: "Offer it up!" We embrace our own crosses and so share in the Exaltation of the Holy Cross of Christ.

The essential reality of the mystery of the Cross is God's love for His creation and for all His creatures, especially humanity. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." We are saved through the Paschal Mystery, the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus the Lord.

"We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your Cross you have redeemed the world!"

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

9-8/9-13 MONDAY Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30 Psalm 13:6abc Matthew 1:16,18-23	THURSDAY Colossians 3:12-17 Psalm 150:1b-6 Luke 6:27-38	9-15/9-20 MONDAY 1 Timothy 2:1-8 Psalm 28:2,7-9 John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35	THURSDAY 1 Timothy 4:12-16 Psalm 111:7-10 Luke 7:36-50
TUESDAY Colossians 2:6-15 Psalm 145:1b-2,8-11 Luke 6:12-19	FRIDAY 1 Timothy 1:1-2,12-14 Psalm 16:1b-2a,5,7-8,11 Luke 6:39-42	TUESDAY 1 Timothy 3:1-13 Psalm 101:1b-3b,5-6 Luke 7:11-17	FRIDAY 1 Timothy 6:2c-12 Psalm 49:6-10,17-20 Luke 8:1-3
WEDNESDAY Colossians 3:1-11 Psalm 145:2-3,10-13b Luke 6:20-26	SATURDAY 1 Timothy 1:15-17 Psalm 113:1b-7 Luke 6:43-49	WEDNESDAY 1 Timothy 3:14-16 Psalm 111:1-6 Luke 7:31-35	SATURDAY 1 Timothy 6:13-16 Psalm 100:1b-5 Luke 8:4-15

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION:
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 Breezeline 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).

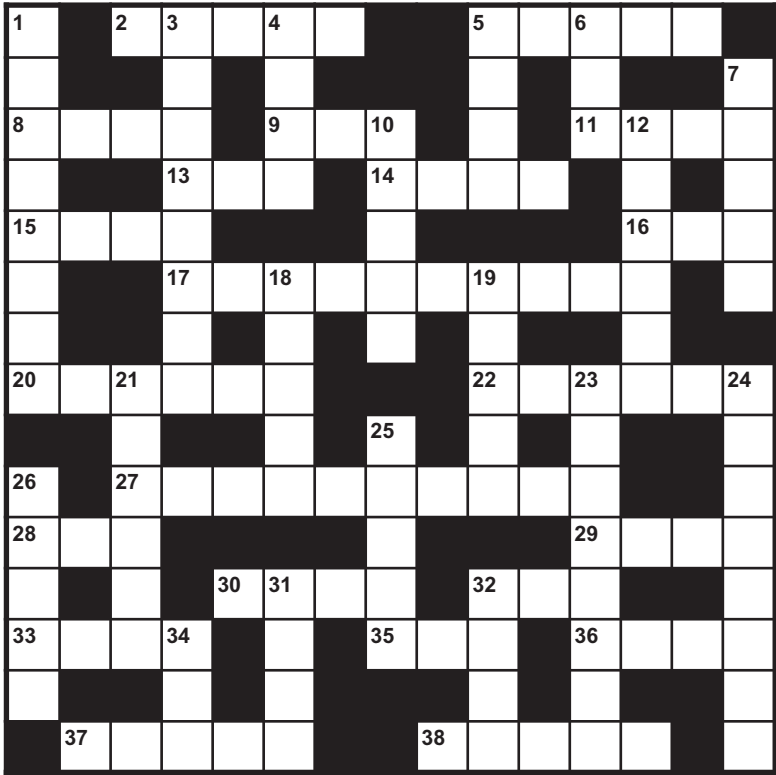
Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

Mass Schedule: Weeks of September 7 and 14
DAILY MASS
8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113 , Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City, Washington C.H.; Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.
12:05 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. Saturdays, Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org. (Saturdays on radio only),

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

We pray the propers for Weeks III and IV of the Liturgy of the Hours

CATHOLIC CROSSWORD



www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

- ACROSS**

2 Martyred Salvadoran Bishop-Saint

5 There are 27 in the New Testament

8 Second son of Judah

9 Noah built one

11 Amo, ___, amat

13 Catholic newsman Russert, former host of "Meet the Press"

14 OT prophetic book

15 Letters above the cross

16 Israel ending

17 Element of Reconciliation

20 Meal for Ezekiel?

22 St. Therese of Lisieux is a patron of this country

27 Opening pair?

28 "Can any of you by worrying ___ a single moment to your life-span?" (Mt 6:27)

29 Chalice covering

30 Moses' was radiant after he spoke with the Lord

32 ___ Wednesday

33 Land of Sts. Brendan and Brigid

35 Evil deed
- 36 The Wise Men came from here

37 Supreme ___

38 Morning prayer
- DOWN**

1 Certain mysteries

3 Pilgrimage site, ___ de Compostela

4 He was an original

5 The ___ Army of Mary

6 ___ pro nobis

7 Palm product

10 Catholic Oscar-winning actress of The Country Girl fame

12 Iowa city named for monks, Des ___

18 In Genesis, Melchizedek's domain

19 9 AM prayer

21 Lector

23 The Good ___

24 Sebastian is their patron saint

25 Prayer spot?

26 Catholic actress and First Lady of the American Theatre

31 Jesuits' motto (abbr.)

32 Prophet in Luke 2

34 He gave Hannah words of comfort

Golf event benefits Buckeye Catholic

Buckeye Catholic held its second annual golf classic in August to raise awareness and support for its campus ministry efforts at the St. Thomas More Newman Center serving students, faculty and staff at Ohio State University in Columbus.

This year, 21 foursomes and 84 golfers played the Ohio State University Scarlet Course. The day begin with an 8 a.m. Mass at the Newman Center followed by breakfast and practice on the driving range before a 10 a.m. shotgun start.

After the round, golfers gathered in the clubhouse for a picnic buffet and awards reception. Andrew Kebe, the new director of ministry; Father Adam Streitenberger, executive director and chaplain, and Jayden Williams, a student, shared details about the vision and impact of Buckeye Catholic.

Williams was fully initiated into the Church at the Easter Vigil this year with the help of Jacob Daulton, a Fellowship of Catholic



Volunteers were ready to assist golfers participating in this year's Buckeye Catholic golf fundraiser for campus ministry at the Ohio State University Scarlet Course. Photo courtesy Buckeye Catholic

University Students (FOCUS) missionary at Buckeye Catholic.

Sponsors included Columbus Capital, The Joseph Group, Jones-Schlater Flooring, Knights of Columbus Marysville Council #5534, Knights of Columbus St. Catharine of Siena Parish Council #11354, Bob Beasley, Jim and Barbara Flaherty, Janice and Dale Darnell and Frank Courtney.

Buckeye Catholic is dedicated to facilitating encounters with Jesus Christ, forming young adults into mature Catholics through comprehensive spiritual development and launching them into their vocation as missionary disciples who revive and refresh the Church in Columbus and beyond.

CATHOLIC WORD SEARCH

Words To Know

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com



- ATONEMENT
BEATIFY
BLASPHEMY
COVENANT
EVANGELIZE
- INDULGENCE
PIETY
PRECEPT
PROVIDENCE
PURGATORY
- SACRILEGE
TEMPORAL
TITHE
VENERATE
VIRTUE

ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE CHURCH
FALL 2025

DIVORCE CARE GROUP

Find help, healing and hope from the hurt of divorce. DivorceCare is a friendly, caring group who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. A 13-week video series that includes several accounts from individuals on how divorce affected their lives. The program contains material from many acclaimed counselors, doctors, and clergy on dealing with divorce and its recovery. It begins on Sunday September 28th from 7:00- 9:00pm in the Church Library. There is a one-time charge of \$30, which includes the workbook. For more information contact Mike Workman at (614) 517-8408 or search for us at <https://www.divorcecare.org/>

MCGOVERN LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT L.L.C.

Mow | Trim | Edging | Mulch
Spring-Fall Clean-up
GutterCleaning | Junk Removal

Call 614-290-3720

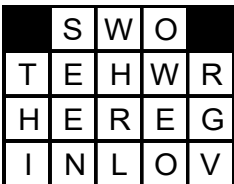
Free Estimates | Good Job Reasonable Rates

Words of Wisdom

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

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

Faults grow thick ...



WHERE LOVE GROWS THIN

LANDSCAPING

OAKLAND NURSERY
VOTED BEST IN THE U.S.

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

614-268-3834



- PLUMBING
- HEATING
- COOLING

614-299-7700
MUETZEL.COM



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

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

SHERIDAN FUNERAL HOME

740-653-4633

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

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING:

Insurance • References
40 years' experience
Senior discount

Fair prices • Free estimates

DICK LIBERATORE • 614-488-8842

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BENNETT, Paulette A. (Omlor), 87, Aug. 15
St. Catharine of Siena Church, Columbus

CHEETHAM, Mabel, 98, Aug. 12
St. Mary Church, Marion

DOOLEY, Joseph G., 86, Aug. 13
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

DUGAN, Patrick "Pat," 68, Aug. 21
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

FABRO, Victor J., 88, formerly of Columbus, Aug. 13
St. Anthony Church, Mackinaw City, Mich.

FISANICK, Nancy (Friel), 86, June 13
Blessed Sacrament Church, Newark

FRANCKHAUSER, James Michael, 90, Aug. 11
St. Peter-St. Joan of Arc Church, Columbus-Powell

GINTHER, Margaret P. "Nellie," 99, Aug. 12
Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles, Chillicothe

GREENE, William "Billy" D., 62, Aug. 24
St. Catharine of Siena Church, Columbus

GRISSETT, Gregory N., 81, Aug. 3
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

HESS, Camille (Capretta), formerly of Columbus, 78, Aug. 15
St. Therese Church, Mooresville, N.C.

HOLT, Janet L., 87, Aug. 21
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

KNAPP, Robert W., 81, Aug. 16
St. Matthew the Apostle Church, Gahanna

KUHN, John E. Jr., 63, Aug. 19
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

McCLURG, Joel, 81, Aug. 2
St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus

McFADDEN, Robert M., 74, Aug. 15
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

MUSSI, George Jr., 87, Aug. 11
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

PARASKOS, Mary A., 93, Aug. 17
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

PATTON, Mary T., 92, Aug. 19
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Pickerington

PHILLIPS, Margaret D. (Kolostyak), 92, Aug. 22
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

POWERS, John Robert, 71, Aug. 24
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

RADICH, Sharon, 79, Aug. 27
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

REINMANN, James Anthony, 92, Aug. 4
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

SCHNEIDER Michael J., 84, Aug. 18
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

SPAITH, Rose A., 85, Aug. 5
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

STEINER, Carol Ann, 80, July 14
St. Mary Church, Marion

WEIDNER, Grace M. (Brown), 99, Aug. 21
St. Rose of Lima Church, New Lexington

Father M. Edmund Hussey

Funeral Mass for Father M. Edmund Hussey, 92, who died Thursday, August 21 at Mother Angeline McCrory Manor, Columbus, was celebrated Friday, Aug. 29 at Columbus St. Agatha Church. Burial was at Graceland Cemetery, Sidney.

Father Hussey was a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati who retired in 1998, moved to Columbus to be closer to family members and served for many years as senior associate pastor at Columbus St. Agatha Church.

He was born on June 24, 1933 in Sidney to Millard and Ida (Ernst) Hussey.

He was ordained on May 31, 1958 at Cincinnati St. Peter in Chains Cathedral by Cincinnati Archbishop Karl Alter and spent the first 11 years of his priesthood as associate pastor at several Cincinnati parishes

and a teacher at Cincinnati Archbishop Elder High School.

After three years of postgraduate study at Fordham University, he joined the faculty at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West in Norwood, where he was a teacher for 10 years. He also taught classes at the University of Dayton and other institutions, was archivist for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and wrote several books on the archdiocese's history and more than 80 monographs, articles and reviews.

He was pastor for nine years at Yellow Springs St. Paul Church and seven years at Springfield St. Raphael Church before his retirement.

He is survived by a brother, Joseph (Kyoung) and many nieces and nephews.

Father Mark Ghiloni's funeral homily for Father M. Edmund Hussey

"On behalf of Father Summers and the people of St. Agatha Parish and all of the priests gathered here today, I would like to extend our sympathy to Father Hussey's family and to thank you for giving such a gifted man to the church as a priest. He touched many lives in his ministry and I am sure will continue to do so in the future. Our prayers are with you during these days and the days to come.

"In the first reading from the prophet Jeremiah, we hear the call of the prophet: 'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.' The same can be said of each of us. In other words, 'I loved you and chose you.'

"Jeremiah was dedicated to be a prophet but replied that he was too young. Not an acceptable excuse for the Lord. The Lord told him not to fear because the Lord would be with him, taking care of whatever defects he had. 'Then the Lord extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying, 'See, I place my words in your mouth.'

"When one is ordained a priest, as he lay on the floor of the church while the community prays the Litany of Saints, he is very aware of his inadequacies and very aware of the grace and mercy of God. In his ordination, the Lord in effect says to the ordinand, 'See, I place my words in your mouth.' Ed spent the next 60-some years reflecting on that word, preaching and teaching that word, allowing it to guide his life and ministry.

"Ed would admit that he wasn't perfect, at least on a good day. He saw faith as a gift that we respond to, and respond he did. In his response, he did much to strengthen the faith lives of many people, including myself. He helped me to wrap my head around this concept of faith as a gift, not easy for one coming from a science background.

"In his letter to the Romans, Paul says 'If God is for us, who can be against us? ... He handed his own Son over for us all. What will separate us from the love of Christ?' His answer? Absolutely nothing! 'For I am certain that neither death, nor life, nor angels or principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' Nothing can separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus.

"In the liturgies of Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, the church gave us Psalm 139 as the responsorial psalm: 'You have searched me and you know me, Lord.' And I would add, 'And you still love me.' Nothing can separate us from the love of God. That was a constant theme of Ed's ministry.

"Ed had said that there had been a shift

since Vatican Council II from a priesthood of power to a priesthood of service. He truly served God's people with the Good News of God's immense love.

"A young man, a husband and father came to see me the other night to talk over some things. He told me he had grown up in Springfield, Ohio and his family were members of St. Raphael Parish, where Ed had been pastor. He remembered Ed as being very tall and very kind. He celebrated this man's first confession and first communion when he was in the second grade. He told me that after school Masses, Ed would stick around and talk with the kids for a while.

"There is no doubt that Ed was a very good theologian, professor, teacher, spiritual director and author. However, he was foremost a very good pastor. He had a pastoral sense about him in all that he did. He never stopped teaching but did so with a pastor's heart.

"Ed had written that 'My years as a priest have been generally exciting, sometimes challenging but never boring.' One could never accuse Ed of being boring.

"For many years, Ed, Dave Funk and I traveled to the Abbey of Gethsemani in January or February for our annual retreat. The monks like you to be quiet. Ed and Dave had a little trouble with that part at a certain time of day. Dave always brought a rather large bag of snacks. Gethsemani is not known for its cuisine. He also brought a briefcase full not of books but rather with the makings of a bar.

"We were on retreat, but cocktail hour was considered a part of that. We would gather in Dave's room before Vespers and dinner. Those two would get rather loud at times and I would remind them of the rules. Ed would just say 'It's time for a dividend, another drink. Mark, why don't you get some more ice?' He once said, 'You know, I think I could live this life if they just had cocktail hour.' I think we can say Ed was never boring.

"When Ed retired in Columbus to be close to his family, I told him he might want to help out at St. Agatha Parish because he chose to live near there. Dave Funk was pastor, and later, Dan Ochs. Ed found a true home here and the parish has benefited from his wisdom and his presence. Ed and Dave became great friends, as did Ed and Dan. Ed was very grateful for that. He enjoyed music and art and a good meal and, of course, a good Manhattan with at least one dividend.

"Ed could never be accused of being boring. But the last few years, I believe he



Beautifully Handcrafted Memorials
From Our Family to Yours



MODLICH
Monument Company

614-276-1439

modlich-monument.com

Catholic artist returns home for concert supporting ministry

By Meredith Keller
For The Catholic Times

A Grammy-nominated and Catholic Music Awards winner exuded her love for performing and her faith at a benefit concert in her hometown last month.

Lancaster native Sarah Hart, an internationally acclaimed Catholic singer-songwriter, delighted an audience at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Emerald Campus (former St. Mark Church) on Saturday, Aug. 16 during a concert in collaboration with Bridges Ministry that blended worship, prayer and fellowship.

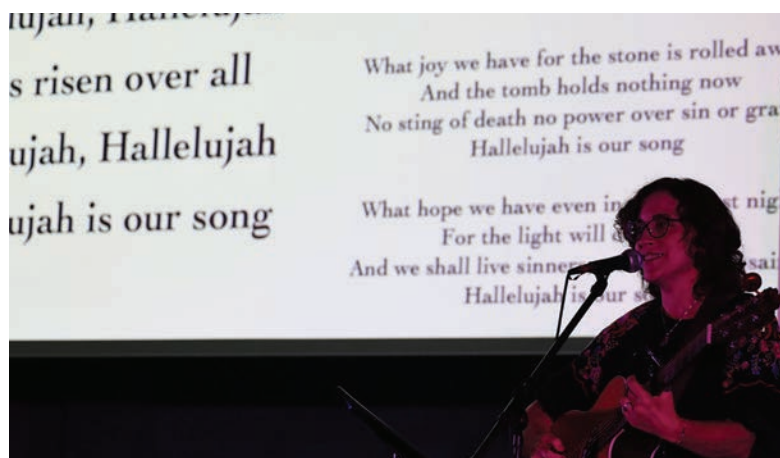
All proceeds went to Bridges Ministry, which began in 2012 at the former St. Mark and is now part of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption. Its mission is to connect the local church to Catholic ministries around

the globe. Some of its past and current projects include BioSand water filtration with Catholic missions in Vietnam and a water well, classroom and boarding house with the Sisters of Notre Dame in Tanzania.

A common theme throughout the evening was the power of God's love and the call that everyone has to love God and their neighbor more. "We need to find the ways people around you bring you joy," she shared, and added, "We think so little of so many."

The concert opened with a prayer from Msgr. Craig Eilerman, rector of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, followed by Hart's opening song based on St. Francis of Assisi's prayer, "Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace."

Along with her deep love for the Church and the Eucharist,



Catholic artist Sarah Hart performed at a benefit concert last month in Lancaster for Bridges Ministry.
Photo courtesy Meredith Keller

she also has a passion for "living and loving as Jesus did." She expressed that passion in "There's Only Love" and "All Shall Be Well," inspired by St. Julian of Norwich.

Hart, a graduate of Fisher Catholic High School and the Ohio

State University, expressed her love for the saints, which she said often inspires her songwriting. She quoted St. Augustine, who said "to sing is to pray twice," and encouraged the audience to sing along to her original songs such

as "Drawn to You" and "Mother Mary, Pray for Us."

Throughout the evening, she kept the audience more than entertained — whether singing and playing the keyboard or guitar or performing heartfelt duets with her mother, who has been a huge part of her love for music. She concluded her performance with "Give Us Your Peace."

The Catholic artist is truly a testament to what it means to worship God with "all her heart, soul, and mind," and to bring others into that powerful and beautiful place of worship, as Mark 12:30 declares.

To learn more about Sarah Hart or to listen to her music, visit sarahhart.com. To learn more about Bridges Ministry, visit stmarybridgesministry.org.

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Birthright lunch, auction set for Sept. 13

The annual luncheon and silent auction benefiting Birthright Columbus, which has brought love and support to expectant mothers for more than 50 years, will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13 at Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road.

Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$25 for children. Those wishing to attend are asked to call (614) 313-5150 or write Sue Wilson, 5548 Parkshire Drive, Columbus, OH 43229.

Dominican Sisters of Peace to host retreat

The Dominican Sisters of Peace will sponsor a "Come and See" retreat from Friday to Sunday, Sept. 12 to 14 at their Motherhouse, 2330 Airport Road, Columbus, for Catholic women ages 18 to 45 who are contemplating consecrated religious life.

The retreat will give participants an opportunity to experience life as a Dominican sister firsthand by observing and interacting with Dominican Sisters of Peace from Columbus and across the nation. Each participant will be paired with a companion sister as a spiritual guide throughout the weekend and will be involved with sisters' activities.

The cost of room and board will be covered and some scholarship money is available for traveling purposes, granted according to the need.

The congregation currently has four women in formation for consecrated religious life.

To register, visit the sisters' website, www.oppeace.org or contact Sister June Fitzgerald, OP, at (570) 336-3991 or June.Fitzgerald@oppeace.org.

St. Matthew to host DivorceCare group

Gahanna St. Matthew Church, 801 Havens Corners Road, will be the site for a 13-week DivorceCare support group for people healing from the pain of divorce.

The first session is from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28 in the church library. Each session will include a video with accounts from individuals on how divorce affected their lives. The program also includes material from many acclaimed counselors, doctors and clergy on dealing with divorce and its recovery.

There is a one-time charge of \$30 that includes a workbook. For more information, contact Mike Workman at (614) 517-8408 or go to <https://www.divorcecare.org>.

Serra Club sponsors vocations event for students

The annual vocations event sponsored by the Serra Club for female students will take place in two parts this year at the Jessing Center of the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus, on Tuesday, Oct. 7.

The speaker for both programs will be Sister Elfie del Rosario, FMA, national vocations director for the Salesian Sisters.

She will speak to sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. Doughnuts will be provided. This will be followed by a lunch for young ladies in grades 9 to 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP no later than Tuesday, Sept. 23 to Patricia Vandewalle at pvandewalle14@gmail.com or (614) 439-5152.

Donations requested for Rosary billboards

Tim McAndrew, founder of the Laity for Mercy organization, again this year is collecting donations for billboards with the message "Pray the Rosary. Pray for Peace" to be placed along central Ohio highways.

Last year, he raised enough for large signs at three high-traffic locations — West Broad Street in Columbus, Riverside Drive in Grandview Heights and North High Street in Worthington near St. Michael Church. Billboards also were placed along roads in the Cincinnati area.

The Lamar outdoor advertising company charges \$600 to \$1,000 per month for each 10- by 22-foot billboard, depending on location.

Donations are tax deductible.

Go to feastofmercy.net to donate online and learn more about the campaign or contact McAndrew at (614) 565-8654, mcan-drewfourlife@gmail.com or Laity for Mercy, 5133 Collins Way, Grove City, OH 43123.

Blue Mass set for Sept. 11

Columbus St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, and St. Timothy Knights of Columbus Council 14345 will host the annual Blue Mass on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 5 p.m.

The Blue Mass is an opportunity to honor and pray for active, retired and deceased police, firefighters and emergency medical services. In addition, it is a time to remember the 2,973 who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

All active and retired police, fire, and emergency medical services and their families are invited. The celebrant and homilist will be Bishop Earl Fernandes.

HOMILY: M. Edmund Hussey, Continued from Page 18

had to deal with boredom. He was bedfast for several years as he suffered with his ill health. However, when you would visit him, he would try to be pleasant. He truly came to know the cross. The last couple of times I saw him he basically said 'I want to die but I can't.'

"He appreciated those who came to see him, his family and friends and brother priests. I am especially grateful to our presider today, Father Bob Farrell, who has looked in on Ed quite a bit. That's what good friends do.

"In the Gospel, Jesus says 'This is my commandment: Love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ... I have called you friends because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.'

"We are not all called to a martyr's death in the traditional sense, but we are all called to love. I would think that all that Ed taught and believed about the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, he was living out in a very real way these past few years. He had the opportunity to offer his sufferings for those he loved, to unite his suffering to that of Christ, and trusted that in some way his suffering was redemptive, as was Christ's.

"Ed was born on the Feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist. His funeral Mass today is on the Feast of the passion and death of John the Baptist. If he ever wondered about whether he chose the right vocation, I would think that he would have reflected on what Jesus says next: 'It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain.' Ed was chosen and appointed to go and bear fruit as a priest. And that he has done well for these many years, and we are all evidence that the fruit he

bore still remains.

"Ed was very fond of Father Karl Rahner's theology — a great theologian of the 20th century. He gave many of his students a love for the same. He was an expert on Rahner. Rahner's theology was one of hope. He believed that every human being has a supernatural existential, an inherent, if often unacknowledged, orientation toward God. All of humanity is created for and structured by the possibility of receiving divine love.

"Ed preached at my first Mass and ended with this prayer of Father Rahner. I would like to end with the same.

"The priest is not an angel sent from heaven. He is a man chosen from among men, a member of the church, a Christian. Remaining man and Christian, he begins to speak to you the word of God. This word is not his own. No, he comes to you because God has told him to proclaim God's word.

"Perhaps he has not entirely understood it himself. Perhaps he adulterates it. But he believes, and despite his fears, he knows that he must communicate God's word to you.

"For must not someone of us say something about God, about eternal life, about the majesty of grace in our sanctified being. Must not some one of us speak of sin, the judgment and mercy of God?"

"So, my dear friends, pray for him, carry him so that he might be able to sustain others by bringing to them the mystery of God's love revealed in Christ Jesus.

"Ed, we pray that you rest now in God's eternal love and peace. Thank you for your ministry, your wisdom and your love."

A helping hope

Each month, I try to take time to wander different parts of the Diocese of Columbus in an attempt to learn the stories of those we serve at Catholic Social Services. These encounters are life giving and inspiring.

During this Jubilee Year, we are called to be Pilgrims of Hope. The theme is rooted in the phrase “hope does not disappoint” from St. Paul’s letter to the Romans.

Reflecting on this passage in a broader context, we read that we would do well to “boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint.” (Rom 5:3-5). Hope clearly does not disappoint, and I would like to share three recent encounters as evidence of the power of hope that is transmitted through “helping” another in their time of need.

Why me?

It’s a Friday, almost 5 p.m., and you are in a hurry. Okay ... I’m in a hurry to get to an event on time or risk being unfashionably late. As I am pumping gas, the voice of a stranger from the distance caught me off guard.

“Hello sir, could you help me out?” My general response when faced with a random need on the street is that “I’m sorry that I don’t have any cash to offer you, but my name is Kelley, what is your name?” Sometimes this results in a conversation about trial, other times an opportunity to offer prayer, and



SERVING AS NEIGHBORS

Kelley Henderson

Kelley Henderson is a Third Order Carmelite who serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services. He is a member of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral and serves in volunteer leadership roles with Catholic Charities USA, Inter-Provincial Lay Carmelite Commission, and Mission and Culture Committee at Mount Carmel Health System.

occasionally it is a short dismissal of what might be perceived as false concern.

On this occasion, it resulted in a short conversation about the hard knocks that life can deliver. After a gas station sandwich and a soda were exchanged, we parted ways with a brief sense of encounter as neighbors. What could have been a “why me?” frustration actually made my day. It is in the little moments that, despite our struggles, God can slow things down with a smile.

What now?

Last month, I spent some time with festivalgoers at the annual Festival Latino! celebration in downtown Columbus. The gathering did not disappoint with great food, great entertainment and really amazing vendors.

This festival is extra special to us at Catholic Social Services because many of the vendors at this annual celebration are graduates from a small business incubator we operate at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center on the west side. This incubator launched in fall 2023, and since has helped over 50 entrepreneurs bring their ideas to market and hopefully break the cycle of struggle for their families.

My Español is limited, “muy poquito” is more accurate, but there was a common language of gratitude in the air. Congratulating the new vendors for this year and also stopping in to see vendors from recent years was inspiring. When faced with the choice of low wages and long hours to simply survive, the question of “what now?” can become “why not?” when given an opportunity. Hope in a better future can propel even the most difficult choices forward.

Why together?

Catholic Social Services recently launched a new parish-based ministry called “Super Neighbor” to reach more people struggling with isolation and loneliness. This initiative was launched partly in response to how funding priorities for aging populations

is changing, and a hope that faithful Catholics would show up to support the growing needs.

Another initiative running parallel to this relies on the support from older adults to visit with their peers in return for a modest stipend and travel reimbursement. We recently hosted a town hall to answer questions about a reduction in funding from the federal government and its impact on their participation. To my surprise, most of the program participants wanted to find a way to continue serving their neighbors despite the loss of funding.

During lunch, many shared that their time with others was healing for them as well, and that our ministry makes these relationships possible for them. I thought my job that day was to console them during a period of change, but instead they ministered to me about how we do this together or not at all.

As a wanderer in search of encounters, I am always left in awe with the resiliency of the human spirit. A resiliency that is strengthened by the power of hope. When faced with the loss of everything, hope is often what remains. We embrace this hope as an act of faith, or an act of desperation, only to quickly realize that hope does not disappoint. Now off to the next encounter ...

Learn more about getting involved with Catholic Social Services at www.colscss.org

Catholics find their ‘identity’ through Christ

Centuries before the birth of Christ, someone wisely said, “Know yourself.” That is still good advice. The New Testament reminds baptized Christians to know who they are: “no longer foreigners and strangers, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God’s household” (Eph 2:19). Thanks to God’s love, Christians are called, and truly are, God’s children (see 1 Jn 3:1-3). In the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR), we find a strange teaching about Christian “identity” that focuses on the supernatural power and authority that every believer is supposed to have. The NAR teaching on “identity” distorts authentic Christian teaching on who we are in Christ.

“Schools of supernatural ministry” that teach Christians how to practice signs, wonders and prophecy begin with “identity.” Typically, they tell their students to move from a “performance mindset” to an identity-based mindset. A person with a performance mindset focuses on goals and the actions needed to achieve them. This can be detrimental if someone believes that their worth depends totally on what they achieve or how they are viewed by others. According to NAR teachers, if you have a performance mindset, you hesitate to believe that you can work miracles, but once you understand your identity as a child of God, you will think differently.

Kris Vallotton of Bethel Church in Redding, California, says that every Christian should think about himself or herself in the same way that we understand Jesus: “The reason why you do miracles is because your Daddy is God. ... Only God can heal the sick. You are acting like God, because you’re children of God. Listen, if you teach people to



A SHEPHERD’S CARE

Father Thomas Buffer

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

heal the sick, raise the dead, and cast out demons, and you don’t teach them who they are, then they have a performance-based identity. But as soon as you figure out who you are, you’re like, ‘if that’s who I am, where’s my power?’”

Similarly, the Encounter School of Ministry teaches its students to build “a foundation for all ministry on your royal identity as sons and daughters of God. ... The first quarter focuses on the royal identity we receive as sons and daughters of God who have received an inheritance to do the works of Jesus and even greater works (Jn 14:12) ... students work to shift from a performance-based mentality where their value and identity comes from what they do for God and into an identity where their value comes from who they are as sons and daughters of God alone.”

These same teachers contrast this concept of identity with a “pauper mentality” or “poverty mindset.” Paupers believe they have limited resources, not understanding that God is King who gives his royal children power and authority to

work miracles. The Encounter School of Ministry says, “You cannot accomplish the amazing works that God has prepared for you unless you believe in who God says you are.”

In this view, Christians who say, “I can’t do miracles, I’m just a simple sinner,” are demonstrating false humility instead of accepting their identity as “world-changers.” If they accept their identity, they will “visibly demonstrate the kingdom,” performing mighty deeds.

These teachings about identity, whether from Protestants or Catholics, boil down to this: Because God is your Father, you can do the same works that Jesus did. For these teachers, when Romans says “for those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son” (Rom 8:28-29), it was saying that “Jesus is the model of the normal Christian life” and we should do the same miracles he did, and greater ones. Ironically, a teaching about abandoning a performance-based identity defined by doing things ends up saying that knowledge of your true identity empowers you to, well, *do things*.

This is not how Catholics should understand their identity as God’s adopted children. Jesus Christ is the eternal, only begotten Son of God. Christians were not always God’s children; we became his adopted children in baptism. After baptism, we still have only a human nature, unlike Christ who had both a human and divine nature, and worked miracles by the power of his human nature.

Yes, the second letter of Peter says that Christians have become “partakers of the divine nature” because of the grace of adoption. But this text, instead of telling Christians to perform miracles, advises

them to “make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love” (2 Pt 1:5-7)

We appreciate our identity, not by performing mighty deeds of power, but by leading holy lives of discipleship. The Lord’s Prayer, wrote Pope Benedict XVI, tells us that “we are not ready-made children of God from the start, but that we are meant to become so increasingly by growing more and more deeply in communion with Jesus. Our sonship turns out to be identical with following Christ” (Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth*, Doubleday 2007, 138).

Pope Leo the Great (d. 461), in a Christmas homily, exhorted Christians to understand their identity this way: “Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, and when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ, so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh. Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God’s own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God’s kingdom.”

Why don't we have a Saturday vigil Mass?

Dear Father,
We don't have a Saturday vigil Mass in my church. I thought every church had to have one. I don't know if the bishop knows about this situation and I don't want to get my priest in trouble. I wanted your opinion about if I should talk to my priest about this. Thanks.

-Sam

Dear Sam,

The short answer is no, you don't necessarily need to talk with your priest about this particular situation. And, no, typically the Saturday evening Mass is not a vigil Mass. And, no, not every parish needs one. And, no, you don't need to go to the bishop, and, no, you wouldn't get him in trouble even if you did contact the bishop.

A Saturday evening Mass is not really a "vigil" Mass unless it happens to be the Saturday night before Easter Sunday or the night before special solemnities in the Church. The word vigil comes from the Latin *vigilia*, meaning a watchfulness, staying awake, being alert. At a vigil Mass, we are watching for the actual day of the feast to arrive. Vigil Masses mark very important times for us to be alert to God's power in our lives.

The typical Saturday evening Mass is properly referred to as a Mass of Anticipation or an Anticipated Sunday Mass. When Saturday evening Masses

became common, they received the wrong name: Vigil. And, unfortunately, the name has stuck.

Interestingly, the origin of Saturday evening Masses is tied to the beginning of changes to the Eucharistic fasting laws, according to author Shawn Tunink. Prior to 1957, Catholics were required to fast beginning at midnight if they were to receive Holy Communion.

Clearly, if you wanted to eat on Sunday morning or even have Sunday lunch, you would go to the earliest possible Mass. Most, if not all, would have found it unthinkable to go to Communion at a late Mass on account of the fasting requirement.

However, in 1957, Pope Pius XII reduced the Eucharistic fast to three hours. This opened the possibility for planning to receive Communion at a later Mass, even at an evening Mass, especially for people forced to work on Sunday mornings.

In the 1960s, some European dioceses requested permission for Saturday evening Masses that would fulfill the Sunday obligation, which the Holy See granted. In the United States, our bishops asked for and received permission for Saturday evening Masses in the 1970s. Now the Vatican permission is inscribed in the current Code of Canon Law (#1248).

People have claimed that the Saturday evening Mass was permitted because we have inherited the Jewish practice of celebrating the beginning of a day on the



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.

previous evening. The apologist, John Grondelski, maintains that the Saturday evening Mass permission from Rome had nothing to do with Jewish reckoning of time. Instead, it was merely a legal decision.

In fact, according to Tunink, when Saturday evening Masses began, they were called anticipated Masses. They are not truly "vigil" Masses. A vigil Mass actually refers to what Grondelski calls a "self-contained liturgy." The most obvious example is the Easter Vigil, the mother of all (true) vigils. It is self-contained in that it has its own

set of Scripture readings and Mass prayers that differ from those of Easter Sunday. The same happens with the Pentecost Vigil.

Likewise, there are true vigil Masses to celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, the Nativity of our Lord, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist and the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul. Other solemn feast days, like Sundays, may have anticipated Masses the evening before.

The difference between a vigil and an anticipated Mass is more than semantics. Words matter. Even if this is not the most pressing distinction needed in the Church, it is important because of what a true vigil represents.

Grondelski points out that when the Holy See permitted anticipated Sunday Masses, it was concerned that we not dilute the preeminence of Sunday itself. Sunday is the Lord's Day because on it He rose from the dead in order to re-create us. The danger is that people use the anticipated Mass to "get Mass out of the way." Sunday then becomes a day to do whatever I want rather than to keep holy the Lord's day, as God tells us in the Third Commandment. Recreational activity is not forbidden, but must find its proper place after the worship of God on Sunday.

Questions about the sacraments should be sent to sacraments101@columbuscatholic.org.

A gift with an expiration date

Diagnosed in 1995 with the most aggressive form of brain cancer known as glioblastoma multiforme, and given only a few months life expectancy, Dr. Ben Williams, a professor of psychology at the University of California San Diego, summed up his experience this way:

"When I was diagnosed with brain cancer, I knew almost nothing about the disease, other than it was one of the worst medical diagnoses you can get. ... I hadn't even heard of a glioblastoma at that point. I was told it was the worst kind of tumor you could have, and that nobody survived it. ... For the first several months, most of my thinking was: I'm going to die — how am I going to deal with it? I thought a lot about death. When you receive a diagnosis that everyone tells you is terminal, that no one survives it, it's impossible not to become depressed by that information. I look at pictures from that period of time, and clearly I was depressed. It wasn't until I began doing research that said there was a possibility, that there are things that you can do that would be helpful, that I began to think, 'Well, this is worth at least making the fight.'"

The bewildering experience of receiving an adverse diagnosis reminds us how personal our physical health is. In a certain sense, nothing could be more intimate or immediate. As we age and start to feel poorly, and especially when we struggle with serious or life-threatening illnesses, it can seem that our bodily health is the highest good there is, the summum bonum, almost an "absolute" good. Declining health can trigger feelings of sadness and depression as we sense our life slipping through our fingers, and sometimes can lead to dark temptations like physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia. We may fall prey to oft-repeated cultural clichés such as "I'm free to do what I want with my life and health," or even, "My life is no longer worth living."

Life and health are clearly very



MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

Father Tad Pacholczyk

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org and www.fathertad.com.

important goods. They are instrumental goods, enabling us to pursue and partake of other important goods, like interpersonal and familial relationships, employment, recreation, etc. Health and well-being are also "goals" worthy of energetic pursuit to the extent that we have some control over a limited set of variables like exercise and nutrition that affect our health.

While it is good to take steps to improve our health, we are not "entitled" to good health, or is it a "right" we can lay claim to. We have not originally conferred the state of life or health upon ourselves but have received it gratuitously from the Giver of all gifts — a gift with an earthly expiration date. Our health and well-being, marked by fragility, are transient and contingent, and therefore not "absolute goods."

Health challenges, of course, are part of almost every person's life journey. We may struggle not only with physical maladies but also with mental limitations like ADHD, obsessive compulsive disorders, depression or any number of

other agonizing mental conditions that constrict our well-being and livelihood.

As we age and face an expanding list of ailments and infirmities, new opportunities for growth and transformation arise. Contending with weakness and sickness, for example, draws us into connection with other people, as we come to depend on them for assistance.

When we face a worsening health situation, we should earnestly pursue several goals: first, to take responsible steps to restore our health, including doctor visits, medications, surgeries or other reasonable interventions; second, to seek to reflect more deeply, and in spiritual terms, on the meaning of our health burdens; and third, to work to accept our situation without fear, desperation or irresponsible actions like physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia.

Coming to accept our situation, with all its ups and downs, helps us begin preparing for our earthly end, death itself, prompting us to take up core questions

about life's meaning, the survival of the soul, life after death and even the resurrection of the body.

The afflictions we struggle against can lead us actively to surrender and accept where we are, even as we turn to the One who sees all things and knows the specifics of our situation better than we do.

When our lives are marked by good health, vigor and strength, we may hesitate to engage these kinds of core questions in any meaningful way. We tend to look past important transcendental priorities and focus on immediate temporal matters.

Health, then, is an instrumental good, but so is sickness. Both can serve to point us toward higher, more spiritual goods. At some point, we may even be able to see our ailments as a blessing and a gift from the One who better sees the big picture of our life's journey.

A foundation of faith, hard work, honesty, integrity, and compassionate service



DEE PRINTING, INC.

Publishing *quality* Sunday church bulletins since 1974.

The Murnane Family

4999 Transamerica Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43228 | 614-777-8700 | deeprinting.com

Time to move beyond “synoding”?

In the first volume of his trilogy, *Jesus of Nazareth*, Pope Benedict XVI saluted the important contributions that historical-critical analysis of the literary forms and editorial “layers” of ancient texts had made to understanding the Bible. The pope also suggested that the essential fruits of that method had been harvested and that the time had come for a less dissecting approach to biblical interpretation: one that “read individual (biblical) texts within the totality of the one Scripture, which then sheds light on the individual texts;” one that took into account “the living tradition of the whole Church;” and one that read the Bible within the context of the Church’s faith and the interlocking truths within that faith.

Might something analogous be said about the Church’s recent explorations of “synodality” — that its essential fruits have been reaped and that it is time to bring those fruits to bear on the Church’s mission, which (as Pope Leo has reminded us since his election) is the proclamation of Jesus Christ as the light of the nations and the answer to the question that is every human life?

What are the fruits of the past several years of “synoding”?

First, the younger Churches of Africa and Asia, where many living parts of global Catholicism are found, have been heard. Their voices became stronger as the multiyear synodal process unfolded. And in the discussions among cardinals before the election



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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

of Pope Leo, it seemed that that’s what “synodality” meant to many cardinals from the so-called “peripheries:” we are being taken seriously. That is a very good thing.

Second, the universal missionary mandate that summons every baptized Catholic to be an evangelist has been underscored. So has the universal call to the holiness that makes living that missionary mandate possible. Those are also very good things.

Third, the obstacle that a clerical caste system poses to evangelization has been identified. The synodal process has shown that ordained leaders who listen to, take counsel from, and collaborate with those they

are called to lead are the Church’s most effective pastors. Furthermore, we should now know that collaborative and consultative structures already exist throughout most of the world Church — and that being a Church permanently in mission has less to do with who flies what desk in the Roman Curia (or the diocesan chancery) than with those in Holy Orders empowering the laity for evangelization.

Fourth, the living parts of the world Church have made a powerful case that successful evangelization means offering and living Catholicism in full — not treading water in the Church of Maybe. To be sure, the life of faith is a continuous journey. The journey must have a destination, however, and clarity about doctrine and righteous living keeps us focused on that destination: the Kingdom of God manifest in the person of Jesus Christ. Bold witness to that truth has been another fruit of the Synod on Synodality.

Assuming that the synodal process is not an end in itself and recognizing that the synodal process of 2021-2024 has produced some good fruits, perhaps it may be suggested that it’s now time to move from synoding to applying the fruits of the past three years to mission and evangelization.

It is not self-evidently clear how that transition will be facilitated by the Synod general secretariat’s recent publication, *Pathways for the Implementation Phase of the Synod 2025-2028*. The document envisions a

time-consuming (and very expensive) three-year process of national and continental meetings followed by a time-consuming (and even more expensive) global “Ecclesial Assembly” in Rome — the nature of which is undefined. Moreover, this new process, as described by Synod secretariat official Sister Nathalie Becquart, does not seek to resolve “tensions” between “sides” in an “impossible arrangement,” but to manage those tensions in a “dynamism” that will be lived differently in different sectors of the world Church.

On this 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, it is worth noting, with Father Gerald Murray, that if such an approach had been taken then, there would be no Creed universally confessed in the Church today. At Nicaea, the “tensions” in the Church were not resolved dynamically but definitively: the Arian denial of Christ’s divinity was authoritatively rejected and Christian orthodoxy was authoritatively affirmed.

It is no disparagement of the accomplishments of the 2021-2024 synodal process to suggest that its essential fruits have been harvested and it’s time to move on: not with more meetings, and not with circular debates over settled matters of Catholic faith and practice, but with the proclamation of Jesus Christ who, as Vatican II taught, reveals the truth about God and the truth about us.

LIVE AND LOCAL!

WEEKDAYS AT 8AM



ST. GABRIEL

CATHOLIC RADIO



AM 820
COLUMBUS

FM 88.3
SCIOTO COUNTY

FM 106.7
ATHENS

The tale of the Giant Samaritan

One day a few years ago, I stopped by a local gas station, refueled my car and stepped inside to pick up a snack. It was late in the afternoon, and I had not had lunch. I picked a couple snacks and went to the counter to pay. The card reader at the register was having a bad day and would not read the chip on my card. It happens to all of us, I'm sure.

I had no cash, and the cashier did not have the option of entering my card number into the register. So, after several attempts with the frustrating little device, as well as wiping the chip side of the card on my shirt a few times, I gave up and asked the clerk to cancel the sale, thanking him for trying to help me. It was annoying but a minor problem.

I shrugged, returned to my car, and was ready to start it when there were several taps on my window. I glanced left and saw a very tall, enormous man. Think of a defensive end in professional football. He needed to lean over to engage in a conversation with me. I rolled my window down a couple inches.

"Yes?" I asked cautiously. He smiled and held out some cash in his hand. He explained that he saw that I was not able to buy the snacks I had chosen and wanted me to have some extra money so I could go back and purchase them. I was struck by this little act of generosity. Whether he realized it or not, that kind giant of a man had engaged in a genuine act of love, something to which our Lord calls each of us.

I reassured my new grizzly-sized acquaintance that everything was fine and I was not in any great need or distress. I thanked him for his generosity, and we wished each other a pleasant day. It was a short but wonderful encounter with another human being, with another child of God. Whenever I think back on that encounter, I remember him as the Giant Samaritan.

That encounter led me to consider what our world could be like if there were



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.

a lot more encounters between people like that moment at the gas station. Think about it. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus gives us the two great commandments: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

A stranger at a gas station who offers some help to another stranger is living out those commandments, maybe intentionally, maybe unintentionally, maybe from a place of faith, maybe from a place of natural kindness, maybe something else. Perhaps a person has some of each of those elements within his or her compassion. But what a wonderful place to start and build upon, which we need a so much more of in today's so very troubled world.

I firmly believe the tragedies that plague our world exist because so many people turn away from God and lose themselves in desires rather than the grace and calling of our Lord. I'm not

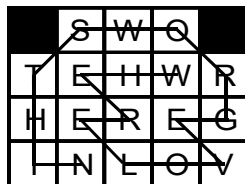
going to review the litany of troubles of which we are all too well aware right now. We all know them. Way too many people are turning to anger and hatred to resolve their dilemmas, satisfy their frustrations and achieve ambitions.

Knowing all this as well as we do, I invite people of good will to find ways to step forward like that modern-day Giant (and Good) Samaritan, a big friendly guy willing to share a bit of himself with another at a gas station. The impact of even a small act of loving kindness is a powerful thing in the world today, an antidote for what ails humanity.

Our world needs infinite doses of that antidote, so let us all look for opportunities to reach out in that generous spirit. Be a reflection of God's love. The way we treat others, the way that we seek to do what is truly good for them, is a visible expression and sign of our love for God and God's love for us.

Let us prayerfully and thoughtfully discern what it is that we need to do to keep our faith in God alive and active through the way we live our faith, discerning prayerfully and thoughtfully how to unite ourselves with those in need. Let us search also for what will help others live out those great commandments as well.

We are not perfect.



WORDS OF
WISDOM
SOLUTION

Only God is. Our humanity means that we have to work actively, and I mean really and steadily work, at living the great commandments as effectively as we are able, to understand our limited humanity and turn to our Lord for strength and guidance so we understand His will for us.

Because of our faith, we can trust that through God's grace we can, no matter how difficult and challenging it might seem, be, to the best of our ability, people who love God and one another as we love ourselves.

So, as I finish sharing this brief tale, I offer my gratitude to the Giant Samaritan, wherever and whoever he is, for the gift he gave me, which was infinitely more valuable than the dollars in his hand: a priceless reminder of what we all should be doing with our lives.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

G	O	S	C	A	R		B	O	O	K	S
L		A	D				L	R			A
O	N	A	N		A	R	K	U	A	M	A
R			T	I	M		E	Z	E	K	O
I	N	R	I				L				I
O			A	B	S	O	L	U	T	I	O
U			G	A	Y		E				E
S	C	R	O	L	L			R	U	S	S
	E			E	K		C	H			T
H		A	D	A	M	A	N	D	E	V	E
A	D	D			E				P	A	L
Y	E		F	A	C	E		A	S	H	E
E	I	R	E		M		S	I	N	E	A
S		L	D				N		R		E
	B	E	I	N	G			L	A	U	D



IGNATIAN WEEKEND RETREATS

Rooted in the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius of Loyola, our Ignatian Weekend Retreats provide you with the opportunity to be guided by an experienced director and enter into restful silence.

Retreats include:

- Mass
- Stations of the Cross
- Confession
- Spiritual Direction
- Adoration
- Rosary

REGISTER NOW



Our Website

www.jesuitspiritualcenter.com/iwr



SAVE THE DATE

MOMMIES MATTER ANNUAL

Fall Fundraiser

October 9th at 5pm
Villa Milano

A NIGHT OF COMEDY, MUSIC,
AUCTIONS, RAFFLES, AND MORE

in support of pregnant, single mothers

Mommies Matter

MOMMIESMATTER.ORG/FALL-FUNDRAISER



Experience the elegance of music at
Our Lady Concert Series 2025-2026 Season

Presenting:

Songs at the Center Live!



Eric Gnezda

Eric is an award-winning songwriter and creator and host of *Songs at the Center!*, which graces over PBS 400 stations nationwide!

Join us for an enchanting evening that transcends the ordinary. A concert featuring the stars of the acclaimed Columbus-based PBS series, *Songs at the Center!* Hosted by the remarkable **Eric Gnezda**. Prepare to be dazzled by an extraordinary lineup of special guests **Tony Arata**, **Arkadiy Gips**, and **Keith Larsen**.

Songs at the Center
 Songs • Singers • Stories

This is not merely a concert; it's a celebration of artistry filled with inspiration, captivating stories, and boundless joy! Mark your calendars for an unforgettable night.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
 in our elegant Parish Life Center.

Tickets: \$25 online
\$30 at the door

Ample parking is available.

Friday, September 19, 2025 | 7 pm

Our Lady of Victory Church Parish Life Center
 1559 Roxbury Road • Columbus, Ohio 43212



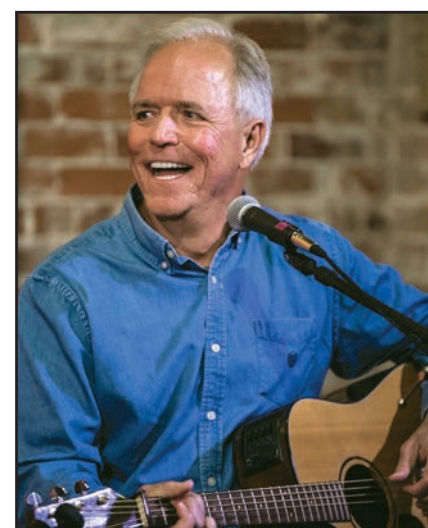
Tony Arata

A Grammy Award nominee who wrote *The Dance* for Garth Brooks, and a distinguished member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. His soul-stirring songs create an atmosphere of magic.



Arkadiy Gips

This exceptional talent has mesmerized audiences on two of Madonna's world tours, and collaborated with Grammy winning songwriter Janis Ian on her poignant pandemic project, *Better Times Will Come*.

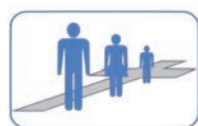


Keith Larsen

Winner of the People's Choice Award at the esteemed Nashville Songwriters Association International/Country Music Television songwriting competition, his melodies will leave you yearning for more.

Our Lady of Victory Concert Series 2025|26 – sponsors:

MUSIC GO ROUND



Generations
 Religious Gifts
 & Church Supply



Checkout our entire concert series!
Scan for ticket information.



Our Lady of
VICTORY
 Church