BISHOP BRENnan BLESSES FARMS IN DIOCESE ON FEAST OF ST. ISIDORE
Bishop Brennan’s letter to the diocese on the reopening of parishes

Bishop Robert Brennan has provided more details about the “soft” opening of churches in the Diocese of Columbus that the Ohio bishops announced Friday, May 8.

In a letter dated May 13, the bishop said daily Mass would begin at some parishes on Monday, May 25. Some churches have been open for prayer since Monday, May 11, and priests have been hearing confessions by appointment.

The bishop also mentioned some of the procedures that will be implemented to offer Mass in adherence to the guidelines and safety procedures required in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

The following is the bishop’s letter:

Dear Friends,

With the anticipation of reestablishing public worship, we must do so in a way that does not irresponsibly place the health of our people in grave danger. We are still learning a lot about the COVID-19 Coronavirus, and we have seen its tragic force in the death of so many people. We pray for all those who have died these months as well as for those who mourn. We have also seen heroic efforts by those particularly in the health care field but so many others who in invisible ways have provided for our needs. We are all united in sincere gratitude for the work and the sacrifices of these people.

We also pray and give thanks for those who have prudently guided us through these difficult times at the national, state, and local levels. In particular, we are grateful for the respect, which the state of Ohio has shown, for our religious rights and liberties. At no point have they disparaged our essential right and duty to worship Almighty God at the sacrifice of the Mass on Sunday and encounter the Risen Lord in the Eucharist. Rather, partnering with the local health care officials, we have been urged that gatherings of persons was gravely dangerous to the individuals present and to the common good.

Faced with these dangers, we have exercised together our moral responsibility to safeguard human life and to allow the local healthcare systems to manage the care of the sick. This prudent judgment on our part required great sacrifice for all in the Church. You have also sacrificed in various ways these days. For us, as Catholics, the loss of our Sunday gathering for worship is a great sacrifice. You have made these sacrifices in a spirit of extreme charity and I am deeply grateful. These measures we have undertaken together, we are advised, have made a difference. Our plans for reopening need therefore, to respect all those sacrifices in a way that is responsible with care for the well-being of individuals and of the wider community.

As one public official told me, the COVID-19 Coronavirus will be with us for a long time and we need to learn how to live with it. Many of the dangers of gathered assemblies remain. The measures proposed in our guidelines and the work that is being done at the parish level will help to mitigate those dangers to some degree. Cognizant of your many sacrifices, I need to ask patience and flexibility as we begin this process of the return to public worship.

This week some churches are beginning to open for individual prayer. The hours will be limited and subject to the necessities of social distancing. Meanwhile Confessions continue to be available by appointment. During the week of May 25, 2020, some churches will begin to celebrate Weekday Mass publicly under limited circumstances as the Churches are ready.

On the weekend of the great Solemnity of Pentecost, May 30/31, 2020, most of our churches will begin the public celebration of Sunday Mass. Please note, many things to which we are accustomed will be different. Schedules will need to be modified for a variety of reasons. Not every Church will be prepared, and some parishes may need to work together. As a matter of fact, since the fall we have been looking at ways that we might need to adjust schedules so that priests and parishes might work together and, in some cases, we may need to do so right away. We also need to leave time to disinfect the churches and we may need to change locations to accommodate some of the larger populations. Parishes are not in competition but rather meeting the individual needs using the guidelines we are implementing. I thank you in advance for your understanding.

All Catholics in the Diocese of Columbus are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass at least through September 13, 2020. Please, if you have any concerns, do not come at this point. In fact, I encourage all to follow the public guidelines here in Ohio as much as possible. If you are in one or more of the “high risk” categories, it is still too early to come out. And, of course, if you are experiencing any signs of illness, you have a serious obligation to stay at home. Given that the obligation is dispensed, individuals who wish to participate at Mass and receive Holy Communion might consider coming at a less crowded time, perhaps during the week. The Cathedral will continue to broadcast Mass each day on St. Gabriel Radio and to stream via our diocesan YouTube channel as will many of our parishes.

We will need to be flexible with last minute changes to schedules, and further changes may be necessary even after we begin. Out of care for you, the priest is subject to the same obligation not to offer Mass if he is showing even the slightest signs of not feeling well. No one is required to receive Holy Communion and the reception of Holy Communion on the hand is strongly encouraged. Please be respectful of the guidelines for social distancing and please understand that when the Church has reached capacity allowed for health and safety reasons, we cannot admit any more people under any circumstance.

Please take the time to read carefully the guidelines. And most of all, please pray. Pray for me, for your parish priests and the teams with whom they are working to prepare for the return to public worship. These days the Gospels take us spiritually to the table of Jesus with his Apostles on the night of the Last Supper. Reading these chapters little by little (John chapters 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17) might be a good spiritual preparation. And know that I pray for you with gratitude every day.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Columbus
Bishop Brennan learns joys, challenges of farming

By Jerry Freewalt

On May 15, the feast of St. Isidore the Farmer, Bishop Robert Brennan donned a green mask and spent the day with diocesan farm families. He witnessed the strong values of faith, family and community as he blessed the people and the land during this important time for farmers. The shepherd of the diocese also enjoyed a few hands-on farm experiences.

The day started on the lawn of Sacred Hearts Church near Cardington in Morrow County. On the breezy morning surrounded by fields, Bishop Brennan was welcomed by Father Thomas Buffer, pastor; parochial vicar Father Kyle Tennant and several farm couples, all maintaining proper social distance.

Bishop Brennan listened as the couples described the blessings and challenges of their vocation. Last year, they said, heavy spring rain delayed planting, and yields were lower than usual. With the COVID-19 pandemic, new challenges are emerging such as reduced capacity at meatpacking plants to process livestock. On the other hand, the couples talked of the joys of their families and stories of farms passed down through generations.

Bishop Brennan blessed a nearby farm and the people and spoke about Sts. Isidore and Maria and the Farm families of the diocese. Then it was off to Madison County to visit four farm families.

The first stop was the Ewing family farm known as Somerford Gardens, where the family produces organic vegetables. They sell their produce through Community Supported Agriculture, delivering to homes in Madison and Franklin counties. This married couple with four young children led Bishop Brennan on a tour of their farm showing their chickens and rows of vegetable plants grown using sustainable practices. After the bishop’s blessing, he left with a shopping bag filled with jars of honey and maple syrup and produce.

Next was the Furbee family farm, 325 acres with cattle, sheep, horses, rabbits and chickens. Diane Furbee and her late husband, Francis, moved to the farmhouse built in 1835 nearly 25 years ago from Lebanon, Ohio. The Furbees had farmed for generations but decided to move to Madison County to avoid urban sprawl. She said her son Matt Furbee, his wife, Kristin, and their children have shared the workload since her husband’s death.

They led the bishop on a tour of the farm along with their pastor, Father Michael Hinterschied, and Deacon Dan Hann of London St. Patrick Church. A highlight was watching Matt Furbee give commands to the family’s border collie, which guided sheep along the pasture. Bishop Brennan even bottle-fed a calf named Blaze.

Diane Furbee expressed appreciation for his visit. “I’m so honored for the bishop to take the time to come out and bless our farm today,” she said. “It means so much to me and our family. The family gave the bishop fresh eggs to take back to the chancery.

After leaving Sacred Hearts, Bishop Brennan drove back to St. Joseph Cathedral to celebrate the noon Mass with the theme of his homily centered on Sts. Isidore and Maria and the Farm sanctions. Following Mass, Bishop Brennan learns joys, challenges of farming.

The final stop was the Hann family farm. At the Higgins family farm, Bishop Brennan learned about grain production. The 2,100-acre farm, passed down through generations, produces corn and soybeans. Robert Higgins showed the bishop a field with young plants exhibiting frost damage. “It’s not bad,” Higgins said. “They’ll make it.”

After a blessing, Bishop Brennan was invited into the cab of a tractor mounted with a 16-row planter. Driven by Higgins’ son-in-law Sean Meade, the tractor roamed out across a field. When the tractor returned, Robert Higgins’ wife, Lisa, said, “Come back in the fall, bishop, and I will take you out in a tractor, and I have snacks.”

The final stop was the Hann family farm. The Hanns moved to Madison County to avoid urban sprawl 30 years ago after six generations of farming in Butler County. Brothers Joe, Chuck and Deacon Dan Hann and his son, Mike, farm almost 1,400 acres of corn and soybeans and also raise hogs. Joe Hann showed Bishop Brennan how their grain elevator dries and stores corn that will be fed to their hogs and also sold to a nearby ethanol plant.

After Bishop Brennan blessed the farm and family, Deacon Hann’s granddaughter, Hannah, let him bottle feed her black lamb, Hershey, and demonstrated how she will show her hogs at the county fair. The day concluded with strawberry shortcake served.

“The bishop showed a genuine pastoral presence today,” Deacon Hann said. “I’m grateful for that. He showed not only his care and concern for our own farms but also the farms and rural communities across the diocese. I believe he had a good time today, as did we.”

Bishop Brennan said, “Today’s blessing, at least in my own heart, is asking God’s help for all of the farmers who both care for the ground and provide for all of our needs. Thank you.”

Jerry Freewalt is director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.
Memorial Day is this Monday, and the holiday weekend approaches. We must always honor and remember the countless heroes who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. If you have a family member or close friend who gave his or her life in service to our country, you know better than most. We hear about many ways in which we can honor and memorialize those who made the ultimate sacrifice. There are a few simple ways that each and every one of us can do. The first is prayer. Pray for those who died so that we can enjoy life in the greatest country in the world, and freely and openly pray by celebrating our faith. As you watch Mass by way of media this weekend, keep our heroes in your intentions for Mass and in the Prayers of the Faithful. Another way is to thank a veteran or a current member of our military. Thank them in person, if you are able. And beyond this weekend, thank them whenever you see them publicly. Finally, make that visit to the cemetery if you can. Pray, acknowledge, and always remember. It is always hard to imagine what it must have been like to experience the fear, pain, suffering, and death of so many. Of course, the reality was also great courage, bravery, selflessness, and then eternal life. Many of us know personal stories from relatives and friends. My late father-in-law is a great example, having been liberated at the end of World War II from a German prisoner of war camp and a long death march survival. Books have been written, documentaries and movies made, presidents and other leaders elected, and we still maintain our cherished rights and freedoms. We take so much for granted, and it is just too easy these days to complain and to be apathetic. Our current society and government seem to betray our common sense all too often. Nevertheless, there is no better place I would rather be. Perfection only comes with eternal life in heaven. In the meantime, we do our best to uphold the things we know are right. The blessings of the sacrifices of so many cannot ever be minimized. God bless all those who have served, and continue to serve.

It is also very important to recognize our heroes of today, even though they may not be military veterans. Our nurses and doctors, all healthcare workers and first responders, and our clergy continue to risk their health and lives each day to keep us well. And we need to pray for them, and thank them when we see them. We also take time for prayer and remembrance this Memorial Day for the thousands in this country, and around the world, who have died because of the coronavirus. No matter what we think about this scourge, and no matter our opinion on remaining closed or opening our state and country, none of our deceased chose this – it chose them. God bless them and their families, especially this Memorial Day. Our wonderful local military even honored our healthcare workers in Ohio with a number of recent fly-overs at hospitals. It is not only a show of support and thanks, it is also a great show of encouragement to keep going. Is that not what Memorial Day is all about? Each and every sacrifice that our heroes have made over the past many years has been all about moving forward, to keep going, and to preserve the world as a better place than it was. Pray for our life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. None of these are possible without the sacrifices and memory of our veterans, current military, healthcare providers, first responders, clergy, and volunteers.

Games intellectuals play

Shortly after President John F. Kennedy’s cabinet met for the first time, Vice President Lyndon Johnson waxed enthusiastic about the best and the brightest to his mentor, Speaker Sam Rayburn. They were all so brilliant, LBJ raved, especially “the fellow from Ford with the Stacomb on his hair” (Robert McNamara). Mr. Sam paused (perhaps taking a contemplative sip of bourbon-and-brand) and then replied, “Well, Lyndon, you may be right and they may be every bit as intelligent as you say, but I’d feel a whole lot better about them if just one of them had run for sheriff once.”

That gem of political wisdom came to mind while I was pondering one of the strangest phenomena in this season of many discontent: the emergence of a new “Catholic integralism” that (in the words of an advocate) promotes the notion that “the state should recognize Catholicism as true and unite with the Church as body to her soul.” The proponents of a confessionally Catholic state as the optimum form of government are small in number. But they’ve demonstrated an impressive ability to rile up the debate about the current American political situation, and about Catholic social doctrine generally, so a few questions are in order.

Question #1: Haven’t we seen this, or something like it, before? European Catholic intellectuals’ dismay over their continent’s cultural and social disarray after World War I led some of them to flirt (and worse) with various forms of authoritarian rule in which the Church partnered with the state. Some found in Italian Fascism a rough but serviceable form of the social doctrine of Pope Pius XI (before being caught off-guard by Pius XI’s condemnation of Mussolini’s thugsbery in the 1931 encyclical Non abbiamo bisogno). In 1933, a priest from the Benedictine abbey of Maria Laach described the ascendant National Socialist German Workers Party as the “realization” of the Body of Christ in the secular world. Emmanuel Mounier, a prominent French thinker and activist, first found a complement to his rejection of modernity in the right-wing statism of Marshal Petain’s Vichy regime, before pivoting 180 degrees after World War II and trying to forge a Catholic alliance with Stalinist communism. Living in the rarified air of high-altitude abstraction, the new integralist seem uninterested in this history. Nevertheless, such fiascos are important cautionary tales for any Catholic thinker who imagines that the moral and cultural crisis of the West is going to be resolved by the Catholic Church allying itself with state power or by the state endorsing the Nicene Creed.

Question #2. Has Pope Leo XIII been swapped out for Hegel? There are many, many disturbing things about American culture, society, and politics today; in some quarters, “I Did It My Way” has displaced “America the Beautiful” as an alternative national anthem. But to suggest (as some integralists seem tempted to do) that the Supreme Court’s Obergefell decision imposing same-sex “marriage” on the country was gestated in the womb of the Declara-
Dear friends in the class of 2020, I want to offer you my sincerest congratulations on this your Graduation Day.

This being my first year, you are the first senior class I had the chance to encounter throughout the year. I am so proud of you. It’s been a great chance for me to catch you at some of your games and accomplishments, your plays and musicals, to hear from so many of you in dialogue. Your service to your schools, to the Church and the local communities is impressive and I’ve seen the leadership qualities of so many of you in your schools, parishes and diocesan events as well as through retreats such as Kairos. Your laughter is contagious, and I am so impressed seeing you come together in faith, hope and love in moments of tragedy. I know you have been using Pope Francis’ Apostolic Letter to the youth this year, Christus Vivit. He speaks of the youth being not only the future but really the NOW of the Church – and you show that to be true in so many ways here in Columbus.

I know this is not what you envisioned for graduation and the loss of these last weeks is more than disappointing. I am sorry for that, really. I had really looked forward to being together with you in March with all the seniors and in your schools these weeks. But I am happy we can be together in some fashion now – and I thank you for the chance to say a word to you.

Often, I will speak of the Catholic school experience as a partnership. In some ways, that is obvious: you yourselves, your teachers, administrators, coaches, and all who staff your schools in so many ways; your parents and families, the diocesan staff – and I include myself. But consider also your parishes and communities. It takes a lot at so many levels.

Why are so many invested in Catholic high schools in particular? Truth is, it is because we believe in you. Really. We believe in you and want you to have the chance to reach your best potential to be who God created you to be and to do. And you know, today you prove that that belief is well founded. Congratulations.

It is my hope, our hope really, that you have encountered God who loves you during your years here. I hope you have come to know Jesus as a friend and support and that you will continue in that friendship. For those who do not share the Catholic faith, thank you for sharing life with us these years and I hope that you have come to know the Church, what we believe, why we believe and the source of our hope, and that we might walk together in mutual respect. For most of you who are Catholic, I hope you realize how much you are loved and recognize the good that God sees in you. You see, all of us who serve you in our Catholic schools are indeed Ambassadors of Christ, as St. Paul says, and behind everything we do to provide a top notch education, we do with love of God for you.

Yes, you have proven our hopes in you to be very well founded. Going back to Christus Vivit, Pope Francis reminds us that “Young people can offer the Church the beauty of youth by renewing her ability to “So rejoice with new beginnings, to give unreservedly of herself, to be renewed and set out for even greater accomplishments.” Well, the Church, are at the threshold of new beginnings for sure. I count on you and your help and inspiration. Please know that as you go forth you go with our support and love. I certainly hope our paths continue to grow and in fact I hope and pray that we will find ourselves working together in the exciting work of building up the world as Ambassadors for Christ.

Sixty-three teachers and administrators from Columbus diocesan schools who reached service milestones have received service awards from the diocesan Office of Education. Honored educators are:

40 Years – Mary Blue, Marion St. Mary; Mary Ann Hartley, Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help; Joseph Lang, Columbus Bishop Ready; James Paccioretti, Columbus St. Charles; Catherine Watson, Columbus St. Timothy; Teresa Whitman, Columbus St. Agatha.

30 Years – Molly Barrett, Columbus St. Francis DeSales; Paula Bevins, Delaware St. Mary; Sherry Blackburn, Portsmouth Notre Dame Elementary; Gisele Cecutti, Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare; Anita Farence, Gahanna St. Matthew; Catherine LaPlante, Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans; Eileen O’Connor, Delaware St. Mary; Michael Renzi, Columbus Bishop Watterson; Joyce Scullion, Newark St. Francis de Sales; and Sheryl Valentine, Delaware St. Mary.

20 Years – Barbara Apsley, Wellston Sts. Peter and Paul; Michele Baker, Portsmouth Notre Dame Elementary; Jill Baumer-Pina, Columbus St. Francis DeSales; Michele Campbell, Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help; Elizabeth Cecil, Dover Tuscawaras Central Catholic Elementary; Mark Chevalier, Wellston Sts. Peter and Paul; Anthony Cleveland, Columbus Bishop Watterson; Nancy Fox, Lancaster St. Mary; John M. Hanson, Columbus Bishop Watterson; Patricia Love, Dennison Immaculate Conception; Sheri Magee, Columbus Our Lady of Peace; Mindy Mays, Columbus Holy Spirit; Kathleen McMahon, Columbus Our Lady of Peace; Jennifer Miller, Hilliard St. Brendan; Sheri Moore, Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans; Frederick Orend, Newark Blessed Sacrament; Beth Robinson, Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul; Teresa Rudmann, Portsmouth Notre Dame High School; Kathleen Shambaugh, Columbus Immaculate Conception; Andrea Shearn, Westerville St. Paul; Bernadette Shumaker, New Lexington St. Rose; Colleen Tegeler, Westerville St. Paul; Jeremiah Tripplett, Columbus Bishop Hartley; Gene Trower, New Philadelphia Tuscawaras Central Catholic High School; Beth Werner-Smith, Worthington St. Michael; and Kristina Whitaker, Newark St. Francis de Sales.

10 Years – Emily Azzola, Marion St. Mary; Trisha Boehmer, Newark Catholic; Bernadette Buzenski, Reynoldsburg St. Pius X; Meaghan Chapman, Newark Blessed Sacrament; Anne Cody, Westerville St. Paul; Sara Cox, Gahanna St. Matthew; Kathleen DeStephen, Columbus Our Lady of Peace; Mary Anne Dyer, Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul; Karen Grogg, Columbus St. Mary German Village; Christine Guitrudge, Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare; Margaret Hartige, Columbus Bishop Hartley; Sandra Lawless, New Philadelphia Tuscawaras Central Catholic High School; Christopher Mazon, Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare; Kimberly Melillo, Columbus St. Timothy; Anna Mullins, Columbus Bishop Hartley; Jaclyn Ogden, Columbus St. Cecilia; Christen Rinehart, London St. Patrick; Elizabeth Sanders, Gahanna St. Matthew; Erica Shook, Columbus St. Matthias; Karen Smith, Reynoldsburg St. Pius X; and Elizabeth Van Evra, Lancaster St. Mary.
Grads regret traditions missed, appreciate lessons

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

For this year’s diocesan high school seniors, the coronavirus pandemic has resulted in a graduation season unlike anything they could have imagined.

The continuing ban on large public gatherings has closed schools and denied seniors a chance for traditional graduation and baccalaureate ceremonies, proms and other activities.

But while they’re disappointed because of what has been denied to them, several seniors contacted by The Catholic Times said they have accepted the situation, appreciate what they’ve learned from it and are ready to enter the next phase of their lives, however it unfolds.

“I’m a little sad that I could not get to go through normal life, but yet I realize I’m not greatly affected by the situation,” said Finnegan “Finn” Hardenbergh of Columbus Bishop Ready High School. “I can’t go to class because school is closed, but I’m not facing the situation of having lost a job or having my business closed. You can’t be mad or stressed about something beyond your control.

“When the pandemic hit in mid-March, I didn’t give much thought to it. I figured it wasn’t near me, school was going to close for two weeks and we’d ride it out. Then came the announcement that schools would be closed for the semester. That left me a little sad, but I realized that schoolwork was the same whether it was in the classroom or online, and I had to move forward.

“What I’m missing most is the opportunity to take part in the last months of the last year of high school, the time that both seniors and their parents look forward to,” said Hardenbergh, who plans to attend Tiffin University and major in graphic design or computer science. “I’ll be missing all the big events of that final high school experience, and my parents won’t be able to see me get my diploma, and I’m sorry I won’t be able to say goodbye to my teachers.”

Hardenbergh said Ready is planning a virtual commencement in late May. He also said the students’ lockers have been emptied of their contents, which students can pick up on Tuesday, May 26 in a drive-thru format.

“One thing I’ve learned from this situation is how to take care of myself better,” he said. “Wash my hands, watch what I eat, be active within the restrictions we’re dealing with and stay happy. Our class is among the few people who have gone through this experience. It’s definitely something to tell future generations about.”

“His class has been forced to miss out on some important milestones that most other graduating classes have gotten to experience, but I understand the need for people to stay distanced and remain safe,” said Madison Kopp of New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School.

Like most people, she has kept in touch with her friends mainly online and had limited person-to-person contact with anyone outside of family because of Ohio’s “stay at home” and “stay safe” restrictions, so taking a walk or bike ride has become much more important in her life.

“It’s my last year at TCC, and I wasn’t adequately prepared for my time there to end so abruptly,” she said. “I miss the small school and family atmosphere.”

She said the school is encouraging seniors to view a diocesan virtual baccalaureate Mass to be celebrated on Wednesday, May 27 from St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus by Bishop Robert Brennan and streamed at www.columbuscatholic.org and through the diocesan Facebook. Between 1 and 3 p.m. Sunday, May 31, graduates and as many as six guests will be encouraged to come to the school to receive diplomas. The diploma presentations and traditional speeches will be recorded and made available to families. The school hopes to have its own baccalaureate Mass in July.

“When I recall this period to my children, I’ll tell them you can never adequately prepare for some situations,” Kopp said. “I would also tell them not to take even the smallest things for granted and to take time to enjoy every moment in life, no matter how insignificant it may seem. I’ll also remember seeing countless acts of kindness during this time. People have become less self-centered and (more) willing to do things for others without expecting anything in return.”

Kopp will attend Miami University in Oxford, majoring in accounting and co-majoring in pre-medical studies.

Elizabeth Moore of Newark Catholic High School said one of the things about the pandemic she’s most likely to remember is visiting people’s houses and talking from the car at a safe distance, rather than going inside. “Me and my friends text and call each other, but it isn’t the same,” she said. “I miss seeing familiar people every day. That was my favorite part of school.

“I’ve kind of accepted and come to terms with having a virtual graduation,” Moore said. “I get upset sometimes, but I realize I have to look at the bright side in that it’s better to have a virtual graduation than no graduation at all.

“That last quarter of the school year is packed with so many things – not just prom and graduation, but a senior class trip to Washington. I’m active with the school drama department, and we always end the year with a spring cabaret concert. Not having a last performance was a big letdown.”

Moore, president of her senior class, will attend Ohio State University to study biology. She knows that it’s not certain whether OSU will hold fall classes on campus or online. “If we do end up with online classes, at least I’ll have the experience now,” she said. “I have friends who are going to OSU, and it would be hard not being able to meet them there if classes are online. This is all just a very weird, unorthodox experience.

“What I’ve learned from all this is not to take any of my friends and experiences at school for granted. It all could disappear for some reason you’d never expect. I’ll take that feeling toward anything in the future.”

The state’s guidelines have allowed some outdoor activity to take place, and Caleb Franz of Columbus Bishop Hartley High School said one of the bright spots for him after his school closed was a get-together involving about eight friends at a city park in Gahanna in April. “We played wiffle ball and had lunch together, and it was great just to be able to hang out with people,” he said. “We’re planning another get-together soon.

“I still can’t believe everything’s just come to an end – just like that,” said Franz, who hopes to earn a double major in sports management and marketing at the University of Cincinnati and played soccer and baseball at Hartley. “At first, I didn’t want to believe it. I’m still a little upset and shocked that it happened this way.”

Franz is a captain in Hartley’s house system, which is designed to strengthen the sense of community among students by dividing the school into six houses of about 120 students each, with each house including students from grades nine to 12.

“I miss getting the chance to see students from other grades interacting with each other,” he said. “One of the great things about the house system is that it matches people who wouldn’t see themselves being friends and gets you into new relationships you wouldn’t have expected.”

He said his family and many friends still will have graduation parties even though there will be no traditional on-campus graduation ceremony. Most of the parties will be in July.

“Because I’m going through this experience, I’d tell future seniors or those in future generations not to take the early stages of their senior year for granted because you never know what may happen at the end,” he said. “I’ve also learned from all this that everything happens for a reason, even if we don’t know what the reason is.”

Olivia Smith of Portsmouth Notre Dame High School put a humorous spin on events, saying, “If nothing else, our class will be remembered as Senior Skip Day champions because for us, Skip Day lasted 2 ½ months.”
Three 2020 Rosecrans graduates to attend Notre Dame

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Three of the four co-valedictorians of this year’s Zanesville Rosecrans High School graduating class of 32 members will attend the University of Notre Dame in the fall.

Jack Goggin will be majoring in business, Cameron Hagy will be starting pre-medicine studies and majoring in biology, and Will Bernath will be a business major. Classes are scheduled to start at the university on Aug. 21, depending on the continuing effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

“It’s an honor when one of our graduates can continue his or her education at Notre Dame because of its combination of academic and athletic distinction and Catholic tradition,” said Rosecrans principal Kelly Sagan. “This year, we’ve been triply blessed.”

All three students applied to several prestigious schools but said Notre Dame was their first choice. Bernath also was considering Dayton, Ohio State, Cincinnati, Miami and Miami universities. Hagy applied to Vanderbilt and Dayton, and Goggin was considering Dayton, Ohio State and Virginia.

“It wasn’t a group decision that the three of us apply to Notre Dame,” Hagy said. “Each of us had that thought on our own and eventually found out that the others were thinking the same thing. It’s kind of like when the three of us came to Rosecrans in ninth grade from separate schools – Jack from Cambridge St. Benedict, Will from Zanesville Fenwick and me from New Lexington St. Rose. We quickly became good friends and will continue that in college.”

“A school the size of Rosecrans really becomes a tight knit community, so it’s sort of like we’re brothers on the journey together,” Goggin said.

Goggin has strong family ties to Notre Dame. His father is a 1994 graduate of the university, and his grandfather received a master’s degree from the institution in 1955. Bernath said an uncle took him on his first visit to the campus, and he has other relatives who work at or attend the university.

Goggin submitted an early application and learned Dec. 13 that Notre Dame had accepted him. Acceptances for Hagy and Bernath came March 20 as a bright spot amid the initial effects of the pandemic, which ultimately resulted in the closing of all Ohio schools for the academic year.

The three played basketball together and were involved in multiple sports at Rosecrans. Hagy and Bernath also played football, Bernath and Goggin were soccer teammates, and Goggin and Hagy were on the baseball team. They’re not planning to be involved in intercollegiate sports at Notre Dame.

Hagy and Goggin also were house captains. Rosecrans is one of several high schools in the Diocese of Columbus that uses a house system designed to strengthen the sense of community among students. The school’s 102 students are divided into four houses, named for the four Gospel writers, with each house consisting of 25 or 26 students and including students representing grades nine to 12.

Hagy also was class president, National Honor Society president and a member of the Spanish Club and the robotics team. “I’m not sure what the hardest thing about dealing with the coronavirus situation right now is – keeping up on my schoolwork or missing the chance to see my friends in person,” he said. “I know what I’ll miss the most about Rosecrans is the people. They make it special.

“You know everybody at a school like this. They know you, and you can make friends with anyone in any class,” Bernath said. “No one wants to miss the senior traditions. It’s definitely not an ideal situation, but we’re all feeling it together.” He is president of the campus ministry, treasurer of the National Honor Society and a member of the Green Club and the Spanish Club.

Goggin is a school ambassador, class vice president and National Honor Society vice president and is involved in campus ministry. “The best thing for me about going here has been personal relationships, especially with the teachers and staff,” he said.

“They get to know your learning style and realize different things work with different students. Small class sizes help a lot with that.

“You don’t often hear this about school, but it’s been fun to go here. The school year didn’t end the way we expected, but I think this year’s graduating class will have strong ties because we have the events of the last few months in common.”

All three students come from families that strongly believe in the impor-

Bishop Rosecrans sets drive-in commencement ceremony

Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans High School will celebrate its 70th commencement at noon Saturday, May 23. Because of the COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, the 32 members of the school’s Class of 2020 will have a drive-in graduation ceremony. Diplomas will be awarded by Kelly Sagan, Zanesville Catholic Schools executive director, and Chelsea Toller, Rosecrans High School director.

The class has four valedictorians – William Bernath, son of Ryan and Theresa Bernath; John Goggin, son of Patrick and Karen Goggin; and Cameron Hagy, son of Gray and Lauran Hagy, all of whom plan to attend the University of Notre Dame; and Lily McLaughlin, daughter of Sam and Kim McLaughlin, who plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Business.

Honor graduates are William Bernath, Caroline Caldwell, John Goggin, Cameron Hagy, Mason Harmon, Maggie Hutcheson, Jerzie Johnson, Halle Labishak, Lily McLaughlin, Weston Nern, Nicholas Nestor, Payton VanNort and Rebecca Wilson.

The class earned approximately $600,000 in scholarship money, for an average of $18,000 per student. Eighty-four percent of its members will attend institutions of higher education, while the other 16 percent will participate in internships or join the military.

Members of the Zanesville Rosecrans High School Class of 2020 are: Nicholas Barry, William Bernath, Kaid Brown, Marcus Browning, Caroline Caldwell, Deip Chung, Axel Frueh, John Goggin, Cameron Hagy, Mason Harmon, Maggie Hutcheson, Jerzie Johnson, Samuel Jones, Nathan Joseph, Jesse Kunkler, Halle Labishak, Nicholas Losco, Alicia Matheny, Lily McLaughlin, Paul Nern, Weston Nern, Nicholas Nestor, Elisabeth Pratt, Dalton Proctor, Connor Quinn, Emil Valen, Payton VanNort, Tyler Williams, Rebecca Wilson, Caleb Wooley, Kailey Zemba and Danling Zheng. Also part of the class is Emma Barry, who died on July 20, 2019, after being injured in an auto accident the previous December.
Four 2020 St. Charles graduates to attend West Point

Four of the 151 members of the Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School Class of 2020 have received appointments to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Andrew Sarff, Will Humphrys and Caleb Kish will enter the academy in the fall while Declan Cooper will spend a year at Georgia Military College before joining his classmates in 2021. West Point accepts 1,000 to 1,200 students each fall. Cooper is part of an “overflow” of 40 young men and women who couldn’t fit into this year’s class but are guaranteed a spot next year after spending a year at a military prep school.

The four are looking forward to immersing themselves in a brotherhood at West Point that is similar to the one that bonds graduates of St. Charles, which, since its founding in 1923 by Bishop James Hartley, has been devoted to providing young men in central Ohio with a sound preparation for life through a rigorous classical academic curriculum and a strong devotion to Catholic values.

The school has a strong tradition of producing graduates who are appointed to the nation’s military academies. Most notably, in 1989, five St. Charles graduates of that year’s class and a member of the Class of 1988 received appointments to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, and two were appointed to West Point.

Sarff is the son of Doug and Michelle Sarff of Worthington, attended Worthington St. Michael School, is a member of Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church and had a cumulative 4.14 grade point average at St. Charles. He will pursue a degree in international affairs and Arabic at West Point.

He was president of the school’s chapter of the National Honor Society and tutored students in Latin, having earned three awards for his scores on the National Latin Examination. He was a Student Council member in each of his four years at St. Charles, serving as president as a senior. He earned two varsity letters in both cross country and lacrosse, was captain of the lacrosse team in his senior year and was a wrestler as a senior.

He was awarded a scholarship for the National Security Language Initiative for Youth, sponsored by the U.S. State Department. He studied Arabic in Amman, Jordan, during the summer after his junior year and has been a counselor at the Muscular Dystrophy Association’s summer camp, an intern at Ohio State University Airport, a caddy at Scioto Country Club and a cadet master sergeant for the Civil Air Patrol.

Kish is the son of Kyle and Pamela Kish of Sunbury, attended Westerville St. Paul School, had a cumulative 3.93 GPA at St. Charles and was a National Merit Scholarship finalist. He will pursue a degree in engineering.

He was a member of the National Honor Society, tutored students in Latin and math at St. Charles and was on the school’s nationally renowned engineering team in his junior and senior years. He has been involved in fundraising for Pelotonia, the multi-day bicycle ride benefiting cancer research. He was a four-year wrestling letterman and served as team captain in his senior year. He will not be wrestling at West Point but plans to diversify into other martial arts.

Humphrys is the son of Scott and Kerstin Humphrys of Upper Arlington. He attended the Wellington School in Columbus and is a member of Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church. He will pursue a degree in nuclear or electrical engineering at West Point.

He was captain of the varsity engineering team at St. Charles in 2020 and 2019 and a captain for 2018.

In addition, he was captain of the wrestling team in his senior year, was a four-year letter winner in lacrosse and played club lacrosse for two teams throughout his high school career.

He achieved magna cum laude honors on the 2019 National Latin Examination, was a member of the National Honor Society, was part of the Youth Leadership Association in his sophomore, junior and senior years, served as a Muscular Dystrophy Association summer camp counselor for two years and was an RCIA sponsor at his parish for a close friend.

In summer 2019, he attended a one-week leadership experience at West Point and completed an internship at Ohio State University’s nuclear reactor laboratory.

Cooper is the son of Patrick and Hope Cooper of Columbus and is a member of Columbus St. Timothy Church, where he is an altar server and an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist. He is an Eagle Scout, Kiwanis youth soccer coach and a year-round lifeguard. In 2019, he attended the American Legion’s Buckeye Boys State.

He was team captain of multiple sports and earned four varsity letters. He played soccer, volleyball and tennis and was a four-year member of the wrestling team, representing St. Charles at the 2020 district wrestling championship.
Congratulations
CLASS OF 2020
Looking back on a momentous year

Fernando Arias Robles
Lindsey Nicole Bair
Brock Alan Baker
Taylor Ann Bates
Joshua Michael Baum
Dominic Cruz Benitez
Luke Gerard Bergman

Chance Wallace Blevins
Hannah Marie Blount
Elijah Thomas Bowles
Kaeden Eric Thomas Boyd
Chanté A. Brewster
Joseph Brian Brickner
Danielle Chloe Lyn Brown

Alexander Joseph Craddock
Yuan Jiang
Ashlyn Hayes Muraco
Wenhan Cui
Yuefeng Jiang
Peyton Drew Murphy
Corbin Drake Dellinger
Cameron Michael Jones
Anna Catherine Nichols
Lindsay Rose Dickerson
Wendy Yaneri Jordan Mora
Cydney Davis O’Reilly
Dong Zhuo Dou
Nicholas Ives Kamer
Alexander Carl Oswald
Amy Lynn Dou
Michaela Ann Kopczewski
Kateelyn Alyssa Paul
Amy Lynn Dou
Dominic Louie Gale
Lucia Francesca Lattanzio
Julianne Caroline Pece
Kiley Marie Gallagher
Dominic Michael Lopez
David Austin Perry
Christian Louis Gale
Gabriel Lee Lopez
Emma Monique Perry
Katelyn Alyssa Bolmer
Kaeden Eric Thomas Boyd
Crispin Paul Pocatcher
Taylor Ann Bates
Noah Michael Bradley
Emmanuel Gibson
Brock Alan Baker
Willow Sadhana Bhardwaj

We are proud of you and we miss you!
May you be blessed in all of your future endeavors!
Columbus Bishop Ready High School will celebrate its 56th commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 30 at 10 a.m., releasing a video of the event on that date. A baccalaureate Mass for all diocesan high schools will be celebrated on livestreaming video for viewing at www.columbuscatholic.org by Bishop Robert Brennan at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 27 from St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus.

Diplomas will be awarded to 93 graduates by Celene A. Seamen, president of the school, and Matthew Brickner, its principal. Bishop Brennan will speak to the graduates.

The school’s Class of 2020 earned $6.1 million in scholarships. The valedictorian is Lindsey Bair, the daughter of Robert and Dorothy Bair of Columbus. She plans to attend the University of South Carolina. The salutatorian is Joshua Baum of Grove City, the son of Phil and Teri Baum of Columbus. He plans to attend Ohio State University.

Honors graduates are Lindsey Bair, Brock Baker, Joshua Baum, Luke Bergman, Elijah Bowles, Hannah Bryan, Kyle Caisagiano, Joshua Canare, Lindsay Dickerson, Jack Foley, Madeline French, Megan Hackman, Emily Mathew, Alexander Oswald, Katelyn Paul, Julianne Pece, Emma Perry, Tyler Scott, Stephanie Silić, Katherine Smith, Abigail Swierz, Carolyn Tackett, Avery Yohman and Mary Zerrien.

Five seniors have signed to play collegiate sports. They are Kaeden Boyd, baseball, Clark State; Hannah Bryan, softball, Ohio State; Jack Foley, football, Baldwin-Wallace; Kiley Gallagher, softball, Ursuline; and Thomas Stiltnar, football, Tiffin.

Seniors Lindsey Bair, Madeline French, Abigail Swierz and Mary Zerrien were inducted into the school’s Academic Hall of Fame. Josh Baum was selected for the diocesan All-Academic honor team, and Abigail Swierz received the Bishop Herrmann Service Award.

Other award recipients are: Gifts of the Heart Service Award, Michaela Kopczewski and Katherine Smith; Gertrude C. Kuehefuhs Music Scholarship, Megan Hackman (instrumental) and Julianne Pece (vocal); President’s Award, Rosa Cardoza and Alexander Oswald; Ready Award, Avery Yohman; and Spirit Award, Kiley Gallagher.

Ninety percent of the 2020 graduating class will be attending 21 Institutions of higher education.


Alexander Carl Oswald, Katelyn Alyssa Paul, Julianne Caroline Pece, David Austin Perry, Emma Monique Perry, Keely Lynne Louise Regan, Montserrat Rivera, Lizeth Rivera Munoz, Jacob Matthew Robinson, Jasmine Renee Robinson, Maryann Catherine Rucker, Daisy Marybeth Saldana Saico, Charles Donovan Wise Sanders, Jonathan Santiago Silva, Lauren Marie Schlosser, Maureen Grazina Scott and Tyler Michael Scott.

Alexa Joell Siemer, Stephanie Silić, Katherine Ann Smith, Catherine Marie Stiltnar, Thomas Carter Stiltnar, Genesis Luna Strickland, Abigail Marie Swierz, Carolyn Rose Tackett, Cree Savannah Tilley, Dayana Vane-gas Velazquez, Kendra Velazquez, DaShon Michael Wells, Kaya Leah Wolfe, Avery Jean Yohman, Xiaoran Yu and Mary Elizabeth Zerrien.

GRADS, continued from Page 3

She was referring to a tradition at many high schools in which all the seniors stay away from classes for a day near the end of the school year.

“It’s disappointing not to have a traditional graduation, but I’ll take what I can get because something is better than nothing,” she said. “The school’s doing everything it can to help students, given the limitations we’re under.”

Notre Dame seniors were awarded their diplomas on Sunday, May 17. Each of the 21 seniors had a 10-minute slot during the ceremony when he or she could bring seven friends and family members to witness a diploma presentation by principal JD McKenzie and guidance counselor Beth Haney. Traditional speeches and scholarship announcements also were part of the event.

“One of the things I miss most is the chance to play spring sports because we had really high hopes for this year,” said Smith, who has been involved with cross country, volleyball, basketball, track and softball at the school.

She will major in biomedical sciences at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth. “I’ve taken a couple of college classes online in the spring, so I know how things will work if I have to do it again in the fall, but I do want a normal college experience,” she said.

“I’ve definitely learned from the last two months that it’s hard to keep up with course work when you’re not in a classroom. I’ve also come to appreciate that you’ve got to move forward, one day at a time.”

Emily Dixon, president of the Columbus Bishop Watterson High School senior class, used her time at home to create a memory for her classmates. School staff members placed yard signs at the homes of each of the 160 class members, and Dixon created a video showing about 130 of them with the signs. She and other class members also had planned to organize a tailgate-style potluck in the school parking lot on the last day of school, but that plan was scrapped once school was closed.

“People say that the last two months of your senior year are some of the best times of your life,” she said. “This class wasn’t able to experience that, but if these kinds of events were to happen to any class that could handle them well, it would be this class,” she said.

Besides putting the video together, “I really got into painting,” Dixon said. She has painted a wall in her house and also has been painting on canvas during her unexpected time at home.

“Being at home sometimes makes it hard to realize that even though you’re home, classes still are going on,” she said. “You wake up, do things and do homework as you would on any other day, but it’s definitely different. I just miss the routine of putting on the uniform, driving to school, seeing teachers and so forth.

“Like most everyone, I’ve stayed in touch with my friends mostly through video or text. Sometimes a few of us have parked our cars in a circle and sat on the trunks to maintain physical distancing, and that is strange.

“It will be quite a story to tell future generations about what life was like at this time,” she said. “I’ll say people all wore masks and gloves and couldn’t see anyone else, and I’ll also tell everyone how valuable time is, not to take things for granted and to stick together.”
CONGRATULATIONS
ST. MICHAEL 8TH GRADERS!

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Koen
Mark
Jordan
Kameron, Avery & Mary Claire
Jack
Keegan
Alexandria
Katie
Tyler
Avery
Alexander
Izzy
Sofia
David
Taylor & Mary Claire
Natalie
Michael
Anmarie
Gregory & Anthony
Will
Sofia
Anthony
Michael
Emma
Olivia
Jennifer
Neil
David
Jack

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Portsmouth Notre Dame honors 23 graduates

Portsmouth Notre Dame Junior-Senior High School celebrated its baccalaureate Mass via livestream from Portsmouth St. Mary Church on Sunday, May 17, followed by its commencement ceremony also via livestream.

Diplomas were awarded to 23 graduates by principal JD McKenzie and guidance counselor Beth Haney. Jeremy Burnside of Burnside Law addressed the graduates.

This class was offered $1.97 million in scholarships and accepted $516,275 of that total. Ninety-six percent of Notre Dame’s graduates are pursuing higher education. Twenty-two of the 23 graduates will attend eight colleges, including one outside Ohio.

Co-viductians are Paetyn Collins and Graceann Beckett. Collins, the daughter of Bill and Tina Collins of Portsmouth, will attend Shawnee State University as a pre-medicine major. She received a Shawnee Scholar full-tuition award valued at $35,000.

Beckett is the daughter of Marian Beckett and the late Gene Beckett of McDermott. She will attend Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, and received $106,000 in merit scholarships from the college. She will major in theology and business administration with a minor in Catholic studies.

The salutatorian is Alexis Graf. She is the daughter of Gregory and Allison Graf of Portsmouth and will attend Shawnee State, majoring in early childhood education with a special education minor. She received a $20,000 scholarship from The Catholic Foundation and other scholarships through her participation in the Portsmouth River Days program.

Students graduating with an honors diploma are Graceann Beckett, Lauren Campbell, Paetyn Collins, Sophia Hassel, Emma Madden, Cassidy Schaefer, Taylor Schmidt, Olivia Smith, Caden Wilcox and Joyce Zheng.

Notre Dame High School gives three special awards voted upon by the faculty. The Outstanding Senior Award was earned by Paetyn Collins. It is given to the senior who has best fulfilled the various roles of scholar and leader in the school and community. She has demonstrated, on a daily basis, high Christian ideals in all of her activities.

The Senior Service Award was earned by Graceann Beckett. She was president of the Key Club and dedicated much time to coordinating its service efforts and leading volunteer events and activities throughout her high school career.

The Citizenship Award was earned by Alexis Graf, who represented her school throughout the year as its River Days queen candidate. She communicated the importance of seat belt safety as she traveled throughout Scioto County.


Newark Catholic to graduate 61 seniors

Newark Catholic High School will graduate a class of 61 members during a virtual commencement ceremony to be livestreamed at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 31, on the school’s website hosted by school principal Beth Hill.

Students can pick up their diplomas and “walk” across a stage to receive a picture in their cap and gown, accompanied by as many as four family members, during designated times on Tuesday, June 2 and Wednesday, June 3 at the school.

A baccalaureate Mass will be livestreamed from the school’s St. Catherine of Siena Chapel at 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, May 26. Concelebrants will be Father Anthony Lonzo of Newark Blessed Sacrament Church, Father Dave Sizemore of Newark St. Francis DeSales Church and retired Father Michael Gribble.

Fifty-two members of the class will be attending 27 institutions of higher education, one will be involved in missionary work, two will have full-time employment, one will attend trade school and five did not respond when asked for their plans.

Among students who have declared a college major, 20 percent will be studying engineering and related fields, 15 percent in medical-related fields, 11 percent in business and finance, 11 percent in education, 10 percent in psychology, criminal justice and related fields, 3 percent in service industry fields, 3 percent in journalism and 3 percent in music-related fields. The Class of 2020 has earned more than $3.1 million in scholarship money.

Members of the Newark Catholic High School Class of 2020 are: Kennedy Aikey, Ashley Bell, Charlotte Campbell, Lillian Canning, Mckenna Canning, Matthew Carlisle, Colby Claggett, Tyler Clark, Ellie Cotterman, Thomas Edwards, Peyton Ehret, Caden Elwel, Slater Evans, Alexander Flowers, Connor Flowers, Owen Foseco, Keegan Gallagher, Anthony Ghiloni, Chloe Goldsberry, Parker Green and Zachary Green.

Mackenzie Halloy, Zachary Hampton, Derek Hawk, Griffin Helms, Connor Hinerman, Miles Hitchens, Daryl Howard, Taylor Howartha, Edward Jewett, Shannon Keck, Kyle King, Christian Kuhn, Olivia Lanfranc, Mackenzie Leedale, Nicolette Liesen, Hayden Lintz, Trinity Marmie, Samantha Martin, Mason May and Marissa McCafferty.


37 seniors to graduate from Fisher Catholic

Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School will conduct its graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 on Sunday, May 31, beginning at 12:15 p.m. and lasting all day, with students coming in two at a time every 15 minutes and receiving diplomas on stage. A virtual baccalaureate Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 27 by Bishop Robert Brennan from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

The class has 37 graduates who will attend 17 institutions of higher education, with 97 percent continuing their studies. They were awarded $4.5 million in scholarships.

The valedictorian is Bryson Vogel, and the salutatorian is Emma Martin.


GRACEANN BECKETT
School: Portsmouth Notre Dame Parish: Otway Our Lady of Lourdes
National Honor Society; Key Club; Mock Trial Club; Science Bowl Team; Swim and Tennis Teams; WSAZ-TV Best of Class; Honors Diploma; Academic Spirit Awards in Religion, Science, AP History, English and Geometry

MEGAN EBERTS
School: Columbus Bishop Watterson Parish: Columbus Immaculate Conception
Guatemala Mission Trip; University of Minnesota Chemical Engineering and Materials Science Lab Volunteer; Whetstone Library Volunteer; Global Gifts Volunteer; Parish Altar Server; Watterson Girls Basketball Tournament Volunteer; Immaculate Conception Science Olympiad Volunteer; Parish Festival Volunteer; Reader to Grade School Students; Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra Volunteer; Parree Soccer Fields Volunteer Coach; Great Lakes Commission Volunteer; Cafeteria Recycling; Animal Rescue Charity Dog Bath

JENNA ERAMO
School: Columbus Bishop Hartley Parish: Gahanna St. Matthew
Central Catholic League Service Day Coordinator; Diaper Drive Coordinator; Gahanna Hometown Christmas Bazaar; Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist; Evening with the Hawks; School Open House Volunteer; House System Leader; School Musical

SEDIC GRANGER
School: Columbus St. Charles Preparatory Church: New Salem Missionary Baptist Church
National Honor Society; My Brother’s Keeper Mentoring Program; Principal’s Service Award; Latin, English and Math Tutor; Fellowship of Christian Athletes Volunteer; FCA Outstanding Christian Leader Award; Nepal Community of Ohio Volunteer; New Salem Missionary Baptist Church Youth Leader; Master of Ceremonies for School Events; Grade School Football Public Address Announcer; National Latin Examination Maxima Cum Laude Winner; Dartmouth Book Award; Rotary Club Service Award; Football and Volleyball Teams; Summer School Chemistry and Algebra Assistant

MADISON LAKOTA
School: New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic Parish: Bolivar Holy Trinity
Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership Award; Tuscarawas County Humane Society Volunteer; Share-A-Christmas Volunteer; Youth to Youth Anti-Drug Coalition; Altar Server; Lector; Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist; Volleyball, Softball and Basketball Teams

REGINA LOAYZA
School: Cristo Rey Columbus Parish: Columbus St. James the Less
Intern in Gov. Mike DeWine’s Office; Communications and Public Relations Assistant in Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther’s Office; Assistant Secretary for Homeport Resource Development Department; Parish Office Volunteer

LUCY REED
School: Lancaster Fisher Catholic Parish: Lancaster St. Mary
Parish School of Religion; Community Care Day; Summer Boys and Girls Soccer Camp; Summer Girls Basketball Camp; Lector for School Masses; Renovated Visiting Rooms in Fairfield County Job and Family Services Building; University of Dayton Leadership in Service Scholarship; Student Council President

JORDAN REEVES
School: Columbus St. Francis DeSales Church: Discovery Church
Evangelization Team; Business Club; Student Ambassador; Student Council; Junior State of America; Model United Nations; Band; Track Team; School Representative to Suicide Prevention Conference; Star House Volunteer; YWCA Columbus Shelter Volunteer; Off to a Great Start Conference; Leaders of Today; Central Ohio Leadership Academy; State Attorney General’s Teen Ambassador Board; Buckeye Boys State; Discovery Church Student Youth Leader; Shadowed State Senators, Representatives and a Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge; Provides Child Care for a 7-Year-Old Boy

ABIGAIL SWIERZ
School: Columbus Bishop Ready Parish: London St. Patrick
National Honor Society; Columbus Zoo Volunteer; Do Something Organization for Positive Change; Circleville Destination Imagination Improvisational Arts Program for Children; Animal Field Study at Forfar Station in the Bahamas; Leader of Parish FROGS (Fully Relying on God Squad) Children’s Choir; Scuba Diving Group Leader; Vacation Bible School; Superior Rankings in Ohio Music Education Association Piano and Voice Competitions; Heinzerling Foundation Volunteer; Caroling for the Elderly at Christmas; Making Cards for Children in Need; Scoreboard Operator at School Volleyball Matches

EMIL VALENT
School: Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans Parish: Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas
Neighbor Helping Neighbor; Christ Medicus Foundation; Muskingum County Fair Volunteer; Altar Server; Zanesville St. Nicholas Church Youth Ministry; St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Nicholas Parish Festivals; Zanesville Teens Youth Group; Christ Table; Pro-Life Chain; Washington March for Life; Knights of Columbus; Rosary Rally

FAITH WEINER
School: Newark Catholic Parish: Johnstown Church of the Ascension
Kairos Team Leader; National Honor Society; Student Council; Yearbook; Buckeye Boys State; March for Life; NC for Life; National Catholic Youth Conference; Liturgical Choir; Senior Class Vice President; Christian Witness Award; Vacation Bible School; School Tutor
ALL-DIOCESAN ACADEMIC HONOR TEAM MEMBERS

JOSH BAUM/Columbus Bishop Ready  Parish: Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help
National Honor Society; Senior Class President; Student Council; Academic All-Ohio; Mid-Ohio Food Collective Volunteer; Beta Club; Environmental Club; Future Business Leaders of America; Football Team; Junior Prize Speaking Finalist; Volunteer Club; Vacation Bible School; Parish Festival; Parish Fish Fry; Run the Race Club
Attending Ohio State University

PAETYN COLLINS/Portsmouth Notre Dame  Parish: Portsmouth Holy Redeemer
Shawnee Scholar Full-Tuition Scholarship; National Honor Society; WSAZ-TV Best of Class Award; Science Fair Superior Rating; Bill Newman Sportsmanship Award; Athletic-Academic Achievement Team; Volleyball, Basketball and Softball Teams; Ohio Model United Nations; Pep Club; Key Club; Youth Group Leader; Liturgical Choir
Attending Shawnee State University

JACK GOGGIN/Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans  Parish: Cambridge Christ Our Light
National Honor Society; School Mentor Group Leader; School Ambassador; House Captain; Muskingum University Summer Leadership Workshop; Senior Class Vice President; Basketball, Soccer and Tennis Teams; Campus Ministry; Green Club, Spanish Club; Parish Youth Group; Lector; Catholic Heart Work Camp Mission Trip to St. Croix; World Youth Day at Krakow, Poland
Attending the University of Notre Dame

EDWARD JEWETT/Newark Catholic  Parish: Newark Blessed Sacrament
National Honor Society; Student Council; Yearbook; Buckeye Boys State; March for Life; Football, Wrestling and Track Teams; Drama Club; Licking County Library Volunteer; Organized JAM Green Hub Project Collection
Attending Case Western Reserve University

KIARA JOHNSON/Cristo Rey Columbus  Church: Not listed
Student Ambassador; Student Council; Pawsitive Impact Student Role Model; National Honor Society; Junior State of America; Aware Mentorship Program; ROX Girl Group; Model United Nations; Academic Excellence Pillar Award; Mornill Scholarship Excellence Award; Land Opportunity Grant Scholarship; After-School Tutor; Meals on Wheels; Nationwide Marathon Volunteer; Columbus Library Volunteer; Fairview-Clifton German Language School Classroom Assistant
Attending Ohio State University

ISABELLA MARINO/Columbus St. Francis DeSales  Parish: Columbus St. Agatha
Ohio State University Provost’s Merit Scholarship; Cincinnatus Century Scholarship; College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Excellence Scholarship; Bob Lennon Memorial Scholarship; National Honor Society; Spanish National Honor Society; Soccer and Basketball Teams; CYO Basketball; Chemistry Club; Math Club; Run the Race Club; Corral for the Kids Club; Calculus Peer Tutor; St. Stephen’s Community House Volunteer
Attending Ohio State University

GENEVIEVE PFISTER/Columbus Bishop Hartley  Parish: Columbus Holy Spirit
National Honor Society; Denison University Creative Writing Scholarship; Denison Alumni Award; Zonta International Outstanding Young Woman of America; Dartmouth Alumni Club Book Award; Kenyon Review Young Writers Workshop; Buckeye Girls State; Ohio State University ASPIRE Summer Science Program; Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership Seminar; House and Mentor Group Captain; Care 4 Creation Club; School Dramas and Musicals; Hooked on Books Club; Lector for School and Parish Masses; Student Ambassador; Math Tutor; Volunteer at Bickford of Bexley Assisted Living Facility
Attending Denison University

ALEXANDER PRICE/New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic  Parish: Dennison Immaculate Conception
Class President All Four Years; American Legion Americanism and Government Test Winner; Times Reporter Teen of the Month; Academic All-Ohio; Football, Basketball and Track Teams; Share-A-Christmas; Danny Price Memorial Golf Outing; Parish Janitor; Sacristan; Altar Server; Knights of Columbus Council 576 Teen of the Year; Kiwanis Athletic Excellence Award; National Honor Society; Buckeye Boys State
Attending Youngstown State University

MICHAEL TERVEER/Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School  Parish: Columbus St. Andrew
Catholic Foundation Ronald C. Sullivan Scholarship; Ohio State University Maximus Scholarship; Northwest Kiwanis Club Scholarship; National Merit Scholarship Finalist; National Honor Society; Wofford Scholars Program; Xavier Distinguished Scholar Award; Eagle Scout; National Latin Exam Awards; Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership Conference; Soccer Team; Engineering Team; Ohio State Research Lab Aide; Student Council; School Newspaper; Upper Arlington Special Olympics Assistant Coach; Parish Lector, Cantor, Server and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist
Attending Ohio State University

JORDAN Vogel/Lancaster Fisher Catholic  Parish: Lancaster St. Bernadette
Ohio State University Trustees Scholarship; South Central Power Scholarship; National Honor Society; Student Council; Altar Server; Youth Basketball Camp Volunteer; United Way Community Care Day; Parish Residence Restoration Project; Baseball, Basketball and Soccer Teams; In the Know Team; Irish for Life; Gold Medal in National Medusa Mythology Exam; Parish Altar Server of the Year
Attending Ohio State University

RACHEL WEAVER/Columbus Bishop Watterson  Parish: Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare
National Latin Examination; National Merit Scholarship Finalist; Advanced Placement Scholar; Soccer Team; National Honor Society; Student Ambassador; Riverside Methodist Hospital Volunteer; Sunday School Teacher
Attending Ohio State University
KUEHEFUHS MUSIC AWARDS GIVEN TO 4 STUDENTS

Four students in Columbus diocesan schools have been awarded the annual Gertrude C. Kuehefuhs music scholarships.
Outstanding instrumental and choral music students receive the $250 awards to help them pay Catholic high school tuition or college tuition. Two scholarships are awarded to high school seniors, and the other two go to eighth-graders.

Kuehefuhs was a longtime member of the Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral choir and a music teacher at Ohio State University. The awards are made possible from a gift received from her estate.

HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC
MEGAN KELLEHER
Kelleher, a senior at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, has taken piano lessons for 12 years, plays flute for the choir at Sunday Mass at Columbus St. Matthias Church, played piccolo in the school’s marching band and was its field commander last year. She also played flute at this year’s diocesan honor choir concert.
She has taken part in school service projects and retreats such as the Kairos program. She has participated in National Piano Guild competitions for six years and received superior ratings for flute and piano solos at Ohio Music Education Association events. She also plays piano for residents of the Inn at Bear Trail Nursing Home.
Kelleher will attend the University of Notre Dame in the fall, where she will major in mechanical or aerospace engineering and hopes to minor in liturgical music. She is planning a career in automotive or aerospace engineering.

ELIZABETH MOORE
Moore, a senior at Newark Catholic High School, has been the lead in several school musical productions, is a member of the school’s select vocal ensemble, is involved with worship groups affiliated with parishes in the Newark area, has sung solos at Masses at several parishes in the diocese and has sung the national anthem at events throughout Licking County.
In middle school, she received superior ratings at many Ohio Music Education Association events. At her school, she has been involved in Student Council, the Key Club and the softball and swimming teams and been a Kairos retreat team leader.
Moore plans to attend Ohio State University with a major in biology on a pre-med track and a minor in music performance. She plans to become a neonatal physician.

HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL MUSIC

Megan Pfister of Columbus
Bishop Hartley High School is the 2020 recipient of the Wendy O. Ward Foundation memorial scholarship.
Ward’s husband, Chris, a graduate of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, established the scholarship in 2015 in memory of his wife, a Hilliard resident, who died of breast cancer on May 18, 2012 after a 10-year career as a writer and public relations consultant.
The scholarship is awarded to a graduate of a Columbus diocesan high school who has been involved in school, community and parish activities and has demonstrated academic achievement, particularly in language arts. The recipient receives $5,000 for first-year college expenses and is eligible to apply for a $1,000 renewal award for three subsequent years. The Ward foundation pays the scholarship money directly to the institution the recipient plans to attend.
Pfister is a member of the National Honor Society; acted or was a stage crew member in every drama or musical the school presented during her four years there; is a founding member of the school’s Care 4 Creation Association; serves as a school ambassador; reads to residents of the memory loss floor at the Bickford of Bexley Assisted Living Facility; and is a student government officer and a captain in the school’s house system of smaller student communities within the larger school.
She also has taken part in Buckeye Girls State, the Reynolds Young Writers Workshop at Denison University, the Kenyon Review Young Writers Workshop, and the ASPIRE physics camp at Ohio State University, is a member of the school’s Book Club and volunteered as a junior camp counselor at the Frick Environmental Center in Pittsburgh.
Ward, a graduate of Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and of the University of Dayton, was grateful for her Catholic education and always said she counted herself lucky to have the opportunity to do something not all English majors can – to use her skills and write every day for her company, Constructive Communication, Inc., where she was vice president. Her husband and children, Caroline and Jack, hope the scholarships will help provide others with the same opportunity.
Columbus Bishop Watterson High School will conduct a virtual graduation ceremony for the 160 members of its Class of 2020 on Saturday, May 30 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

Members of the class earned $15.2 million in college scholarships. Ninety-nine percent of class members will be going on to a college or university, attending one of 47 institutions of higher education.


Members of the Columbus Bishop Watterson High School Class of 2020 are: Hope Alexis Adams, Isabella Rose Aguiar, Jamie Marie Alu, Kara Elizabeth Baetz, Thomas Benjamin Bair, Chiara Maria Masdea Baur, Preston Nathaniel Barnes, Margaret Sue Baur, Jack Matthew Belcher, Abigail Jordan Bergman, Mary Kathleen Bertsch-Jones, Grace Elizabeth Billingslea, Gabriel Peter Bishop, Madalynne Cecilia Bogan, Caroline Anne Bouchard, Carlina Addison Brogan, Mia Christina Brown, Nathan James Brown, Michael Christian Bruzzone and Molly Halene Burchard.

Julia Elizabeth Burke, Patrick Jot Carpenter, Murphy Michael Carroll, Steven Austin Chillag, Margaret Jane Cesinski, Jacob Aloysius Comer, Sophia Elizabeth Comer, Ava Krystal Courtney, Liam Michael Coyne, Sophia Isabella Cramer, Christopher Leake Crane, Dominic Zaharias Dean, Aiden Ambrose DeGraw, Luke Philip Delbert, Hannah Rose Dingess, Ethan Matthew Dinovo, Emily Isabelle Dixon, Bridget Ann Dougherty, Hayley Frances Douridas and Nicole Frances Dundon.


Columbus Bishop Watterson High School will conduct a virtual graduation ceremony for the 160 members of its Class of 2020 on Saturday, May 30 at www.bishopwatterson.com and on the school’s “Bishop Watterson High School” YouTube page.

Bishop Robert Brennan will celebrate a virtual livestreamed baccalaureate Mass for diocesan high school graduates at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 27 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

Members of the class earned $15.2 million in college scholarships. Ninety-nine percent of class members will be going on to a college or university, attending one of 47 institutions of higher education.


Members of the Columbus Bishop Watterson High School Class of 2020 are: Hope Alexis Adams, Isabella Rose Aguiar, Jamie Marie Alu, Kara Elizabeth Baetz, Thomas Benjamin Bair, Chiara Maria Masdea Baur, Preston Nathaniel Barnes, Margaret Sue Baur, Jack Matthew Belcher, Abigail Jordan Bergman, Mary Kathleen Bertsch-Jones, Grace Elizabeth Billingslea, Gabriel Peter Bishop, Madalynne Cecilia Bogan, Caroline Anne Bouchard, Carlina Addison Brogan, Mia Christina Brown, Nathan James Brown, Michael Christian Bruzzone and Molly Halene Burchard.

Julia Elizabeth Burke, Patrick Jot Carpenter, Murphy Michael Carroll, Steven Austin Chillag, Margaret Jane Cesinski, Jacob Aloysius Comer, Sophia Elizabeth Comer, Ava Krystal Courtney, Liam Michael Coyne, Sophia Isabella Cramer, Christopher Leake Crane, Dominic Zaharias Dean, Aiden Ambrose DeGraw, Luke Philip Delbert, Hannah Rose Dingess, Ethan Matthew Dinovo, Emily Isabelle Dixon, Bridget Ann Dougherty, Hayley Frances Douridas and Nicole Frances Dundon.

Our motto for this school year was Hope Lives Here, and so here are my hopes for my amazing class of 2020. I hope we learn how to take one step at a time and treasure every moment of life that we are in. I hope we learn to live an “all in” lifestyle that fulfills our passions. I hope we carry the memories we have made with us, but are always ready to make new ones. I hope we learn to live exactly where our feet are right now.” – Liz Renken, Class of 2020, Excerpt from Valedictory Address

“Stallions, our favorite cowboy John Wayne says, “courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway.” With this quote in mind, and God with us to make our paths straight, we can be ready for anything. It will go according to HIS plan.” – Frankie Bonte, Class of 2020, Excerpt from Valedictory Address

“As the principal of my beloved Alma Mater I am humbled that I have been afforded the opportunity to work side by side with the remarkable class of 2020. You have lived your faith and you have done it with resolve and purpose and by so doing you have added richly to the legacy of our school; but far more importantly you have touched the soul of everyone who was blessed to work with you. We love you!” – Mr. Dan Garrick, Principal
A video graduation ceremony for the 192 members of the Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School Class of 2020 will be released to the school community via the school website, www.sfdstallions.org, at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 30.

The baccalaureate Mass will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 28, streaming live on the school website from the school chapel. Father Stash Dailey, pastor of Columbus Holy Family Church and a graduate of the school, will be the celebrant.

Twelve seniors have received valedictorian awards. This award is presented to seniors who have challenged themselves with weighted classes and have earned a 4.15 cumulative grade-point average. Valedictorians and the colleges they will attend are: Natalie Allton (Notre Dame), Stephanie Arthur (Ohio State), Frances Bonte (Case Western Reserve), Isabella D’Amico (Georgia Tech), Christopher Fleisher (Dayton), Natalie Hoffman (Ohio State), Megan Kelleher (Notre Dame), Isabella Marino (Ohio State), Elizabeth Renken (Colorado Mesa), Mason Ricksen (Rutgers), Katherine Ross (Cincinnati) and William Shaffer (Wright State).

Frances Bonte, William Shaffer and Megan Kelleher also are National Merit Scholarship commended scholars.

Other winners of special awards are: Mother Frances Cabrini Award, Yuanxi “Stella” Peng; Campus Ministry Awards, Michael DeBrosse and Julia Knipfer; Father James Berendt Service Awards, Aaron Spittell and Elizabeth Renken; Alumni Awards, Nate Stevens and Frances Bonte; Senior Spirit Awards, Mason Ricksen and Chelsea Tano.

Ninety-eight percent of the class will be attending one of 49 different institutions of higher education. The other two percent will enter the workforce or the military.

Members of the Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School Class of 2020 are: Natalie Allton, Legend Andoh, Stephanie Arthur, Jack Ayers, Emma Bacon, Jaylen Ball, Izzy Banter, Grace Barber, Jacqui Barber, LaDaisha Battle, Jack Beecroft, Shuo Cao, Hector Garcia, Maria Garcia, Morgan Gehrich and Jaer Geng.


Dylan Joyce, Kadija Kamara, Anna Kanoski, Megan Kelleher, Lauren Kemper, Mya Kendrick, Sidney Kennard-Sheldon, Ian Kirby, Suzanne Kjellberg, Julia Knipfer, Alexa Kreutzer, Fred Larbi, Catharina Le, Olivia Lehman, Cate Leithauser, Yue Lin, Huazhi Liu, Yuwei (Rain) Liu, Mario Lopez and Walter Luna.

Ayannah Mabry, Max Mahle, Isabella Marino, William McAfee-Witherspoon, Katelyn McLuckie, Audrey McPhaden, Elena McSweeney, Joseph Melaragno, Hannah Messerly, Nicole Miller, Mara Montoya, Jourdain Christopher Morgan, Colin Moriarty, Chloe Myers, Audrey Nave, Taylor Neubert, Jillian Nickell, Rila Odogwu, Angela Ofosu and Angel Onkonwor.

Morgan Orzechowski, Quinn Paige, Anna Pallone, Julia Pallone, Rebecca Pallone, Yuanxi “Stella” Peng, Augie Phelps, Bella Pieroni, Juliann Pierpall, Madison Popovich, Cole Potts, Autumn Powell, Yuhan Qi, Ruixuan Qu, Crystla Quintana-Garcia, Colin Radous, Edgar Ramirez, Nayeli Ramirez, Ryan Ratchford and Jordan Reeves.

Elizabeth Renken, Maya Richards, Mason Ricksen, Levie Riddle, Kobe Righter, Christin Ripke, Rossy Rivas, Michelle Rolon, Mykaela Romain, Katherine Russ, Lesly Sanchez, Miguel Sanchez-Vazquez, Tori Sandifer, Jose Saucedo-Vargas, Katie Schuler, Frank Scarrioni, Kenneth Scott, William Shaffer, Logan Sheets and John Shoemaker.

Aaron Spittell, Nate Stevens, Brianna Stokes, Noah Swenson, Andrew Swift, Chelsea Tano, Cris Tapia, Randy Tawiah, Erikia Thomas, Stephen Thomas, Chelsea Thornton, Anya Vanasdale, Isaac Varghese, Erik Vasquez, Liam Verfurth and Paige Verfurth.


DeSales graduating class includes 12 valedictorians.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
St. Anthony School
2020 8th Grade Graduating Class!

"Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith and your purity."

1 Timothy 4:12
CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS!

ST. CHARLES PREPARATORY SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020
St. Charles sends all 151 seniors on to college

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School will post a virtual celebration of its Class of 2020 on the school’s website, www.stcharlesprep.org, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 29.

The presentation will include Student Council officers Andrew Sarff, president; Nolan Callahan, treasurer; and Michael Terveer, sergeant at arms.

The class has 151 members, all of whom will be going on to college at 55 schools.

St. Charles led all diocesan secondary schools in National Merit Scholarship finalists, with 10, and National Merit commended scholars, with nine.


Cristo Rey Columbus High School will be honoring its fourth graduating class at a ceremony to be livestreamed on Saturday, June 13.

Diplomas will be awarded to 85 graduates by Jim Foley, school president; Shelby Fischer and Patrick Hickman, co-principals; and Steve Kennedy, board chair.

The Class of 2020 earned $9.57 million in scholarships. All of its members have been accepted by institutions of higher education, continuing Cristo Rey’s record of having every graduate during its four years of existence accepted to at least one college or university.

A total of 551 acceptances from 156 institutions were offered to students.

Class valedictorians are Lady Elizabeth Roy and Regina Loayza. Roy will attend Santa Clara University. She received the university’s Cristo Rey Scholars award, which will cover the full cost of attendance. Loayza will attend Ohio State University as part of its honors program.

The salutatorian is Kiara Johnson. She will attend Ohio State and was awarded the Morrill Scholarship for her academic and civic achievements.

Members of the Cristo Rey Columbus High School Class of 2020 are: Maryann Aboagye, Ibrahim Alhassan, KyRae Allen, Marie-Therese Aman-Tanon, Spemlove Appiah, Daizy Asante, Kiarra Ayers, Mamoudou Bah, India Batemon, Jason Blankson, Brianna Bollers, Justin Bowman, Erick Breceda, Ja’Kyhia Bridgmon, Kevin Brown Jr., Dawit Cholemo, Alondra Clavel, HC Core, Tysheaud Edwards, Jennifer Esparza, Adilene Garcia and Adriana Garcia.


Vanya Rodriguez, Melat Ross, Lady Elizabeth Roy, Mitchell Russell, Regan Scholl, Isabelle Sharp, Kasie Stinson, Brandon Swayne, Jose Torres, Zeinab Toure, Yon Truss, Anthony Ufio, Lesly Velazquez, Tania Velazquez, Ariana Ventura, Cailyn Walker, Nyla Williams, Zoe Williams, Carlos Wilton, Ravin Withers and Staisy Yadaicela.

New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School will celebrate its 50th commencement on Sunday, May 31.

Diplomas will be awarded to 20 graduates by principal Jennifer Calvo. The ceremony will be recorded, and a video will be released for the community. Bishop Robert Brennan has recorded an address to the graduates.

The valedictorian is Alexander Price, son of Rich and Becky Price. He plans to attend Youngstown State University. The salutatorian is Madison Kopp, daughter of Rod and Tammy Kopp. She plans to attend Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

The class motto is “No, but thanks for asking,” a favorite saying of math teacher Martin Drexler. Its flower is the cactus, its colors are blue and white and its song is Don’t Stop Me Now by Queen.


Go confidently in the direction of your dreams!

Celebrating 100% College Acceptance for the fourth year in a row!
Bishop Hartley High School will conduct its 60th commencement exercise at noon Saturday, May 30 with a virtual live-streamed ceremony.

A livestreamed baccalaureate Mass, shared through www.columbuscatholic.org, will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan from St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus. A virtual senior honors program will be held Friday, May 29.

Diplomas will be awarded to 167 graduates by school principal Mike Winters. Graduates Eunice Anomakoh (who will attend the University of Dayton), Sydney Gordon (College of William and Mary) and Olivia Haeger (Vanderbilt University) will address their peers during the ceremony.

Members of the class will be attending 48 colleges and universities. Valedictorians are Elyse Amorati (Rochester Institute of Technology), Olivia Haeger, Genevieve Pfister (Denison University) and Gabrielle Tanner (Purdue University).

Salutatorians are Sophia Cegledy (Ohio Wesleyan University), Sydney Gordon, Geno Hoffman (Ohio State University) and Lauren McFann (University of Cincinnati).

Enlisting in a branch of the U.S. military are Jamane Albert (National Guard), Christian Garcia Alvarez (Air Force), Brian Hernandez (Marine Corps), Cameron Johnson (Navy), Faith Mattfield (Navy), Eddie McCollum Jr. (United States Air Force Reserves), Noah Pierce (Navy) and Allison Sisson (Naval Reserve).


Amelia Chen, Kylie Clark, Sa’Haia Clark-Lee, Louise Collins, Braeden Craig, Matthew Crawley Jr., Andrew Croswell, Grace Croswell, Chloe Dankow, Kenyon Davis, Tenecia Davis, Taryn Davis-Viau, Thomas DeFoor, Adam Dinovo, Adriana Domingue, Helena Donaghy, Kayleigh Donovan, Kylie Downey, Dion Drake and Angel Dunor.


Evelyn Grajales, Owen Griffith, Olivia Haeger, Darven Hall-Albert, Samantha Hanson, Leah Herbert, Brian Hernandez, Geno Hoffman, Isabella Hoffman, Mia Innes, Andrew Intahavongsone, Gabrielle Jackson, Victor Jackson, Nasya James, Jalana January, Cameron Johnson, Romha Kahassai, Chad Kegelmayer, Beatez Kelley and Maxwell Kirwin.


Micah Slater, Aiva Smith, Bailey Smith, La’Nijah Smith, Myles Smith, Skylar Smith, Danielle Spahn, Emma Steele, Faith Stein, Nicholas Stein, Jason Steward, Juston Steward, Kendall Steward and Gabrielle Tanner.

Reese Taylor, Kevin Thomas, Alyssa Thompson, Eric Thompson, Andrew Trainer, Emily Vain, Aaron Vina, Alexis Wade, Jazzuri Wairegi, Kaelyn Walther, Benjamin Weilbacher, Kachelyn Williams and Caroline Wolfinger.
Watterson senior says classmates' caring aided recovery from leukemia

As a freshman at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School, Troy Stemen thought that his year was going fairly normally. He was introverted but energetic, especially on the baseball field. Unfortunately, things took a turn.

Troy began to feel exhausted and couldn’t muster up the strength to play his sport. Eventually, he had to sit and watch because his legs could not support him. Testing revealed a diagnosis of leukemia.

While Troy began fighting the cancer, his classmates and the Bishop Watterson community let him know he wasn’t forgotten. Visits and cards from classmates and teammates buoyed his spirits. Wristbands and T-shirts printed with the words “No One Fights Alone” and “Stemen Strong” were sold to show support.

During the fall of Troy’s sophomore year, students, parents and teachers wore their shirts and wristbands to a football game in his honor. Soon after, a drive was held so students and their families could register in the “Be The Match” bone marrow registry.

As Troy continued treatment, he waited anxiously to hear the word “remission.” As time went by, he began to worry. Eventually his frail body had a painful reaction to a treatment that placed him back in the hospital.

Troy began to wonder if he would be healthy again.” Troy said in sharing his story at a Kairos retreat for his class members this year, his senior year.

“So I fought. I struggled. I battled. But I didn’t feel like I was doing this alone anymore. I knew that I had God behind me, giving me strength to fight, giving me courage that I needed when I felt sick, when I felt alone.”

After nine months of treatment, Troy finally heard that word he had longed to hear: “remission.” Troy embraced his second chance.

He now describes himself as “outgoing,” and his friends and classmates couldn’t agree more. He tries not to waste any opportunity to reach out and share God’s love. He encouraged others to do the same when he shared his story and served as a retreat leader on the school’s Kairos retreats and junior retreats.

He encourages his classmates to share love with one another and with their families. He wants them to know that God loves them and wants to be in relationship with them. Troy says that sharing this message is part of his mission.

As a normal kid again.

The Bishop Watterson class of 2020 has been shaped by Troy’s courage, his strength, his vision and his love. They have joined Troy in his mission to be there for others and to share God’s love.
May 24, 2020 Catholic Times

**EMMA STEELE**
Class of 2020

Congrats Emma! Good luck at OSU!!


---

**BAILEY SMITH**
Class of 2020

We are so extremely proud of you! It has been a pleasure to watch you grow in faith and confidence these last 4 years. Continue to put God first in all you do and He will direct your path. Congratulations, Bailey! We did it! Love, Mom

---

**GENEVIEVE PFISTER**
Class of 2020

Congratulations on being Valedictorian! We are so proud of all you have achieved, but we are the most proud of the great person you’ve become. You’ll be terrific at Denison!

Love, M, P, SC, & D

---

**GABBY JACKSON**
Class of 2020

Congratulations Gabby! I am so proud of you and all of your accomplishments

Good Luck at the University of Dayton!

Love, Mom

---

**ABBY SWIERZ**
Class of 2020

Congratulations on your well-deserved success! We are so proud of you! Wishing you all the best at Florida Tech in the fall! Love, Mom, Dad & Zachary

---

**LINDSAY DICKERSON**
Class of 2020

Congratulations on your unique graduation and best wishes for your next adventure at The Ohio State! We are so proud of you!

Love Mom & Dad

---

**AJ CRADDOCK**
Class of 2020

Congratulations AJ and the Class of 2020! We’re so proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Maddie & Drew

---

**FINNEGAN HARDENBERGH**
Class of 2020

Congratulations Finn! We are all so proud of you!

Good luck at Tiffin, I know great things are ahead!

Love, Mom, Sam, Motmot, Pop and Grandpa

---

**KATIE SMITH**
Class of 2020

Congratulations Katie!!! Good Luck as you pursue your dreams of becoming a sonographer at OSU!

We Love You!

Mom, Dad, Joey, and Elaine

---

**MICHAELA KOPCZEWSKI**
Class of 2020

What a proud day! We just couldn’t be happier for you! Congratulations to our fifth generation OSU Buckeye!

Love, Mom, Dad, Melina & the Roush & Kopczewski Families

---

**JAMES PACKARD**
Class of 2020

Congratulations on all of you accomplishments!

Good luck at Columbus State!!

Love, Grandma, Grandma, Mom, Dad, & Joy

---

**ANDREW CATON**
Class of 2020

Grandpa and Grandma are very proud of you. Drew for all of your accomplishments. We wish you a great summer and a great start to your High School years starting this Fall. Love, Grandpa and Grandma

---

**RACHEL HAWK**
Class of 2020

You did it! Saint Louis University here you come!

Congratulations on your accomplishments at BGSU and best wishes as you begin your PhD! We love you! Mom, Dad, Derek, Tony and Aaliyah

---

**ROBERT A. CWIEKALO**
Class of 2020

Aloha and congratulations on this milestone achievement of yours. We are very proud of you.

God bless and all our love,

Nana and Pop.Pop

---

**AREK C. CWIEKALO**
Class of 2020

Congratulations, much Aloha and best wishes.

We are so proud of you -- keep up the good work. All our love and God bless you always.

Nana and Pop.Pop

---

**BENJAMIN COTRELL**
Class of 2020

Congratulations and best of everything at BWHS!

Love and prayers, Nana, Bubba, Mom and Dad, Natalie, Jonah, Gabriel and Buddy.
FAITH WEINER

Class of 2020

We are so proud of you and all that you have achieved. Good luck at Otterbein! Love, Mom & Dad

DARYL HOWARD

Class of 2020

Congratulations Daryl! We are so proud of all your accomplishments! God bless you at Damascus and in all your future endeavors. Love, Mom, Dad and Macki

RACHAEL STANLEY

Class of 2020

Behind you all your memories. Before you all your dreams. Around you all who love you. Within you all you need. Congratulations Peanut! Love, Mom, Dad, Mackenzie, Brooklyn & Joe!

DEREK HAWK

Class of 2020

Congratulations Derek! We are so proud of you! Good luck at Miami University. We love you, Dad, Mom, Jon, Kristin, Rachel, Tony, Aaliyah and Natalie

EDWARD JEWETT

Class of 2020

We are so proud of you Ed!! You have accomplished many goals. We can’t wait to see what comes next! Mom, Dad, Nick, Paul, and Mark

HAYLEY M.P. LITMAN

Class of 2020

We are so proud of you. Congratulations (KĀ’leka) and good luck (laki maika’o) going forward in your life. All our love, Aloha and God bless ... Nana and Pop.Pop

OWEN McCCLAIN

Class of 2020

Congratulations and now on to your next adventure! OH U! OH Yeah! Have fun at Ohio University. Love, Mom, Dad, Grammy Suzie, Sam

DARIUS HELGERMAN

Class of 2020

Darius - Congratulations - so proud of all the hard work you did. May God bless you and keep you safe as you set out on this new chapter. Love, Aunt Stephy

BRYANT C. MCDouGLE

Class of 2020

Congratulations and much Aloha for your well earned and deserved academic achievements and accomplishments. Rock on! We are so very proud of you ... All our love and God bless, Nana and Pop.Pop

KAITLIN A.W. LITMAN

Class of 2020

Congratulations and much Aloha to our beautiful Menehune. We are so proud of you and wish nothing but health and happiness as you go on to. All our love and God bless, Nana & Pop.Pop

ST. BRENDAN SENIORS

Class of 2020

Congratulations Scott, Michael, Kevin, Hank, Jeremy, Christian, Victor & Don. Most together since kindergarten. Good Luck and God Bless you all!

ANDY KRAUS

Class of 2020

Congratulations on all you have done! Good luck at Miami! We are so proud of you! Mom, Dad and Nikki

MICHAE) Liss

Class of 2020

Congratulations on your graduation and best wishes for your next adventure! Good luck at Miami! Love, Mom, Erin, Joseph & AJ

ETHAN HOYING

Class of 2020

Congratulations and best of luck at Notre Dame! We are so proud of you and love you very much! Love and Prayers, Mom, Dad, Ellie & Jonah

WILLIAM ROBERT HUMPHRYS

Class of 2020

Congratulations on your graduation! We are so proud of all your achievements and all your shenanigans. Good luck at the United States Military Academy at West Point! We love you Great Big, M&D&D

CHRISTOPHER EDWARDS

Class of 2020

Congratulations Chris! We are very proud of your hard work! Now that you are graduating, follow your heart; make wise decisions. Use your freedom wisely and keep learning! We love you!
Lana Peters  
Hilliard St. Brendan School  
Class of 2020  
Congratulations! We are so proud of you!  
Good luck at Bishop Watterson!  
Love, Mom, Dad and Elise

Ava Crane  
Hilliard St. Brendan School  
Class of 2020  
It is such a privilege watching you grow into a young woman!  
We love you and wish you well at Bishop Watterson!  
Love, Dad, Mom, Lily and Bennett

Kayana Scannell  
Hilliard St. Brendan School  
Class of 2020  
Keep on growing, adding to the goodness and beauty in the world and developing those unique dreams and talents that make you who you are!  
Good luck as you enter BWHS.  
We love you, Mom & Dad

Mark Feldmann  
St. Charles Preparatory School  
Class of 2020  
Congratulations  
Mark! We are so proud of you. Always remember your Faith, Family & Friends.  
Love, Mom, Michael, Matt & Anna

Carly Fuchs  
St. Francis DeSales  
Class of 2020  
Carly, you have done an amazing job in high school. We are all very proud of you and can’t wait to see what your future will bring at Ohio Dominican University. Congratulations and May God bless you.  
Mom, Dad and brothers

Isabella Cecchetti  
St. Francis DeSales  
Class of 2020  
We are so proud of all of your accomplishments!  
Good luck at Kent State!  
Love, Mom, Dad, Benedetta & Marco

8th Grade Students  
Columbus St. James The Less School  
Class of 2020  
Congratulations on all your accomplishments!  
Good luck in high school! Many Blessings, Your teachers, Mrs. Cecchetti, Mrs. Wallace & Father Tony

8th Grade Class  
Lancaster St. Mary’s School  
Class of 2020  
Congratulations on all your accomplishments and Good Luck in the future ahead.  
Sincerely, Mrs. Schmelzer

Gabriella Anzelmo  
Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School  
Class of 2020  
Congratulations on your graduation!  
Good luck at Bishop Hartley!  
Love Dad and Lucy

Julia Lualen  
Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School  
Class of 2020  
Congratulations on all your accomplishments!  
Good luck at Bishop Hartley! Love and God bless, Sweetie and E-Pa

Drew Lutz  
Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School  
Class of 2020  
Congratulations on all your accomplishments at St Pius! Good Luck at Hartley High!  
Love, Mom, Dad, NeNe, Grandma and Papa

Tori Loy  
Lancaster Fisher Catholic  
Class of 2020  
We are proud of all that you have accomplished!  
Good Luck at Columbus State!  
Love, Grandma, Grandpa, Mom, Dad & Logan

Emily Thomas  
University of Toledo College of Law  
Class of 2020  
Congratulations! We know you have worked so hard for this! We love you!  
Love, Dad, Mom, Nick, Katie, Lauren, and Christopher

Jared George  
University of Toledo  
Class of 2020  
Congratulations on earning your degree! Good luck at your new job with Nationwide!  
Love, Mom, Dad & Olivia

Andrew Sarff  
St. Charles Preparatory School  
Class of 2020  
Congratulations on a great four years, Andrew! Can’t wait to see what the future brings you at West Point and beyond!  
Love, Mom, Dad, and Allie

Logan Sheets  
St. Francis DeSales  
Class of 2020  
CONGRATULATIONS, LOGAN.  
We are proud of you and all your accomplishments.  
Love, Mom and Dad
"NOTHING GREAT IS EVER ACHIEVED WITHOUT MUCH ENDURING."
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

#OCSBeatingTheCurve

THE OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CONGRATULATES THE 1,021 GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2020 FROM OUR 11 HIGH SCHOOLS!

education.columbuscatholic.org

Receive the Gospel of Christ whose herald you are. Believe what you read, teach what you believe and practice what you teach.

Congratulations to all 2020 graduates from the Deacons of the Diocese of Columbus.
In physical training, moving slowly is often harder than moving quickly and it’s an excellent way to train the body and mind as it challenges our nervous system in new ways. Moving slowly with weights or body weight movements can also reveal weaknesses and instabilities in our bodies — and that is a good thing as we can work on improving in those areas to keep us safe and safely progressing.

Moving slowly in our spiritual lives can also be beneficial — and in our time of staying at home more, maybe you are like me and have a little more time to pray, read, reflect in a way that was not sustainable until now.

I am always moved by Scripture when Jesus goes from being super busy healing, preaching and teaching to seeking the quiet to pray. The slower pace, that time of silent connection with his Father in prayer refreshes, rejuvenates and fills Jesus — and us — so that we can grow stronger spiritually and be more like Jesus in all areas of our lives.

That time of peace, slowdown and quiet might be a time when God reveals our weaknesses, sins, and moments where we weren’t our best. In times of reflection and discernment, we have the opportunity to learn, grow and move forward better equipped to act in faith, hope and love as we traverse life’s challenges.

I attend daily Mass online sometimes with Father Larry Richards. He is at St. Joseph parish in Erie, Pennsylvania. He loves to pray the Our Father prayer super slow during Mass. He recently said that he gets complaints about how slow he prays the Our Father — which made me laugh out loud! I actually love to attend his Mass because he prays it so slowly. It allows me to listen for the Holy Spirit as we pause and reflect on each and every word. I pray the Rosary daily, and I know that I tend to rush through the Our Father prayers; this is something that became clear to me as Father Larry was praying it so slowly and I could feel my heart open in a new way.

**The power of slowing down**

**HOLY AND HEALTHY**

Lori Crock

Lori Crock is a parishioner at Plain City St. Joseph Church. Lori leads SoulCore Rosary prayer and exercise at parishes, teaches physical strength classes and writes about faith and fitness at holyandhealthycatholic.com.

Joe was a kid who had challenges right from the start. He had pneumonia at about six weeks old, developed allergies that plagued him throughout his life, and was saddled with the torment of depression in his high school years (and his depression, though under control through medication, continues to this day).

He and his mother have a very special relationship and there seems to be a little extra love in her voice and a little extra glint to her smile when they interact. She mothered him through all of the trials he faced, checked on him at night to make sure he was safe in bed, and has been his best friend and closest confidant.

Some of her extra attention may have been the dynamic of her post-abortion issues, but regardless of the origin, it has been a beautiful relationship to watch incubate and mature through the years. There has always been something special in their relationship, something poignant in their conversations. As Joe has grown into an adult, the interactions have changed, but have not become less existential; they’ve taken on more depth, but not less joy.

That’s the essential quality of parenthood. There are psychologists who theorize that there is a reproductive/parental story in each of us that is written at a very young age, even long before puberty.

It’s represented by the care a little girl shows for her dolls or the protestations of a young boy (“I’ll never make MY kids eat broccoli!”). And this reality is not something that a seductive culture foists upon our children, as some would have us believe. It is the ultimate gift that God ordains on our being. The gift of love of such magnitude that it allows for our independent subordination to our natural state. It’s the intimate participation in truth, it’s the acceptance of the fragrant invitation of the human nature. This is why some women suffer so greatly with an abortion decision they made in their past. It’s why it brings such guilt and sorrow. She has known about her motherhood since she was a little girl. Her parental story was penned long before her abortion. It wasn’t supposed to be like this. She has lost her story to a disturbing author.

Abortion wreaths her story in a way that is not predictable. It is sometimes written with a physical context; sometimes with an emotional/psychological context. But it always rewrites her story. The challenge for the woman who has an abortion experience in her past is in the realization that the abortion experience is not the whole story. It’s not the whole book. It’s a mere chapter. As such, with the mercy of God and the help of organizations Like Bethesda Healing Ministry, she can finish the story on her terms, with her own pen, etched with her own ink.

Three months ago, our son Joe was diagnosed with colon cancer. He had some of his colon surgically removed and he has recovered well from surgery. He lives with us now, since he is going through a three-month regimen of chemotherapy. We convinced him that nobody on earth loves him more and nobody can care for him better than we can.

Today, seeing Joe and Jo interact, it is a profound reminder of God’s providence and forgiveness. The lit in her voice is more noticeable, the glint in her eye more vibrant. She’s more alive in her motherhood and more confident in her God. Put simply, she has been healed.

Her abortion, while it has not left her memory, it no longer writes her story. It no longer demands her attention. She now confronts it on her terms. The programs of Bethesda gave her back her pen.

Time has not diminished the reality of abortion in our life, but it has mellowed its impact.

We don’t know what lies ahead of us with Joseph. What we do know is that we can face the future with the same audacity we faced our abortion decision. Together. With God. With courage.

And with our own pen.
Sister Annunciata Chen, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Annunciata Chen, OP, 100, who died Tuesday, May 12, was celebrated at the chapel of the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus. She was born Mary Chen on Aug. 25, 1919 in Fukien, China to Peter and Catherine Ho.

She was a graduate of Columbus Holy Rosary School and Columbus St. Mary of the Springs Academy and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in art in 1950 from St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University).

She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace in 1944 and professed her vows on March 19, 1947.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she served with the congregation from 1967 to 1968, 1988 to 1992 and 1995 to 1995 at St. Mary of the Springs and worked in the diocesan missions office in 1990 and 1991. She was a sacristan at the Mohun Health Care Center from 1995 to 1998 and assistant sacristan at the Motherhouse from 1999 to 2013, then entered a life of prayer at the Motherhouse from 2013 to 2015 and the Mohun center from 2015 until her death.

She served as a missionary in Chimborazo, Peru from 1968 to 1988 and in Kienova, China from 1947 to 1949, was a pastoral minister for two parishes in Taiwan, and taught at schools in New Mexico and Texas.

Sister Mary Franz, OSF

A funeral Mass will be celebrated later at the Our Lady of the Angels Retirement Home in Joliet, Illinois for Sister Mary Franz, OSF, 103, who died Thursday, May 7. Burial will be at Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois.

She was a member of the Air Force Reserve and attended St. Mary grade school and high school in Columbus’ German Village neighborhood. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College (now University) of St. Francis in Joliet and a Master of Science degree in mathematics from DePaul University in Chicago.

She entered the community of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate in Joliet on Aug. 12, 1933 and was given the name of Sister M. Ursuline. At the time of her death, she was the community’s oldest member.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she served as principal of Columbus St. Mary School and a teacher at Columbus Bishop Ready High School. Beginning in 1979, she was a pastoral associate at Columbus St. Christopher, Columbus St. Elizabeth and Marion St. Mary churches for 30 years.

She also taught at schools in Illinois and at the College of St. Francis and served her congregation as director of postulants and in the business office of the St. Francis Convent.

In 2010, she moved from Seton Square North in Columbus to Joliet, where she ministered in service to the sisters in the Joliet area until her retirement in 2013.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Cornelius, Clarence, Joseph, Robert, Herman, Otto, George and Edward; and sisters, Elizabeth, Bertha and Amelia. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Rebecca W. Uritus

A private funeral Mass for Rebecca W. Uritus, 75, who died Monday, May 11, will be celebrated at Columbus St. Andrew Church. Burial will be at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center.

She was born on Jan. 8, 1945 in St. Louis to Dr. William and Elizabeth (Wood) Biggs and grew up in Athens. She was a 1966 graduate of Ohio University and a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority and received a master’s degree from Northwestern University.

She was soccer coach at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School from 1987 to 1994 and was a well-known golfer, winning the Franklin County women’s amateur tournament in 1988 and 2001, as well as 12 club championships at Columbus Country Club and one at Scioto Country Club, qualifying for several U.S. women’s junior amateur tournaments and competing internationally as part of the Senior Women’s Invitation Match.

She was an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist for her parish and was a longtime volunteer for the Pregnancy Decision Health Centers.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Margaretta “Peg” Smith. Survivors include her husband, Theodore; sons, Matthew (Erin) and Theodore (Samantha); daughters, Amy (Joshua) Cora and Margaretta “Meg” (Troy) Zimpfer; brother, Dr. William (Barbara) Biggs; and nine grandchildren.
Ascension, Year A

‘I am with you always’

Acts 1:1-11
Ps. 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28:16-20

The site of Jesus’ Ascension is marked by a mosque on the Mount of Olives. It is midway between Palm Sunday (Bethphage) and Good Friday (Gethsemane), not far from the Pater Noster (where Jesus taught the Our Father) and the Dominus Flevit (where He wept over the impending destruction of Jerusalem). The Ascension is the Bridge that takes us into the kingdom. We look up even as we walk. Heads held high in awareness of our eternal destiny, we live here intensely. We who follow the risen and ascended Lord Jesus Christ are called to live now, with hearts set on what is above. An open heart understands. A life truly given to God, open to the Spirit, has something more to offer.

Pope Francis shows us the way: He embraced Patriarch Bartholomew. He traveled to the Holy Land with old friends from Argentina: Rabbi Abraham Skorka and Sheikh Omar Abboud. Most recently, Pope Francis invited the world to do a very Catholic thing and then an ecumenical thing: on May 13, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, he invited the world to pray the Rosary. In fact, for the month of May, he invites families to pray the Rosary together, adding two prayers at the end to make it more contemporary. On May 14, Pope Francis invited all members of any religion to observe a day of prayer and fasting for the healing of the world. This was not a relativizing of religions, but a recognition of the true aim of the religious instinct in the heart of every human person.

When we realize that the Ascension is Jesus, the Risen One, taking our human nature into the very reality of God, we can “get” what Pope Francis is trying to do. He is inviting Catholics to be more truly catholic, by drawing the world into what our God has done in Jesus Christ through Mary. At the same time, he is inviting human beings to “look up” together from the vantage point of our common need for healing in the hopes that all will get a glimpse of the Christ as He returns “in the same way as (the disciples) have seen Him going into heaven.”

The conclusion to Matthew’s Gospel offers us the task entrusted to all disciples in every age and the encouragement of the final words of the Lord before His Ascension into glory: “Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Jesus makes this promise at a rather odd moment. He tells His disciples that He will be with them always precisely when He is departing, no longer to be seen in the flesh. All power in heaven and on earth is His. His command is the Great Commission: “Go, make disciples, baptize and teach . . . ”

We are charged to go. Jesus goes into the mystery of eternity, ascending into heaven, as He invites us to go out. We are charged with the mission to make disciples, that is, to draw others into the circle of believers. This is the call of the Church in every age, but even more now; we really can go out to all the world.

We practice our faith living the sacramental life. When He says, “Baptize,” Jesus means for us to share with others the sacraments that communicate divine life in its fullness. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit operate in the Church in and through the Sacraments. We have discovered this anew by being deprived of their regular practice for a time.

The Church teaches in the name of Jesus. This is the charge that gives the leaders of the Church the authority to offer what the world cannot give: the salvific Truth that has been given by Jesus to His Apostles and their successors.

The final promise “I am with you always” gives us hope of glory. That is the essential aspect of the mystery of the Ascension that we celebrate today.

Our human nature is the “stuff” of the new creation. Jesus rises in a new humanity and draws us into divine life as He takes our flesh, risen and glorified, into the Godhead. Here, our task remains to cooperate with grace.

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

| MONDAY | Acts 19:1-8 | Psalm 68:2-5acd,6-b | John 16:29-33 |

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF MAY 24, 2020

**Monday**
10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus

10:30 a.m. Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church on St. Gabriel Radio (FM 88.3), Portsmouth.

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

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

Mass from the Archidiocease of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirectTV Channel 305).

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

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF MAY 24, 2020

**SUNDAY**
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 L-LifeTV (Channel 113)

**FRIDAY**
Acts 25:13b-21
Psalm 103:1,12-17,19-20b
John 21:15-19

**SATURDAY**
Acts 28:16-20,30-31
Psalm 11:4-5
John 21:20-25

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION AVAILABLE

**TITLE:** Administrative Assistant

**WAGES:** $15/hour

**HOURS:** Mon, Tues, and Thurs 9 a.m. – 4 p.m (21 hrs/week) with some flexibility

**PLACE:** SVDP Diocesan Office, 197 E. Gay Street with some telecommuting possible

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Diocesan Council of Columbus is searching for a new administrative assistant to replace the incumbent, who is retiring May 29, 2020. The new employee will manage the SVDP Diocesan Council office at 197 E Gay Street. Work responsibilities include the following:

- Respond to requests for assistance received on office phone/answering machine by referring persons to SVDP Conferences covering the zip code area of the person requesting assistance
- Respond to requests from SVDP Conferences for SVDP governance information, assistance with annual report preparation, and assistance in maintaining of conference rosters in National SVDP member database
- Work with Diocese of Columbus Finance Office to deposit donation checks and pay Diocesan Council and Special Works (St Lawrence Haven, SVDP Clothing Center, Murloken, and Getting Ahead in a Just-Getting’ By World) invoices; prepare Thank You letters and send to all donors
- Assist with depositing donation checks and paying invoices of Vincentian Ohio Action Network, an independent 501(c)3 organization formed by the Diocesan Council
- Assist with annual SVDP Diocesan Wide events (Top Hat Celebration (April/May), Day of Recollection (August); Friends of the Poor Walk (September), and Bishops Mass and Volunteer Recognition (December), including making necessary logistical arrangements, collecting RSVPs as needed, preparing printed materials, and attending each event to collect on-site payments
- Assist with logistics of Ozanam Orientations and other SVDP trainings, including collecting RSVPs and preparing training materials
- Maintain Diocesan Council files in accordance with current structure
- Attend and record minutes of Diocesan Council meetings on the 4th Thursdays of January, March, May and September and the 3rd Thursday of November each year; send minutes of previous meeting to Diocesan Council members with reminder for the next meeting
- Perform other duties as assigned
- DESIRED: Assist with SVDP fundraising efforts and website maintenance

Candidate for this position must be comfortable with technology and learning new online platforms and programs. Candidate will work independently with direction from the Diocesan Council President. Candidate payroll will be through the Diocese of Columbus with reimbursement from SVDP Diocesan Council funds.

Candidates should submit, by no later than June 3, 2020, a letter of interest and a resume to wwright@columbuscatholic.org.
Two members have been added to the faculty of the Pontifical College Josephinum in July and will begin teaching there in the fall semester.

Father Brett Brannen is a priest of the Diocese of Savannah, Georgia, and pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Savannah. He was vice rector of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland for five years and is best known for his book *To Save a Thousand Souls*, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary of publication.

Father Brannen also travels around the nation, giving retreats to priests and seminarians. He will become head of the college’s spiritual formation program and spiritual director for its school of theology.

Father Dylan James is a priest of the Diocese of Plymouth in England, a pastor of a parish and a lecturer at St. John’s Seminary in Wonersh, England. He studied in Rome, where he received his doctorate in moral theology from the Alphonsian Academy. He will teach moral theology and be a part of the formation team.

Father William Hahn, an alum of the Josephinum and a priest of the Diocese of Columbus, will be in residence and act as vocations director for the diocese.

**ODU webpage honors 2020 class**

Ohio Dominican University (ODU) has launched a webpage to celebrate and recognize members of its Class of 2020. The launch occurred Saturday, May 9 at the exact time that graduates would have walked into Alumni Hall for the university’s spring commencement ceremony, which was postponed because of the COVID-19 outbreak. The site will be available at ohio.edu/ClassOf2020.

The rescheduled commencement ceremony will take place at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4 during ODU’s homecoming weekend.

The rescheduled ceremony also is subject to any future directives announced by state and public health officials.

**Downtown Columbus Serra Club adds nine members**

The Downtown Columbus Serra Club added nine members in February and March and has been recognized by Serra International for its positive growth in membership.

The club fosters and supports vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life by prayer, programs and activities in the diocese.

For more details, contact the club’s membership officer, Carl Faehnle, at Carl@Faehnle.com.