NEWARK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY
Editor’s reflections/By Doug Bean, Editor

Faith and football, a winning Super Sunday combination

Football is part of the fabric of American culture. How often have you heard a player, coach, or fan say their priorities are faith, family, and football? At least we hope they put the three in that order.

This Sunday, millions upon millions of people throughout the world will sit in front of a television screen to take in Super Bowl LII, which is being played at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. For some, it’s the only time they watch a football game all year.

Super Sunday has become a national holiday of sorts. There are all kinds of parties and gatherings surrounding the game. Some parishes and church groups organize Super Bowl-related events for fun and fellowship. Anything that brings family and friends together is a great thing.

For Catholics, Super Sunday begins with Mass. With the kickoff scheduled for approximately 6:30 p.m., all of us have plenty of time to make it to church. Even if you regularly go to a 5 p.m. Mass, you should be able to make it home before kickoff (as long as Father’s homily isn’t too long).

There’s even time to pray before the game. How about praying for the safety of the players? We all know how violent football can be.

Here in Ohio, football is a huge part of the culture — from elementary to high schools to colleges, to the Buckeyes, Browns, and Bengals. Young players dream of playing in the Super Bowl one day.

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School graduate Grant Bowman realized that dream with the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2006. Patrick Omameh, another DeSales grad, fell just short this year as a guard with the Jackson-Ville Jaguars, who lost a heartbreaker to the New England Patriots in the AFC championship game.

We thought it would be fun to ask a few local football coaches for their thoughts on the Super Bowl LII matchup between the Patriots and the Philadelphia Eagles.

DeSales’ Ryan Wiggins: “Watching last week’s game between the Jaguars and Patriots was a strange experience. I’m pulling for Jags left guard Patrick Omameh, DeSales Class of 2008, one of the finest kids I’ve ever had the pleasure of coaching. I wanted so bad to watch Patrick get the opportunity to play in the Super Bowl. While that didn’t play out, I was amazed at what did. To watch (Patriots quarterback) Tom Brady continually find ways to lead his team to victory is amazing, especially at his age. You realize that what you are watching is legendary, and it can’t last forever.”

Bishop Hartley’s Brad Burchfield: “I love the Super Bowl. Bittersweet end to another football season! Patriots will win 28-17. Tom Brady and Bill Belichick are too hard to ever bet against! They are in a league of their own in terms of all-time historical dominance!”

Ohio Dominican University’s Kelly Cummings: “Prediction-wise, I would never go against Tom Brady because I think he’s a heck of a football player. Belichick is a heck of a coach. That might be the greatest one-two coach-player combo that I’ve ever seen. They’ve done an incredible thing.

“Philadelphia’s defense is amazing. That defense vs. Tom Brady is going to be the game. As good a defense as they have, I don’t know. Tom Brady is a great player and Belichick is a great coach. I go with the guys with the most big-game experience.”

Enjoy the game.
Former DeSales football standout just misses chance to play in Super Bowl

By Doug Bean, Catholic Times Editor

A former Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School football player came close to playing in Super Bowl LII.

Patrick Omameh, a scholar-athlete and first-team All-Ohio offensive lineman in 2007 for the Stallions, was the left guard for the Jacksonville Jaguars, who lost to the New England Patriots in the AFC championship game on Sunday, Jan. 21 in Foxborough, Mass.

Omameh is "one of the finest kids I've ever had the pleasure of coaching," DeSales coach Ryan Wiggins told the Catholic Times. "I wanted so bad to watch Patrick get the opportunity to play in the Super Bowl. While that didn't play out, I was amazed at what did."

The Jaguars led by 10 points early in the fourth quarter before 40-year-old quarterback Tom Brady rallied the Patriots to a 24-20 victory.

After the Patriots scored the go-ahead touchdown on a Brady pass with 2:48 left, Omameh and the Jaguars moved down the field and had one final shot to pull out the victory. But a fourth-down pass from the New England 43-yard line was broken up and the Patriots ran out the clock from there.

Brady and New England coach Bill Belichick are headed to their third Super Bowl together to face the NFC champion Philadelphia Eagles this Sunday evening, Feb. 4, at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

The 6-foot-4, 327-pound Omameh completed his fifth NFL season and his second with the Jaguars. He started 13 of 16 regular-season games this year.

Omameh's path to becoming a starter in the NFL was one of perseverance.

He came into the league as an undrafted free agent with the San Francisco 49ers in May 2013.

He was signed by the Buccaneers off the 49ers' practice squad in October 2013 and started all 16 regular-season games in 2014.

Just before the 2015 season, the Buccaneers released him, and he was claimed off waivers by the Chicago Bears. He played in 14 games and started nine that year.

In 2016, he landed in Jacksonville, where he has seen action in 23 regular-season games (20 starts) during the past two seasons.

In March, Omameh will become an unrestricted free agent. He has played under one-year contracts for the past two years.

After a stellar high school career at DeSales, Omameh went on to become a standout at the University of Michigan.

He started 41 consecutive games for the Wolverines, was named All-Big Ten by the coaches in 2012, and was a three-time Academic All-Big Ten selection.

Senate vote to prevent filibuster on 20-week abortion ban fails

Catholic News Service

Catholic coaches and players of the New England Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles have clear game plans for making Sunday Mass in the midst of prepping for big games each week.

Msgr. Mike Foley and Father Tom Barcellona celebrate Mass for the respective Super Bowl-bound teams they serve.

"I have great respect for these men. They work really hard," Msgr. Foley told The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, in advance of the Feb. 4 game in Minneapolis.

Msgr. Foley received a call from the Patriots' hotel one morning in 1990 to celebrate Mass for the team's Catholic coaches and players, and he has done it ever since. He's not the team's official Catholic chaplain; however, they don't have one.

"I see it as just trying to serve," said Msgr. Foley, pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Father Barcellona has served as the Eagles' Catholic chaplain since 2004, the last season the team went to the Super Bowl. In addition to Mass, he offers pastoral guidance and sacramental preparation for players and coaches alike. He also attends practices and home games.

A priest of the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey, Father Barcellona said serving the team has been an enjoyable experience. His main assignment is at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, which is almost 60 miles away from the Eagles' headquarters in Philadelphia.

He's happy to make the drive, as he sees the ministry's necessity for the coaches and players. He also helps provide priests for visiting teams across the NFL in his role with Catholic Athletes for Christ.

Although he normally doesn't attend road games, Father Barcellona was hoping to come to Minneapolis for the Super Bowl, as he attended the Eagles' previous Super Bowl in February 2005. The Eagles also faced the Patriots in that game, falling 24-21.

Msgr. Foley hasn't been to any of the Patriots' previous eight Super Bowl appearances in the past 21 years and won't attend this year.

"My experience has been extremely positive," he said.
Getting organized for love

By Sister Constance Veit, LSP

I began the new year with 8,000 college students at the Student Leadership Summit (SLS18) of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). It was an inspiring event that enabled us Little Sisters to engage with hundreds of enthusiastic young people on fire for their Catholic faith.

As exciting as the whole event was, the most moving moment for me was completely unexpected. During Eucharistic adoration, Jesus Christ present in the monstrance started moving through the crowd, carried by a team of bishops and priests. An entourage of altar servers led the procession with candles and incense.

What caught my eye was one of the white-robed altar servers walking backwards, swinging a thurible from which billowed sweetly scented smoke, his attention firmly fixed on Christ in the Eucharist. The only thing that kept him from stumbling into the crowd of young people was a second altar server who kept his hand firmly planted on the first man’s shoulder to direct his every move.

It was a highly choreographed and striking scene – this entourage of clergy and altar servers walking together in perfect unity, leading one another; supporting each other’s efforts to carry Christ. I was profoundly struck by this “holy teamwork,” which must have required significant practice and single-minded focus.

This Eucharistic procession was a fitting metaphor for the ideals of solidarity and union of hearts and minds in continuing our Lord’s mission on earth. Imagine the wonderful things we could do for Jesus if each Catholic apostolate, religious community, or lay movement were this well ordered and united around a common purpose. In his encyclical on love, Pope Benedict XVI said, “As a community, the Church must practice love. Love thus needs to be organized if it is to be an ordered service to the community.”

As we head into Lent this month, we first celebrate the World Day of the Sick on Feb. 11. Just as the procession I witnessed at SLS18 kept Our Eucharistic Lord at the center as it moved through the crowd of young people – a veritable field hospital of souls – Catholic health care is called to place the human person at the center of all its activities, projects, and goals.

In his message for this year’s World Day of the Sick, Pope Francis wrote, “Wise organization and charity demand that the sick person be respected in his or her dignity, and constantly kept at the center of the therapeutic process.”

Our Holy Father continued, “Jesus bestowed upon the Church his healing power. … The Church’s mission is a response to Jesus’ gift, for she knows that she must bring to the sick the Lord’s own gaze, full of tenderness and compassion. Health care ministry will always be a necessary and fundamental task, to be carried out with renewed enthusiasm by all, from parish communities to the largest health care institutions.”

Pope Francis recognized the invaluable contribution of families, “The care given within families is an extraordinary witness of love for the human person; it needs to be fittingly acknowledged and supported by suitable policies.”

He also speaks of health care as a shared ministry: “Doctors and nurses, priests, consecrated men and women, volunteers, families and all those who care for the sick, take part in this ecclesial mission. It is a shared responsibility that enriches the value of the daily service given by each.”

As we observe the World Day of the Sick and then begin our Lenten practices of prayer, penance, and almsgiving, let’s resolve to keep Jesus Christ and the human person at the center of our spiritual efforts and works of mercy.

And let’s endeavor to give the world a striking witness of the unity of Christ’s disciples. May the world be able to say of us, “The believers are of one heart and mind … sharing everything they have” (cf. Acts 4:32). May our united efforts to serve the poor, the sick and the most vulnerable among us lead others to believe in the power of God’s love at work in the world.

Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Scioto-Jackson Consortium Mission

Nationally known Catholic musician Vince Ambrosetti will present a concert and be the speaker at a mission for the parishes of the Scioto-Jackson Catholic Consortium from Sunday to Monday, Feb. 4 to 7 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each night at Portsmouth Holy Redeemer Church, 1325 Gallia St.

Parishes in the consortium are Holy Redeemer; Portsmouth St. Mary; Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains; New Boston St. Monica; and Jackson Holy Trinity.

Ambrosetti will present a concert for families, followed by a reception, on Feb. 4. “Awaken Our Hearts” will be the theme of the mission on each of the next three nights. Topics for his nightly talks will be: “Coming into the Presence of God,” Monday; “Resting in God’s Presence Through Forgiveness, Healing, and Peace,” Tuesday; and “The Presence of God Alive Within Us from Table to World,” Wednesday.

Ambrosetti also will give presentations at a ministry appreciation day for all parish volunteers, which includes lunch, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3 in the Holy Redeemer parish center.

Ambrosetti began working in pastoral ministry at age seven and has worked with parishes whose sizes range from 100 to more than 5,000 families. He founded International Liturgy Publications, the oldest freestanding nonprofit publisher of sacred music for the Catholic Church, in 1977.

He has sung his song Sanctuary during communion at the funeral of St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata, and has composed, recorded, and performed for Pope St. John Paul II in the first English Mass setting ever sung at St. Peter’s Basilica.

2018 Goold Grant recipients

Dr. Edmund J. Goold was the beloved medical director of the psychiatric program at Mount Carmel West Hospital in Columbus for many years. He always had a special place in his heart for the poor and the underserved, saying “I’m not trying to get rich. I just want to help other people.”

Even after his death in June 2007, his generous spirit lives on through The Edmund J. Goold Endowment Fund he established at The Catholic Foundation. The fund provides direct assistance to people of need who live and work in the area surrounding Mount Carmel West.

This year, the Foundation awarded more than $100,000 from the Edmund J. Goold Endowment Fund to three parishes and eight Catholic ministries.

Parishes receiving grants are Columbus St. Agnes Church, Columbus St. Aloysius Church, and Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

Other grant recipients are the Run The Race Club, the Mount Carmel Foundation, the Holy Family Soup Kitchen, the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs (JOIN), the New Directions Career Center, Catholic Social Services, Birthright of Columbus, Inc., and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

If you have any questions about the Goold fund or wish to make a contribution, email Scott Hartman at shartman@catholic-foundation.org or call (614) 443-8893.
Mass, anointing on World Day of the Sick set for Feb. 11

The Order of Malta’s annual Mass for the Anointing of the Sick will take place at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 11 at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 648 S. Ohio Ave. All are invited to join the Knights and Dames of the order’s Federal Association-Columbus Region to participate in the Mass.

There will be priests on hand to administer the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick to anyone who would like to receive it.

The Mass will be followed by a reception and talk at the parish hall next door. The guest speaker will be Christian James, who will talk about his experience with the Order of Malta on its pilgrimage to Lourdes.

The feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes is Feb. 11. On that day in 1858, the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous at the Grotto of Massabielle, outside the village of Lourdes in southwestern France. Since then, many people have been healed miraculously in Lourdes.

Feb. 11 is also the World Day of the Sick, which was instituted on May 13, 1992, by Pope St. John Paul II and is celebrated every year on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. For all believers, it should be “a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one’s suffering.”

The Order of Malta makes an annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, bringing the sick in search of healing. Each May, nearly 4,000 Knights and Dames of Malta from all over the world travel to Lourdes to learn firsthand what it means to belong to the Order of Malta -- devotion, service, and fellowship. Dressed in distinctive uniforms and ministering to the sick and disabled, members of the order form an international community of faith and service.

The Order of Malta’s Lourdes pilgrimage this year will be from Wednesday, May 2 to Wednesday, May 9.

The Order of Malta, or the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, as it is formally known, is one of the oldest institutions of Western civilization. The Columbus Region of the order runs the Order of Malta Center of Care, a free health clinic at Holy Rosary-St. John Church operated at no charge to any patient. The clinic operates in partnership with the Catholic Medical Association of Central Ohio.

In true Catholic manner, the Order of Malta Center of Care is 100 percent funded by donations from generous people who care about helping the sick and the poor.

Business Manager Position

A parish community in the Diocese of Columbus is seeking a fulltime Parish Business Administrator who would serve in support of the Pastor and as a staff resource, ensuring that parish needs in administration, personnel, finance and facilities is achieved.

This position will:

• Administer parish business operations, overseeing and controlling bookkeeping, payroll, employee benefits, and cash flow through management of purchasing and payments.
• Coordinate parish liability and property insurance programs; become familiar with all safety inspections for the parish.
• Complete an annual evaluation of the support staff and volunteers of the parish.
• Attend parish committee meetings as designated by Pastor (includes some evening meetings).
• Negotiate contracts with suppliers and contractors in order to ensure the highest quality service in the most cost-effective manner.
• Schedule and coordinate maintenance and utilization of the parish campus facilities.

This position requires strong business management skills, flexibility, and aptitude. The position also requires frequently moving about the parish facilities to inspect for compliance. To perform this job successfully, an individual must have knowledge of MS Office (Word, Excel, and Outlook), QuickBooks, and payroll (Paycor) systems, the ability to formulate procedures for systematic retention, protection, retrieval, transfer, and disposal of records and to maintain appropriate level of confidentiality with documents and information, and excellent oral and written communication and human relation skills. A college graduate or equivalent with major in Business Administration, Accounting or Finance is preferred. Knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Church and its mission is required. Three to five years previous office management experience required or equivalent combination of education and experience is required. Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the VIRTUS “Protecting God’s Children” course. Salary is commensurate with skills through experience and training. Benefits are according to diocesan policy.

Send cover letter, resume, salary requirement and references by Friday, February 2, 2018 to:

Dominic Prunte, Diocesan HR Director at dprunte@columbuscatholic.org

Bookkeeper Position

Saint Andrew Parish is seeking a part-time Bookkeeper who, under the direct supervision of the Business Administrator, will be responsible for performing routine and repetitive bookkeeping and accounting duties in the areas of Accounts Payable, General Ledger entry and Census contribution entry.

The ideal applicant would possess a college degree (preferred) in a related field and a minimum of three years prior experience. Ongoing working knowledge of Microsoft Office programs and ability to learn ACS accounting system is required. The candidate should be self-motivated to complete the responsibilities of the job with minimum supervision; have the ability to communicate effectively, multi-task and establish priorities.

Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the VIRTUS “Protecting God’s Children” course. Compensation is commensurate with candidate’s education and experience. All benefits are according to Diocesan policy.

Send cover letter, resume, salary requirement and references by Friday, February 23, 2018 to Ann Whiteman, Parish Business Administrator at awhiteman@standrewparish.cc

A local group from the Columbus Region of the Order of Malta makes a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. Photo courtesy Columbus Region, Order of Malta
STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN?
RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANDCHILDREN

QUESTION & ANSWER
by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. What does the church teach about what happens after someone dies? The reason I bring it up is that often when I attend a Catholic funeral, I hear the priest say in a homily that the deceased is now in heaven and suffering no more. But how does that fit in with the church’s teaching on purgatory? (Chesapeake, Virginia)

A. The primary purpose of a funeral Mass is, of course, to pray for the salvation of the deceased -- that God will bring the person quickly and gently into the joy of heaven. The liturgy also serves to remind mourners of Christ’s offer of eternal redemption and to lift the spirits of the bereaved in the glory of that hope.

In praying for those who have died, we are building upon the ancient Jewish practice, according to which Judas Maccabeus made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sins (2 Maccabees 12:46).

In answer to a frequently asked question, the Catholic Church still believes in purgatory, a purification after death before entrance into heaven, as stated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 1030).

True, the church does not teach that everyone who dies must necessarily pass through this cleansing and admits the possibility that certain of the deceased may have practiced such fervent charity on earth that, at the point of death, no temporal punishment would remain (No. 1472).

But I think it’s safer to assume, along with Chapter 24 of the Book of Proverbs, that even the good person falls seven times and that many of us will have some “make up work” to do after we die.

Like you, I, too, have heard funeral homilies which seemed to consider it a certainty that the deceased had already passed into paradise. But I, for one, would much prefer at my own funeral that the priest ask people to pray for me -- in case I am still en route. (Thus, the wisdom of the Catholic funeral ritual, which prays that the deceased will be cleansed of any sin and granted “the fullness of redemption.”)

Q. Our daughter has moved back to our area after a divorce, along with her two children -- now ages 8 and 10. The children are baptized; the older one has made her first Communion and the younger one will do so next month. My daughter is the product of Catholic grade school, high school and college, but she does not attend church with them except for Christmas and Easter.

Is it my husband’s and my responsibility to get these children to Mass each Sunday? (We have taken them at times, but now they are coming up with any excuse not to go. We took our own four children to Mass every Sunday.) (City of origin withheld)

A. I do not think that you are under any strict moral obligation to get your grandchildren to Mass each Sunday. It was your daughter who chose to have her children baptized.

Presumably, in the baptismal preparation class, she was reminded that she was accepting the responsibility of raising her children as regularly practicing Catholics. (And hopefully, during the first Communion preparation, that point was made once more.) If your daughter has chosen to default on this agreement, the burden is on her conscience, not yours.

At the same time, though, you and your husband are grateful for your Catholic faith and practice, consider it the preferred way of Christ, and feel that it offers the clearest path to salvation. Because of that, you naturally desire to pass it on to your grandchildren.

Perhaps, when the opportunity presents itself, you and your husband could convey to your daughter how much your religion means to you and why you would like your grandchildren to share in that same benefit. Your daughter might even have thought (as some people erroneously do) that the fact of her divorce itself has made her ineligible to participate in the sacraments.

On occasion, without overpowering them, you might also let the little children know of the satisfaction and peace you feel from your faith. And would it be possible that there is another young family in your neighborhood, whose children your grandchildren like and enjoy, who might be willing to bring your grandchildren with them to Mass?

In answer to your question, then, I believe that you are presented not with an obligation, but with an opportunity.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Drive, Albany NY 12203.

Silent retreat for women

The Catholic Laywomen’s Retreat League is sponsoring a silent retreat for women from Friday-Sunday, March 2-4 at St. Therese’s Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. The retreat will be led by Father Vincent Petersen, OFM Conv, who has been a Franciscan priest for 31 years and is in ministry at the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey. The theme will be “Love Is All We Have Left: Reflections on the Greatest of Gifts.”

Besides being a frequent retreat master, Father Petersen is a musician and an artist with an active studio. He grew up in rural Minnesota and derives much of the creative energy for his ministry from what the earth has to say to him.

The retreat begins at 6 p.m. Friday and will conclude at noon Sunday. Mass will be celebrated Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday. Besides talks by Father Petersen, the retreat will include opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon and all-night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday. Stations of the Cross and recital of the rosary also will be part of the program.

There will be a dinner on Friday evening, three meals Saturday, and brunch on Sunday. Bedding will be provided, along with a bath towel, a hand towel, and a washcloth. Participants are asked to bring their own toiletries and any additional towels.

Since this is a silent retreat, use of electronics is highly discouraged. Anyone bringing a cell phone is asked to use it only in an emergency. During the retreat, participants are encouraged to do as much or as little as they feel the Holy Spirit moves them to do.

The offering for the retreat is $140, including a $50 deposit due by Thursday, Feb. 15. No cash will be accepted, and space is limited. Women who need financial assistance may request help. Checks, made payable to Catholic Laywomen’s Retreat League, should be sent to Cynthia Pearsall, 228 E. Mulberry St., Lancaster OH 43130. For more information, call Pearsall at (740) 215-4361.

St. Michael Open House

Worthington St. Michael School, 64 E. Selby Blvd., will host an open house from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1.

Parents of prospective students will be able to tour the school, meet teachers in their classrooms, meet current parents and ask them questions, and meet student leaders and view student work.

Representatives of school and parish organizations will give presentations, and there will be information sessions for parents of prospective kindergarten through eighth-grade students, plus a separate session focusing on kindergarten.

Pilgrimage information meeting

An informational meeting on a pilgrimage to Israel in November which will include four diocesan priests will take place Sunday, Feb. 11, at 2 p.m. in the teachers lounge at Columbus St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane.

Fathers Ron Aubry, Tim Hayes, Dean Mathewson, and Jerry Stluka will be taking part in the pilgrimage from Monday, Nov. 5 to Wednesday, Nov. 14. A complete story about the event was in the Jan. 28 Catholic Times.
**Grove city parish to host mission**

The 2018 parish mission for Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway, will take place at 7 p.m. Sunday to Wednesday, Feb. 18 to 21, with Deacon Keith Strohm from the Archdiocese of Chicago speaking on the theme “Ablaze: Passionately Pursuing Christ and a Life of Purpose.”

The format will feature nightly talks, as well as a parish penance service on Tuesday, Feb. 20. There also will be daily question-and-answer sessions following 8:30 a.m. Masses from Monday to Wednesday, Feb. 19 to 21.

Topics will include God’s love for his people, the power of the resurrection and the sacraments, and living in relationship with God.

Strohm has created and sustained processes and programs of evangelization and formation at group, parish, and diocesan levels that focus on the making, maturing, and missioning of disciples of Jesus. He is executive director of M3 Ministries and a longtime teacher and collaborator with the Catherine of Siena Institute.

He is a co-author with Sherry Weddell of Becoming a Parish of Intentional Disciples, a follow-up to the best-selling book, Forming Intentional Disciples. His latest book is Jesus: The Story You Thought You Knew. He is on Twitter at @KeithStrohm.

For more information on the mission, call the parish office at (614) 875-3322.

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**Series on the four Gospels**

Columbus St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Road, will present talks on the four Gospels with Father Edmund Hussey during its February adult education programs at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday.

The Gospels are the principal sources of our information about the life and work of Jesus, and thus have a unique importance in the Christian tradition. Although they are witnesses to the faith of the early church, rather than historical biographies in the modern sense, they provide an excellent idea of the public ministry of Jesus and of the faith of his apostles and disciples.

The series will open on Feb. 4 with a discussion of the Gospel according to Mark, the earliest of the Gospels. Many scholars have said that this Gospel is focused around the messianic secret – that Jesus the Messiah will not make his followers prosperous and powerful, but instead will lead them with him through death to resurrection.

Father Hussey will discuss the Gospel according to Matthew on Feb. 11. This Gospel gives us the ethical principles of the Christian life, especially in the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew’s Gospel tells how we are to live as Christians.

The Gospel according to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles will be discussed on Feb. 18. These give us the first history of the church and help us understand how Christianity fits into salvation history.

The series concludes on Feb. 25 with the Gospel according to John, the fourth and last of the four Gospels, which proclaims that Jesus not only is an important figure in our past, but still is with us today.

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**TO BE or NOT TO BE: Parsing the implications of suicide**

In recent years we have witnessed a growing tendency to promote suicide as a way of resolving end-stage suffering. Physician-assisted suicide is now legal in a handful of states, and a number of other jurisdictions are considering laws to legalize the practice. A few years ago on Nightline, Barbara Walters interviewed an assisted suicide advocate who summed it up this way: “We’re talking about what people want. There are people who, even suffering horribly, want to live out every second of their lives, and that’s their right, of course, and they should do it. Others don’t want that. Others want out!”

Those favoring physician-assisted suicide argue that getting out of our final agony means essentially redeeming a “get out of jail free” card through committing suicide. At first glance, taking this step would indeed appear to end our troubles definitively. But what if this view of things is dead wrong, and we don’t actually end up escaping our sufferings? What if we instead end up in a new situation where our trials are still present, and maybe even more intense, on account of the willful decision we made to end our own life?

I was recently reminded of this serious flaw in the “suicide solution” after watching a remarkable video adaptation of Shakespeare’s tragedy Hamlet, with Campbell Scott co-directing and starring in the title role. Listening once again to Hamlet’s timeless soliloquy, “to be or not to be,” I was struck by how carefully Shakespeare addresses the vexing question of intense human suffering and the perennial temptation to commit suicide.

Hamlet muses about whether it is better to put up with the bad things we know about in this life than to step into the strange new land of death’s “undiscovered country,” a country about which we know very little, and from which no one returns. This leaves us, in Hamlet’s words, “puzzled” and in “dread of something after death.” He wonders aloud about the hidden purposes of suffering when he asks himself, “Whether ’tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” than to “take arms against a sea of troubles, and by opposing, end them.” He concludes by asking whether we shouldn’t rather “bear those ills we have than fly to others that we know not of.”

Among those who end up committing suicide, whether physician-assisted or otherwise, many will face extenuating circumstances including severe depression or other forms of extreme mental pain. In such cases, it is clear that their moral responsibility will be greatly diminished, as fear and anguish constrict their ability to think and reason clearly. But this is not always the case, and some people, with clear mind and directed intention, do choose to end their lives, as appears to have been the case for Britney Maynard. She was the young woman in California who in the early stages of her brain cancer carefully arranged and orchestrated her own physician-assisted suicide, establishing months in advance the date and setting, who would be present in the room, what music would be playing as she did it, etc.

Such a decision is always a tragedy, and every life, even when compromised by disease or suffering, remains a great gift to be cared for. When freely chosen, suicide is a form of serious wrongdoing and is, in the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “Gravely contrary to the just love of self. It likewise offends love of neighbor because it unjustly breaks the ties of solidarity with family, nation, and other human societies to which we continue to have obligations.” It leaves behind loved ones to contend with unresolved guilt, shame, and pain.

While ending our life may seem to offer an “escape valve” for the serious pressures and sufferings we face, we do well to consider the real effects of this choice, both in this life and in the life to come. In the next life, a preceding act of suicide may deny us the very relief we were seeking, and may, in fact, lead to harsher purification in a new situation of our own making, or, heaven forbid, lead to a fate far worse than purgatory.

Our Lord and his Church care profoundly for those who commit suicide, and even though this act clearly involves grave matter, the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that, “We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives.”

Suicide affects us not only in the here and now, but has significant, eternal, implications for the journey to that “undiscovered country” that awaits us.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD, earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.
Scout religious award recipients honored at prayer service

BY TIM PUET, Catholic Times Reporter

More than 200 Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and members of Camp Fire and American Heritage Girls units sponsored by parishes throughout the diocese were recognized by Bishop Frederick Campbell at the annual Scout Day with the Bishop prayer service on Sunday, Jan. 28 at the New Albany Church of the Resurrection.

Bishop Campbell, a Boy Scout himself while growing up in the Elmira, New York area, spoke briefly to the Scouts and adult leaders following a Scripture reading. “The principal aim of the Scouting program is to help all of you develop yourselves fully,” he said.

“All of you are called to understand who you are as a human person. God created you in his image and likeness, and we have to ask ‘How do we understand this? How do we develop this?’ We develop it in our minds and in our hearts, and in our bodies as well.

“In the Scouting program, we learn to live as human persons that God has created and placed on this earth, to love him with all our hearts and minds and souls, to love our neighbor as ourselves, and also to understand who we are and to find what kinds of talents we have within ourselves.

“The Scouting program also encourages us to have fun. That may have been one of the first things I looked for when I joined the Scouting program. Because of that, I ran into a little difficulty, but I learned from that, and it was a marvelous experience. I congratulate all of you for what you have done and how far you have come, and pray that in the days to come, you will grow stronger.”

The program was sponsored by the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, which presented its Red Sash of Merit to seven Scouts who earlier earned other Catholic Scouting emblems and have demonstrated leadership, accepted responsibility, and are active in their troop, community, and parish.

The honorees were Matthew Gabriel of Columbus St. James the Less Church and Boy Scout Troop 310, sponsored by Columbus St. Matthias Church; Katherine Smith of Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church and Venture Crew 33; Gabriel Knuth of Columbus St. Andrew Church and Boy Scout 332; and Melanie Magin, Victoria Loberg, Pailyn Groene, and Agnes Bryan, all of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church and Girl Scout Troop 1187.

The committee’s Bronze Pelican award was presented to three individuals who have performed exceptional service to Scouting through their contributions to the spiritual development of Catholic youth.

This year’s honorees were Bryant Haren of Heath St. Leonard Church, a seminarian at the Pontifical College Josephinum, and Richard Fields and Slade Hankinson, both of Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church.

Receiving the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton medal, presented by the National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire to adults who help Catholic young people develop their spiritual lives in the context of those programs, were Janet Rodenkirchen of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church and Jodi Hatherly of Columbus St. Peter Church.

Ann Smith of Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church was awarded the St. Anne medal, the highest national recognition for adults who serve Catholic young people through Girl Scouts and Camp Fire.

Boy Scout Troop 169 of Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church was honored as the Bishop’s Troop for combining active participation in religious activities with service to the community and to Scouting. Also honored were Cub Scout Pack 859 of Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church as the bishop’s pack, and Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church as the bishop’s parish for its Girl Scout programs. Troop 8 of Newark St. Francis de Sales Church received a certificate of merit.

About 110 young people from the diocese took part last year in Scout religious emblem programs. These include the Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei programs for Cub Scouts; the God Is Love, I Live My Faith, and Mary, the First Disciple programs for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire members and American Heritage Girls; and the Ad Altar Dei and Pope Pius XII programs for young men and women. All these emblem programs are sanctioned by the national Scouting organizations.

More information on Catholic Scouting is available at the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting’s website, www.cdeducation.org/oym/dccs.
Comfort from Our Lady of Tears

I had seen the various mothers in my life cry many times, but it wasn’t until I went to make funeral arrangements with my mother-in-law that I glimpsed a portion of the tears Mary must have shed during her lifetime, especially during Our Lord’s Passion and death.

My mother-in-law was making arrangements for the third time, for the third grandson. She was calm, and though there were tears, it was the funeral director who received comfort from her as she assured him that it was better, that somehow this was a blessing, that we would all understand it more once time had passed.

I didn’t understand at the time how my mother-in-law could say, with such assurance, that the situation was for the best. To me, a small white casket was the worst possible fate for a child. To me, a second funeral service was the most horrifying imaginable fortune for a parent. To me, a third round with a funeral director was doom.

What good could come of such agony?

Since then, I have experienced grace in agony, joy in pain, hope in death. I look back to my experience in that funeral home and during the ongoing grieving and growing times following, and I can’t help but wonder at the seeds planted in my heart and watered with tears.

Our Lady of Tears presents us with an image of the Blessed Mother and an opportunity to transform our own tears into prayer.

On Nov. 8, 1929, in Campinas, Brazil. Sister Amalia, of the Institute of the Missionaries of the Scourged Jesus, felt pangs of sorrow for a mother in her life. She had just met with a male relative who was in great need. Her children would be left motherless, and he couldn’t bear the thought of being without his wife.

Sister Amalia, pained at her relative’s grief and the thought of the sorrow facing him and his children, turned immediately to Jesus. She felt called to go to the chapel. Kneeling down in front of the altar with her arms held out toward the tabernacle, she spoke, offering her own life in exchange for the life of the mother.

Jesus heard Sister Amalia’s heartfelt pleas and He answered them: “If you want to receive these favors, ask me for the sake of My Mother’s tears.” Jesus continued by explaining specific prayers Sister Amalia was to use.

Four months later, on March 8, Sister Amalia was back in the chapel praying. She felt herself lifted up as a beautiful woman approached her. She described the woman as wearing a violet robe and a white veil over her shoulders. This woman approached Sister Amalia, holding a “corona” (i.e., circle, meaning a rosary) with shining white beads. She told Sister Amalia that this was “the rosary of my tears.”

It was a rosary of 49 small white pearls, divided by seven large white pearls into seven groups of seven each. Mary instructed Sister Amalia to pray on each of the large beads, “O Jesus, look upon the tears of the one who loved You most on earth, and who loves You most ardently in heaven.”

On the smaller beads, while meditating on one of the seven sorrows of Mary, she gave this prayer: “O Jesus, listen to our prayers, for the sake of the tears of Your most holy Mother.”

The sorrows used for meditation also are known as the seven sorrows of Mary: the prophecy of Simeon; the flight into Egypt; the loss of the child Jesus in the Temple; the meeting of Mary and Jesus as he carried His cross; the Crucifixion; the striking of Jesus with the lance; and the body of Jesus being placed in the tomb. Each of these sorrows must have moved Mary to tears.

A mother’s tears are powerful. We can look to St. Monica, whose tears and prayers won her the attention of God and the conversion of one of the greatest of the Church Fathers, St. Augustine of Hippo.

Tears don’t come just from the hormonal experiences of motherhood. Before I was a mother, I was at Mass, serving as a lector, when I found myself quite suddenly choked up and unable to continue. That wasn’t the last time I would have the experience of being moved beyond words, into tears, by the Word of God, and I can only imagine how Mary, knowing the Word of God – Jesus – so intimately, must have been moved to tears as well.

Members of our family have those tears in our eyes when we talk about the three boys. Though reminiscent of pain, they cleanse us. They free us from the bounds of this earth and remind us of when we finally will have a chance to hold the boys, cuddle them, know them.

Death inspires crying, sobbing, heartache. But so does much of life. There is suffering and pain, injustice and poverty, frustration and challenge. Our relief can come from the hope and the cleansing of our baptismal waters and from the knowledge that we do not walk alone through this valley of tears.

Our Lady of Tears reminds us that though Mary was without sin, she was not without feeling. She points us to the rainbow of hope that follows the flood of our tears. She is the window to her Son, just as the eyes that cry are the windows to the soul.

Sarah Reinhard is a Catholic wife, mother, and writer in central Ohio and employed by Our Sunday Visitor. Get her Catholic take every weekday at http://bit.ly/TripleTakeOSV.
In the fall of 1958, a new Catholic high school opened its doors on West Church Street in Newark. The parochial high school which had been part of New State Francis de Sales Church since 1936 had become too small for the student population increasing from the post-World War II baby boom.

Newark Catholic High School had about 200 students at the time of its opening. During the next 60 years, they have been joined by more than 4,300 graduates in creating a legacy of faith, knowledge, and service that the school is celebrating throughout the current academic year.

“We want everyone who has been connected with the school in any way to come and visit so we can show them the great things happening here today and honor the support and sacrifices they have made,” said Beth Hill, the principal of the school since 1984, with the exception of three years. “We want to make our continuing success possible,” said Beth Hill, the principal of the school since 1984, with the exception of three years.

“Our mission statement is the core environment for students to grow socially, spiritually, and academically, and that everyone has your back. Hill said that nearly all the school’s students attend either St. Francis or Blessed Sacrament parishes in Newark, with about the same percentage of those students’ eight-th grade graduates choosing to attend Newark Catholic. “The great thing here is that everybody knows everybody,” Hill said. “And the bad thing is... that everybody knows everybody. That is just how small a school in town.

That familiarity was the first thing Father Gus was one of my first role models,” Father Gus said. “Perhaps his example is why I continue to be there. That is how campus ministry has been there for 10 years or more. Engaging with others and you’d think that could be a problem, but there’s very little drama among us, maybe because we all know where we’re coming from.”

Hill said that although the technology used in teaching has changed dramatically in that time, students haven’t changed that much.

“The school has a staff of 34, including 18 teachers, 10 of whom have been there for 10 years or more. English teacher Don Schaller has been a faculty member for 31 years and said that, although the technology used in teaching has changed dramatically in that time, students haven’t changed that much.

“I’ve always felt that we realize our purpose, respect what each other has to say, and are not judgmental, and that everyone has your back,” Hill said. “Since we began teaching here; only four faculty members have left, and they were replaced by people who make time just fly by and who do a variety of things, so there’s never the sense of being bored in a classroom. That doesn’t mean it all fun and games. They make you be quiet and pay attention when it’s necessary. And when there’s something serious I need to talk about, I know he’ll be right there.”

The school has a staff of 34, including 18 teachers, 10 of whom have been there for 10 years or more.

The Newark Catholic chapter of the Key Club, the service club, which is in its third year as an after-school activity. He’s also teaching a robotics class that was added this year to the school’s curriculum. Hill said he taught basic robotics skills during the first semester of the class, with the second semester in preparation for a robotics competition the team will enter in late spring with Cleveland State University, competing against about 60 other schools from Ohio, West Virginia, and western Pennsylvania.

“The goal of robotics competitions is to build a robot which will compete in a specific task assigned by FIRST, a New Hampshire-based organization.
which organizes robotics events across the nation. This year’s competition, named Power Up, is inspired by video games of the 1980s. Players must design and build robots that will move and stack cubes representing video game “bits” onto scales and switches and utilize “power ups” to collect points. The scales and switches are set up at different heights. “The best way to describe it is that it’s kind of like dealing with a teeter-totter,” Nelson said.

The robotics team was honored in both of its previous regional competitions, winning the rookie inspiration award in 2016 and the imagery award for the general effect of its presentation in 2017.

About 20 students take part in either the robotics class, the team, or both. “They’re having fun, but they’re also preparing for their future,” Nelson said. “Unlike students in previous generations, chances are they’ll have two, three, or four careers, perhaps some of them in areas that don’t exist today. The common thread is that they’ll need to have technology skills and continue to expand on what they know. What they’re learning today in robotics will provide the basis for their future, no matter what field they may choose.”

With its recent success in competing with other schools, the robotics team is adding to a winning tradition that has been sustained for decades by Newark Catholic’s interscholastic athletic teams, nicknamed the Green Wave. The school has won 34 team or individual state championships, including nine in football under coaches J.D. Graham and Bill Franks, nine in baseball (second-most in state history), under coaches John Cannizzaro, winner of seven titles, and Scott Burkholder, and eight in girls volleyball (most in state history) under coaches Bill Cooper, Jeri Helfer, and Hill, who won championships in 1984, 1988, and 1989.

“Athletes here have great expectations because of our past success,” said athletic director Scott Harris. “We have a long history of returning families, and they understand the hard work that’s required of them to be champions. Society has made things easy for young people in many ways, but athletics isn’t one of them, and the kids know this.

“We also have a long tradition of consistency in our coaching staffs, and of great participation. About 85 percent of our students are involved in one of our eight boys and eight girls sports, with 35 percent involved in two sports and 20 percent in three. They take great pride in wearing the green and white, and all of this helps us be successful.”

The school has Masses for athletes in all sports in the fall, winter, and spring, and every varsity team in every sport takes part in a prayer service before each game or meet, home and away.

The school has facilities for all sports, but because parking space at the school is limited, it plays its football games a half-mile away at city-owned White Field, one of central Ohio’s best-known athletic venues, which was built in 1938 and also is used by Newark High School. Before home football games, players have their prayer service, then load up their gear in the team trailer and walk two-by-two from the school to the field. They do the same thing in reverse after the game, with their friends joining them. All of this adds to the school’s sense of family.

The school decided to emphasize the corporal works of mercy as a theme this year. Hill said the catastrophic flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey in Texas in August and September offered an unexpected opportunity to put mercy into action.

Hill said St. Catherine of Siena School in Port Arthur, Texas, responded quickly to a request from three Newark Catholic teachers who sent emails asking Texas schools how the Ohio school could provide hurricane relief. Newark Catholic students collected school supplies, dishcloths, towels, first-aid items, and cash donations for their Texas counterparts and also put together individual “goody bags” with treats for all of the Port Arthur school’s 170 students.

“This created a bond which is continuing. The teachers hope to visit Port Arthur to meet some of the students they helped,” Hill said. “We were able to make a video connection to see the Texas students open their bags, and that really made the students see what a meaningful thing they did. It was a unique chance to see how the teachings of Jesus make a difference in a practical way.

“With so many harmful things going on in the world today, we as Catholics need to be open to anything that can motivate us to positive change. This provided a great example of how seemingly small things have an impact.”

Campus ministry activities at the school include a monthly all-school Mass; first Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; prayer services during Advent and Lent; a day on which each class has its own retreat, mainly at sites outside the school; attendance at the March for Life in Washington; an all-school mission; and St. Joseph the Worker Day in May, when students perform a variety of service activities in the morning, then return to school for a cookout and May crowning.

Next weekend, from Saturday to Wednesday, Feb. 10 to 13, Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark will host the annual Kairos retreat for the senior class. “Kairos” is Greek for “go forth,” and the retreat gives the seniors the chance to examine their lives as they prepare for college and beyond.

The school’s most recent physical addition was completed in 2013. It includes four new classrooms and a new area for visual and performing arts, an enlarged chapel, additional restrooms, and other structural changes. It was the building’s first expansion since 1964. Plans to renovate the school office and make enhancements to the lobby area are in the preliminary stages.

“I’ve been here for many years and am still enthusiastic about what we offer, and it’s because of the students,” Hill said. “To see them and our outstanding faculty on a daily basis always provides a great incentive and gives me a renewal of hope.

“We’ve got a great thing going here, and I want to keep it moving in the right direction. Some days, you think all you’re doing all day is pushing paper, but then you see these energetic, vital young adults, and they make you want to work harder. It’s been a blessing to serve them and all the other students we’ve had, to be part of this community and see the continuing commitment that keeps this school going.”

For more information about Newark Catholic, go to the school’s website, www.newarkcatholic.org or call (740) 344-3594.
Bishop Frederick Campbell invites high-school students in the Diocese of Columbus for a day of music, inspiration, making new friends, and celebrating our Catholic faith at the Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC).

The event for students in grades nine to 12, with the theme “Rise to Joy,” will take place Saturday, March 3 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Columbus St. Cecilia Church, 434 Norton Road.

“I want to invite all high school teens in the Diocese of Columbus to attend the March 3, 2018 Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference,” the bishop said. “I ask every pastor, youth minister, Catholic high school campus minister, and catechetical leader to encourage and assist young people’s participation in the youth conference.

“The primary educators in the faith for young people are, first, the family; then, the parish. However, our youth need to know the universal church also, starting with the diocese. Every year, the Diocese of Columbus offers an annual conference for high school teens. Parishes are asked to bring teens so that they might get an experience of the diocesan church and enjoy a faith-filled event in Christian community with hundreds of other teens in the diocese.

“They will hear what it means to be a witness to the Gospel and will be challenged to return to their families, parishes, and communities as witnesses. This conference is an important opportunity to help our youth grow in their faith while building key faith-nurturing relationships within their parish group, and to make friends with young Catholics from other parishes.

“I welcome the opportunity every year to meet our youth. Most of them I have confirmed, and the youth conference is an opportunity for us to meet again. I will be a keynote presenter this year, and I would enjoy seeing the room filled with young people from every corner of the diocese. Young people will not hear the invitation if you do not extend it. Please do not miss the opportunity. If you have questions on how to register, you can contact the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.”

The conference will feature keynote speeches by Bishop Campbell and Bob Rice (pictured). In addition, those attending can participate in workshops covering topics such as “Seeking Joy with Major League Baseball, Mother Teresa, and Pope Francis”; “Finding Joy in Real Love”; and “Serving God Joyfully: The Rise to Sainthood.” The day also will include praise and worship by the Station 14 band, skits, prayer, small-group time, lunch, and dinner.

Parents are invited to a parent workshop with Pam Heil, a nationally known youth and young adult minister, and Judie Bryant, youth ministry coordinator at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church.

Registration information may be obtained from parish youth ministers, religious education directors, campus ministers at diocesan high schools, or pastors, or by visiting the conference website, https://columbuscatholic.org/dcyc. Advance registration is required by Friday, Feb. 16. Interested young people should register through their parish or campus youth ministry leader. The cost is $50 and includes lunch, dinner, and a T-shirt.

Rice, the day’s keynote speaker along with Bishop Campbell, desires to share the love of God using every talent he’s been blessed with. He leads worship for more than 10,000 people each year in venues across the nation. An award-winning songwriter, he has released several CDs and is the featured worship leader at Franciscan University of Steubenville summer conferences.

He is an associate professor of catechetics and director of the master of arts in catechetics and evangelization degree program at Franciscan University, and lives in Steubenville with his wife, Jennifer, and seven children.

Westerville St. Paul School seventh-and eighth-grade students take a break for a photo as they work on digital posters to promote Catholic Social Services’ Pathways to Hope program. Pathways to Hope helps families establish safe, affordable housing and provides intensive case management for as long as two years to give parents who are affected by abuse the support they need to break the cycles of poverty and violence.

Photo courtesy St. Paul School
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)

An interesting pairing mixes woes, demons, and healings

**Job 7:1-4,6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23; Mark 1:29-39**

It is not clear who actually pairs the first readings with the Gospel readings for the various Sundays of the year. Yet a quick glance at our old friend Job, when paired with the healing of Simon’s mother-in-law, which was so complete that she got up and “waited on them,” suggests that she might have shared Job’s observation that our life on earth is “a drudgery.” Here she is lying sick with a fever, that she might have shared Job’s observation that our life complete that she got up and “waited on them,” suggests with the healing ministry. Such general statements do little to inform us of how often any such thing occurred. Taken together, they all symbolize the salvation which Jesus brought by his teachings and his actions.

Mark probably added the dialogue between Simon (“Everyone is looking for you!”) and Jesus (“Let us go on to the nearby villages, that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come”) to bring action to the scene. The scene concludes by Jesus entering the synagogues and “preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.”

Such general statements suggest that demons were running around everywhere. Unless we broaden our understanding of the gap between what medicine can tell us about diseases today and what was called demon possession two millennia ago, we will struggle with understanding the Gospels.

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

*Jared Hampshire earns Eagle Scout rank*

Jared Hampshire, a member of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, became an Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Boy Scouting, at a court of honor on Sunday, Jan. 21 at the Summit Station Lions Club.

Hampshire earned the distinction by completing the requirements for 21 merit badges (13 mandatory and eight optional), serving in a troop leadership position, reviewing what he has learned with adult Scout leaders, and completing a community service project.

His project involved updating landscaping and fencing at the McIntosh and Swish-er cemeteries in Pataskala. He is the son of Tim and Jude Hampshire and a member of Scout Troop 141 and Venture Crew 141. His current scoutmaster is TJ Niedzielski, whose brother, Roy Niedzielski, was scoutmaster for most of the eight years it took Hampshire to earn Eagle rank.

Msgr. David Funk, pastor at St. Pius X, gave the invocation and benediction for the court of honor. Hampshire, an altar server at St. Pius, is a senior at Summit Station Licking Heights High School and will enter the Navy’s nuclear engineering program upon graduation.

**The Weekday Bible Readings**

**MONDAY**

1 Kings 8:1-7;9-13
Psalm 132:6-10
Mark 6:53-56

**TUESDAY**

1 Kings 8:22-23,27-30
Psalm 84:3-5,10-11
Mark 7:1-13

**WEDNESDAY**

1 Kings 10:1-10
Psalm 37:5-6,30-31,39-40
Mark 7:14-23

**THURSDAY**

1 Kings 11:4-13
Psalm 106:3-4,35-37,40
Mark 7:24-30

**FRIDAY**

1 Kings 11:29-32,12:19
Psalm 81:10-15
Mark 7:31-37

**SATURDAY**

1 Kings 12:26-32,13:33-34
Psalm 106:6-7,19-22
Mark 8:1-10

**DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 4, 2018**

**SUNDAY MASS**

10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.
Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHT-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus, and 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 WOW Channel 378).
(Encors at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight.)

Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).
Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

**DAILY MASS**

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

We pray Week I, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours.
The Catholic Church doesn’t do “paradigm shifts”

Ever since Thomas Kuhn popularized it with his 1962 book, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, the notion of a “paradigm shift” has led to fascinating arguments about whether this or that break with previous scientific understanding counted as one. But that a “paradigm shift” – like the “shift” from Sir Isaac Newton’s cosmology to Albert Einstein’s, or the shift from the miasma theory of disease to the germ theory of disease – is a rupture in continuity is not in much dispute. A “paradigm shift” signals a dramatic, sudden, and unexpected break in human understanding – and thus something of a new beginning.

So are there “paradigm shifts” in the Church?

We seem to have biblical evidence for one in the first chapter of the Letter to the Galatians, where St. Paul describes, very telegraphically, how he came to grasp an astonishing truth: that the salvation promised to the People of Israel in the covenants with Abraham and Moses had been extended to the Gentiles. Some might find another “paradigm shift” in the first chapter of John’s gospel, in which Jesus of Nazareth is identified as the “Word” who “was in the beginning with God.”

These are matters of divine revelation, however, and, as the Church has long believed and taught, revelation ended with the death of the last apostle. So the evolution of the Church’s understanding of the Gospel over the centuries is not a matter of “paradigm shifts” or ruptures or radical breaks and new beginnings; it’s a question of what theologians call the development of doctrine. And as Blessed John Henry Newman taught us, authentic doctrinal development is organic and in continuity with previous Catholic understandings. For the Catholic Church doesn’t do “paradigm shifts” in that sense of the term, and the pope himself has insisted that Amoris Laetitia doesn’t propose a rupture with the Church’s settled doctrines on the indissolubility of marriage and worthiness to receive Holy Communion.

Where something similar to a Kuhn-type “paradigm shift” is underway, however, is in the reception of *Amoris Laetitia* in various local churches – and this is ominous. The pastoral implementation of *Amoris Laetitia* mandated in Malta, Germany, and San Diego is quite different from what has been mandated in Poland, Phoenix, Philadelphia, Portsmouth, England, and Edmonton, Alberta. Because of that, the Catholic Church is beginning to resemble the Anglican Communion (itself the product of a traumatic “paradigm shift” that cost John Fisher and Thomas More their heads). For in the Anglican Communion, what is believed and celebrated and practiced in England is quite different from what is believed, celebrated, and practiced in Nigeria or Uganda.

This fragmentation is not Catholic. Catholicism means one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and unity is one of the four distinctive marks of the Church. That unity means that the Church embodies the principle of non-contradiction, such that a grave sin on the Polish side of the Oder River can’t be a source of grace on the German side of the border.

Something is broken in Catholicism today and it isn’t going to be healed by appeals to paradigm shifts. In the first Christian centuries, bishops frankly confronted and, when necessary, fraternally corrected each other. That practice is as essential today as it was in the days of Cyprian and Augustine – not to mention Peter and Paul.

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

**Pope: In times of trouble, turn to Mary**

Catholic News Service

Pope Francis said a relationship with Mary, the mother of God, is not “optional” for Christians because Jesus points to her as a source of protection and guidance.

Wherever people have opened their doors to Mary, “the devil doesn’t come in; wherever the Mother Mary is, turmoil will not prevail, fear will not win. Who among us doesn’t need this? Who among us is not sometimes in distress or worried?” he asked in a morning homily on Jan. 28 during a Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary Major on the feast of the formal installation of the basilica’s restored Marian icon, “Salus Populi Romani” (health of the Roman people).

Pope Francis is particularly devoted to the icon, which has held a place in the hearts of Rome’s citizens since the 16th century, when their prayers to be saved from the plague seemed to be answered after the image was carried through the city streets in a procession.

In his homily, the pope recalled how Christians have always turned to Mary in times of trouble.

“It is very dangerous for the faith to love without the mother, without protection, letting ourselves be carried along by life like leaves in the wind,” he said.

“You can’t be neutral or detached from the mother. Otherwise we lose our identity as children and as people” of God, he said.
Pray for our dead

ALBANESE, Nick, 93, Jan. 22
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

CUMMINS, Marjorie (Atkinson), 88, Jan. 21
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

DEFINE, John A., 80, Jan. 20
St. Paul Church, Westerville

DiDONATO, Antigone "Toni," of Columbus, Jan. 26
Holy Family Church, Steubenville

ENDRY, Joseph L., 88, Jan. 21
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

FISCHIO, Frank, 89, Jan. 22
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

FULCHER, Gloria (Gatto), 91, Jan. 26
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

GOODE, John S., 82, Jan. 25
St. Joseph Church, Circleville

GROEBER, Anthony A., 77, Jan. 21
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

HENRY, Margaret A. “Peggy” (Dieterich), 74, Jan. 23
St. Mary Church, Groveport

HES, Gerard-Paul, 66, Jan. 20
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Columbus

HORNBECK, Geoffrey H., 60, Jan. 17
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

HUPRICH, Eugene, 86, Jan. 20
St. Joseph Church, Dover

KUNOVICH, Dr. Robert S., 72, Jan. 19
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

LEHMAN, Linda S. (Gray), 70, Jan. 22
St. Patrick Church, London

LEMMON, Mary A. (O’Handlon), 83, Jan. 14
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

LESKOWYAK, Elizabeth “Darlene” (Pietzak), 71, Jan. 21
St. Paul Church, Westerville

LONG, Henry T., 82, Jan. 7
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

MARGARET, Josephine L. (Maniscalco), 96, Jan. 13
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

MEDIATORE, Richard E., 86, Jan. 22
St. Peter Church, Columbus

NASH, Thomas J., 89, Jan. 25
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

PACKARD, Barbara (Ferguson), 89, Jan. 27
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Mount Vernon

PETRYKOWSKI, Nicolas, 24, Jan. 15
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

POTOKAR, Edward, 85, Jan. 23
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

RICE (HYME), Ruth (Webb), 84, Jan. 21
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

SMITH, Dorothy M. (Ducey), 86, Jan. 19
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

SPIRES, Thomas, 89, Jan. 16
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

STACKHOUSE, Edward D., 93, Jan. 20
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

WILSON (SCHLASS), Patricia (Cullen), 94, Jan. 24
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

Sister Anne Hagedorn, SCN

Funeral Mass for Sister Anne Hagedorn, SCN, 91, who died Thursday, Jan. 25, was celebrated Wednesday, Jan. 31 at St. Vincent Church, Nazareth, Kentucky. Burial was at Nazareth Cemetery.

She was born in Covington, Kentucky, and was a professed member of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth for 64 years.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she served as a teacher at Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul School from 1953-58 and in the business office at Mercy Hospital in Mount Vernon from 1971-72. She also served in various teaching and administrative positions in Kentucky, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Missouri. She received a degree in business administration from Villa Madonna College in Covington in 1965.

Survivors include sisters, Mary Egbers, Bess Bruns, and Patricia Jurgens.

Send obituaries to tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

Louis E. Dalton

Funeral Mass for Louis E. Dalton, 72, who died Wednesday, Jan. 24, was celebrated Monday, Jan. 29 at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

He was born on April 9, 1945, in Fancy Farm, Kentucky, to William and Augusta Mae Dalton. He received a bachelor of arts degree in biology and a master of arts degree in religion and education from the Catholic University of America and a master of arts degree in educational administration from The Ohio State University.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, William. Survivors include his wife, Diane (Boehm); sons, Christopher and Russell; brothers, Joseph and Phillip; sisters, Sara (Robert) Elliott, Betty (Joe) Adragna, Janet (Brian) Forman, and Susan; and one grandson.

Send obituaries to tpuet@columbuscatholic.org
All fund-raising events (festivals, bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, bake sales, pizza/sub sales, candy sales, etc.) will be placed in the “Fund-Raising Guide.” An entry into the Guide will be $18.50 for the first six lines, and $2.65 for each additional line. For more information, call Doug Bean at 614-224-5195.

‘Happenings’ submissions

Notices for items of Catholic interest must be received at least 12 days before expected publication date. We will print them with space permits.

Listings cannot be taken by phone. Mail to Catholic Times Happenings, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215

Fax to 614-241-2518

E-mail as text to tquet@columbuscatholic.org

FEBRUARY

1, THURSDAY

Cenacle at Holy Name

6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests.

St. Michael School Open House

6:30 to 8 p.m., St. Michael School, 64 E. Selby Blvd., Worthington. Open house for prospective kindergarten through eighth-grade students and their parents. Includes separate information sessions at 7 for all parents and 7:30 for kindergarten parents. 614-885-3149

Eucharistic Holy Hour at Sacred Heart

7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour with the intention of deepened holiness and an increase in the virtue of fortitude for the Holy Father, bishops, and priests, concluding with Benediction, social period, and refreshments. 614-372-5249

Scripture Study at Columbus St. Patrick

7 p.m., Aquinas Hall, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Part 3 of Scott Hahn’s “The Bible and the Sacraments: A Journey Through Scripture.” 614-224-9522

3, SATURDAY

Fatima Devotions at Columbus St. Patrick

7 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Mass, followed by devotions to Our Lady of Fatima, preceded by confessions at 6:30. 614-240-5910

Mary’s Little Children Prayer Group

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. 8:30 a.m., confessions, 9 a.m., Mass, followed by Fatima prayers and Rosary (Shepherds of Christ format); 10 a.m. meeting. 614-861-4888

First Saturday Devotion at St. Joan of Arc

8:30 a.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Mass, followed by rosary in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, concluding with Fatima prayers.

Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City

9 a.m., Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession.

Lay Missionaries of Charity Day of Prayer

9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Monthly day of prayer for Columbus chapter of Lay Missionaries of Charity. 614-372-5249

First Saturday Mass at Holy Family

9 a.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. First Saturday Mass for world peace and in reparation for blasphemies against the Virgin Mary, as requested by Our Lady of Fatima. 614-221-1890

Centering Prayer Group Meeting at Corpus Christi

10:30 a.m. to noon, Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Centering prayer group meeting, beginning with silent prayer, followed by Centering Prayer Outreach DVD and discussion. 614-312-3731

Bosco Bash Youth Rally at St. Paul


Filipino Mass at St. Elizabeth

7:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Mass in the Tagalog language for members of the Filipino Catholic community. 614-891-0150

4, SUNDAY

Frassati Society Mass, Brunch

9 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati Society for young adults attends Mass, followed by breakfast at Roosevelt Coffeehouse, 300 E. Long St. 614-224-9522

St. Agatha Adult Education

9:30 a.m., St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Road, Columbus. Four-part series on the Gospels with Father Edmund Hussey begins with talk on the Gospel of Mark. 614-488-6149

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (center at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. 614-237-0401

Eucharistic Holy Hour at Sacred Heart

7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. 706-761-4054

Concert With Vince Ambrossoti at Holy Redeemer

7 to 8:30 p.m., Holy Redeemer Church, 1325 Galia St., Portsmouth. Concert for families with Catholic musician Vince Ambrossoti, followed by reception. 740-354-2716

Compline at Cathedral

9 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Chanting of Compline, the Catholic Church’s official prayer. 614-241-2526

5, MONDAY

Eucharistic Adoration at Our Lady of Victory

7 to 8 a.m., Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. First Monday Eucharistic Adoration, beginning with Morning Prayer and concluding with Mass.

Marian Prayer Group at Holy Spirit

7 p.m. Day chapel, Holy Spirit Church, 4383 E. Broad St., Columbus. Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle Mass for Catholic family life. 614-235-7435

6, TUESDAY

Scioto-Jackson Consortium Mission

7 to 8:30 p.m., Holy Redeemer Church, 1325 Galia St., Portsmouth. Pre-Lenten mission sponsored by the Scioto-Jackson Consortium of Parishes with Catholic musician Vince Ambrossoti. Theme: “Awaken Our Hearts.” 740-354-2716

Parish Mission at St. Matthew

7 to 8 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 607 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. Parish mission with Father Thomas Blau, OP. Theme: “The Holy Eucharist.” 614-471-0212

7, WEDNESDAY

Center for Dominican Studies Lecture Series

Monday to Wednesday (except Tuesday), 6-7 p.m., O’Donnell Hall of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Philippines Center, the Catholic University of America. Speaker and author Katie Prejean McGrady, with music, skits, games, dinner, Mass, Cost: $25 students, $35 adults.

8, THURSDAY

Sustaining the Spirit Retreat

9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. John XXIII Church, 5170 Winchester Southern Road, Canal Winchester. Day retreat for ministry leaders with Mike Carotta. Presented by Diocese of Columbus Association of Faith Formation Leaders and Our Sunday Visitor. 614-241-2565

Women to Women Listening Circle at Corpus Christi

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Women to Women program for women of all ages and life circumstances. Begins with soup lunch until noon, followed by listening circle. No child care available on-site. 614-512-3371

Cenacle at Holy Name

6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests. Back in His Arms Again Dinner 6:45 p.m., Nugent Hall, St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Road, Columbus. Annual dinner benefiting Back in His Arms again ministry for people dealing with the loss of a child. Tickets $40. 614-906-3115

Theology on Tap Lecture Series

7 p.m., St. Therese’s Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Theology on Tap discussion and social group for young Catholics, with Matt Palmer of The Joseph Group capital management organization speaking on “Living Our Faith in the Workplace.” RSVP to cbustheologyon -tap@gmail.com or Columbus Theology on Tap Facebook page.

Eucharistic Holy Hour at Sacred Heart

7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour with the intention of deepened holiness and an increase in the virtue of fortitude for the Holy Father, bishops, and priests, concluding with Benediction, social period, and refreshments. 614-372-5249

‘Theology of the Common Good’ Talk at ODHU

7 p.m., Community Room, Alumni Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1215 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Talk on “Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion” with Father Gregory Boyle, SJ. 614-251-4453
Books on women saints may bring them greater appreciation beyond church

BOOK REVIEW

By Graham Yearley/Catholic News Service


It’s good to have new biographical works of two women saints: St. Clare of Assisi and St. Therese of Lisieux. Both are famous saints to Catholics, but there is limited knowledge of them outside the church. These publications may correct that.

Eight hundred years separate the lives of these two women. Clare lived in the 12th and 13th centuries and Therese in the 19th.

But both sought the religious life early, both had no interest in following the standard roles of women as wife and mother, and both practiced forms of self-mortification and self-denial that make us uncomfortable to hear about in the 21st century. We no longer believe that extreme fasting and sleeping on beds of twigs make us dearer to God.

Bret Thomas’ St. Clare of Assisi is not a biography, as the author openly states in the preface. Some parts of St. Clare’s life are well-documented, but there are other parts where there is no record. Consequently, the author has imagined scenes and thoughts from her life, so St. Clare of Assisi bears greater resemblance to a historical novel than a biography. It is, nonetheless, a lively and informative read.

Clare, born into a wealthy noble family of Assisi’s upper class, had an early sense that the life of an aristocratic marriage and child rearing was not for her. She got to know Francis, who became St. Francis, from an early age in Assisi. She was attracted to his preaching and dedication to a life of poverty that imitated the life of Christ. When she turned 18, she sold her possessions and gave her inherited money to the poor.

On Palm Sunday in 1212, Clare escaped by night, with the help of a sympathetic servant. Several miles from Assisi, she met up with Francis and some of his followers. That night, she was given her tonsure by Francis, her hair was cut short, and she was dressed in a rough woolen tunic.

Her family traced her and demanded that Clare return to Assisi with them, but she refused. Henceforth, she would dedicate her life to living in a community of women in poverty.

Three years after her escape, when she was 23, Clare was declared the abbess of San Damiano. Clare recognized that the women who became her followers could not lead an itinerant life, begging for alms as Francis’ followers did, so she established a stable community and would create other communities led by other women.

But that did not mean the “Poor Clares,” as they became known, lived in comfort. All the women slept in one large room on hard mats; Clare herself slept on a bed of sticks. The rigors of poverty and sustained fasting undermined Clare’s health, and she would live for many years confined to her bed. Despite the toils she exacted on her body, Clare still lived for more than 60 years, a very advanced age in the 13th century.

August Pierre Laveille’s The Life of St. Therese of Lisieux is a biography, but not a new one, as it was published originally in 1925. Laveille’s work was commissioned by Therese’s sister Pauline, who also had been her prioress in the Carmelite order. Eventually, all four daughters of Louis and Zelie Martin would join the order.

One could say the four girls got their call to the religious life directly from their parents. Louis Martin had wanted to be a monk; Zelie had wanted to become a saint. They lived as a married couple in harmonious celibacy. It was a priest who pointed out to them that bearing children was a natural and holy vocation, too. The couple would take that advice to heart and bear nine children, but only four, all girls, survived to adulthood. Therese was the youngest.

The first great crisis was her mother’s death when Therese was four-and-a-half years old. From then on, Therese was raised by her sister Celine. Her second crisis came when Celine joined the Carmelites several years later.

Her sister’s departure only intensified Therese’s desire for the religious life. At 15, she asked the prioress of the Carmelite convent in Lisieux if she could be allowed to enter, and she was refused. She went to the local bishop and asked again and was refused again. Both wondered if the beautiful but delicate Therese could withstand the rigors of religious life.

After Therese eventually received permission to join the order, her joy was evident, but further trials would await her. Therese would be told that as she had two sisters who had taken their final vows, she would have to remain a novice, junior in both age and status.

But it was within the walls of the convent that Therese began thinking and living out her “Little Way,” a pathway toward holiness through prayer, self-denial, and self-debasement.

Being “little” in God’s world was not something to be resented, but accepted joyfully. The smaller we are, the greater the gift of God’s love becomes, in Therese’s view. If one is accused falsely of a mistake, take the blame anyway; refuse lighter work and insist on doing the humblest jobs. As her health declined, partly because of sustained fasting, her superiors asked Therese to write down her spiritual discoveries.

What emerged as The Story of a Soul began as an exercise in humility, with no thought of publishing her diaries or other written works. In her final months of dying of tuberculosis, she endured agonies of pain, but Therese seemed to respond with gratitude that she was nearing death and would be joined with God.

It was reported after she died on Sept. 30, 1897, that her face, which had been contorted with pain, suddenly transformed into a face filled with beatific ecstasy.

Yearley is pursuing a doctorate of ministry in a joint program sponsored by Ashland (Ohio) Seminary and the Ecumenical Institute at St. Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore.
Pilgrims from Columbus St. Patrick Church (left photo) made their annual bus trip to the March for Life on Friday, Jan. 19 in Washington. They were joined by five parishioners from Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church (right photo), who are standing in front of the U.S. Capitol.

Photos courtesy Larry Pishitelli

The following is a reflection on the March for Life in Washington, written by Worthington St. Michael School eighth-grade students Luke Niese and Michael Sabatino, who attended the march with their classmates:

Last week, many of us eighth-grade students had the opportunity and privilege to go to the March for Life in Washington. As members of the eighth-grade Virtus in Christo boys group, we would like to share with you what we learned and took away from this pilgrimage.

We learned that it is very important to stand up and represent life, no matter its state of being. Life is always precious, no matter its form, and it should not be taken away because it is the most basic human right given to us by God. The March for Life showed us in a very real way that we need to cherish all lives because we are all made in the image and likeness of God.

We are all brothers and sisters because we are all His children. We are one big family, and He is our Father. As a result, we should love one another as a family and help each other out as a family would, because love conquers all and love saves lives.

Take the time today to reach out to people you know to tell them how much they mean to you. Help people when they are in need. Be kind and courteous. Do these things because God wants us to do them, He wants us to love each other because He loves all of us. That is what we learned while on the March for Life—the powerful impact of spreading God’s love to those in need.

We saw it as we cheered and marched with hundreds of thousands of people from all over the country. By doing all of the little things the right way and with great love, as God wants us to, we can build stronger relationships with each other, become closer to God, and make our school and our lives even better than what they are now.
ASK JESUS
WHAT HE WANTS
FROM YOU

Be Brave
- Pope Francis

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