**Young people soak up the love at D.C. March**

By Jay Nies

Mae Cross was basking in the hope and fellowship of this year’s March for Life in Washington, D.C., when she caught sight of a man with a sign:

“To the mothers of all four of my adopted children, thank you for choosing life.”

Miss Cross, a senior at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, and her younger brother were both adopted.

She and her best friend, Emily Konrad, stopped and talked to the man.

“He was very kind,” said Miss Cross. “I’m very grateful to my birth mom, too, and to my brother’s. It meant a lot to be able to talk to someone who understands that.”

They were two of several hundred thousand — 290 from the Jefferson City diocese — who converged in the nation’s capital Jan. 24 for the 47th annual March for Life.

The peaceful, prayerful gathering marks the anniversary of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decisions that legalized abortion-on-demand through all nine months of pregnancy, throughout the United States.

Since then, an estimated 61 million lives have been lost to abortion in this country.

The theme for this year’s March, a nod to the 100th anniversary of women in the United States gaining the right to vote, was “Life Empowers: Pro-Life Is Pro-Woman.”

“One of the things about the pro-life movement is that we really, really reinforce the idea that you can be the most pro-women when you are pro-life,” said Miss Konrad, a Tolton Catholic senior.

**New J.C. hub for Catholic Charities gets a boost from St. Mary’s Hospital Foundation**

*$200,000 toward estimated $4 million needed to transform former community center to center of mercy and charity*

By Jay Nies

It was built to be a chapel and gymnasium for young men discerning a call to Priesthood in faraway missions.

It later served as a senior center, youth sports venue and home to a local theater group.

Now back in Catholic hands, it will be remade into a multifaceted center of charity and the corporal works of mercy.

“Having a resource center within walking distance for those who are in need of food, basic healthcare and other charitable and educational services is our dream,” said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

He spoke at a Jan. 31 gathering in the Shikles Community Center building on Linden Drive, not far from Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City.

Members of the St. Mary's Foundation Board of Trustees presented the bishop a $200,000 gift toward the estimated $4 million cost of buying and upgrading the building.

When completed, it will serve as a new headquarters for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO) and a hub for helping people in need.

Also present were representatives of the Catholic Charities staff and board of directors, the Jefferson City diocese, the Jefferson City Housing Authority and the St. Mary’s Foundation.

See CHARITIES, page 21
Camdenton parish to host Lenten “Catholics Returning Home” program

St. Anthony parish in Camdenton will host a six-week program called “Catholics Returning Home.”

Meetings will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the six Tuesdays of Lent, beginning March 3, in the St. Anthony Education Center, 1874 North Business Route 5.

“As baptized, practicing Catholics, we have a precious gift of faith and love from the Lord that needs to be shared with our non-practicing brothers and sisters,” the program’s organizers stated. “First, we need to pray for them. Second, we need to extend a personal invitation to them to come back home to the Catholic Church. Most non-practicing Catholics are waiting for an invitation to return.”

Many non-practicing Catholics carry guilt and misinformation about the Church, so they are afraid of approaching the Church for fear of being rejected.

“You can make a tremendous difference in someone’s life, simply by reaching out to them and telling them we miss them and would like for them to come back home to our Church family,” the program’s organizers stated.

Facilitators and participants will share their stories, begin to heal old hurts, clear up misunderstandings, and answer questions. They will also refresh their understanding of the Creed, the sacraments and the Mass.

“There is no obligation and no pressure, “just friendly folks who, perhaps like you, were once non-practicing Catholics.”

“No matter how long you have been away, no matter the reason, all are invited to return to the Catholic Church.”

For information, call (573) 346-2716 or (573) 317-0121.

Mission on the Mass, Feb. 16-19 in Laddonia

Deacon Mark Dobelmam will lead a parish mission on the “Beauty and Grace of the Mass” from Sunday through Wednesday, Feb. 16-19, at the St. John mission in Laddonia.

Sessions will be held at 7 p.m. each night in St. John Church, 601 Elm St.

Topics will include the Entrance Rites, Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Father Louis Dorn will offer the Closing Mass on Feb. 19.

The information will be useful to all Catholics seeking to understand the true meaning behind the mystery of the Mass.

Executive Assistant to Bishop’s Office

The Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking an Executive Assistant to coordinate the daily business of the Bishop’s office. A minimum of 7 years experience as an executive assistant to a high-level executive within an organization is required, as well as a strong knowledge of the Catholic faith.

The ideal candidate will have advanced capabilities with Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint, and proficiency with Google or Outlook Mail and Calendar. As the executive assistant to the Bishop, we are looking for the following competencies:

• Ability to work with minimal supervision
• Professional demeanor and appearance
• Organized and deadline-oriented
• Ability to handle multiple tasks and priorities as needed
• Collaboration with other staff members
• High degree of trustworthiness and confidentiality
• Life-long learner

A cover letter, resume and 3 letters of reference are required for this position. Qualified candidates are directed to apply on Indeed.com for application and skills assessment testing.
Midwest March for Life draws over 2,000 to Jefferson City

By Jay Nies

The streets ran red in Jefferson City during the 10th annual Midwest March for Life Feb. 1.

More than 2,000 people from all over Missouri and beyond — many dressed in blazing crimson — gathered to testify to the sanctity of what has been created in God’s image and likeness.

“We stand together this day to give honor and glory to God by standing up for innocent human life,” stated Bishop W. Shawn McKnight at a pre-march rally outside the St. Peter Church.

While faith and devotion were evident throughout the day’s march and rallies, he emphasized that believers and non-believers should stand united in protecting pre-born human life.

“It is a basic human-rights issue,” he said. “It is never good, just, charitable or life-altering to give to choose the death of human life.

The march issued, “We stand together this day to give honor and glory to God by standing up for innocent human life.” The marchers made their way around the Capitol Circle on their way to the Governor’s Mansion, the Supreme Court building and back to the Capitol.

LEFT: Bishop W. Shawn McKnight speaks at a pre-march rally outside the Selinger Centre at St. Peter Church during the Midwest March for Life, Feb. 1 in Jefferson City. RIGHT: The marchers make their way around the Capitol Circle on their way to the Governor’s Mansion, the Supreme Court building and back to the Capitol.

— Photos by Jay Nies

testimony.

“I will continue to speak the truth of abortion’s evils to honor the memory of my son” who died in an abortion, she said.

“Abortion is not the answer,” she stated. “It simply creates more problems in our lives. It has a ripple effect on families and siblings that come after.”

“Voice for the voiceless”
Susan Klein, executive director for Missouri Right to Life, pointed to a 54-percent drop in the number of abortions in Missouri between 2018 and 2019.

She credited the governor and Missouri lawmakers with enacting HB 126, “the most pro-life legislation in the history of the state of Missouri.”

“We have saved 6,500 lives to this point,” she stated. “We have saved 6,500 lives to this point.”

Gov. Mike Parson also spoke at the pre-march rally.

“Every life is precious,” he stated. “Every life has a purpose. That’s why we fight to protect the unborn, to protect those who can’t defend themselves.”

He said Missouri is on track to becoming one of the most pro-life states in the country. He noted that the number of abortion clinics in Missouri had fallen from five to one in the past 15 years, while the number of abortions in the state had dropped from 8,000 to around 1,500.

“We have saved 6,500 lives a year right here in Missouri,” he said. “That’s what’s important — saving lives.”

“Never, never waver on the right to life,” he said. “We have to keep fighting battle after battle after battle. But we are winning the war.”

Next, a member of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, made up of women and men who have found healing and forgiveness after suffering the effects of abortion, gave her testimony.

“Never waver”

For those discerning a vocation: May they have the grace to bear the voice of God in their hearts, and may they experience the encouragement of the Church to respond with grateful hearts.

See MIDWEST, page 17

Bishop McKnight’s Calendar

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<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>Meeting of Deans of Diocese of Jefferson City, 11 am, Catholic Center, Jefferson City; Presbyteral Council Meeting, 1 pm, Catholic Center, Jefferson City; Annual Visit to Missouri Supreme Court, 5:30 pm, Jefferson City</td>
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<td>Feb. 12</td>
<td>Confirmation Mass, 6:30 pm, St. Anthony Church, Camdenton</td>
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<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>Pastoral Governance Meeting with All Priests and Parish Life Collaborators, 11 am, Catholic Center, Jefferson City</td>
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<td>Feb. 19</td>
<td>Kenrick Theology Day of Recollection for Seminarians and Holy Mass with Candidacy of Theology I Seminarians, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, St. Louis</td>
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<td>Feb. 26</td>
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<td>Feb. 28-29</td>
<td>Leadership Roundtable Catholic Partnership Summit, Washington, DC</td>
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Intención del mes de febrero del Obispo McKnight por nuestra Iglesia Local

Por aquellos que discernen una vocación: para que tengan la gracia de escuchar la voz de Dios en sus corazones y que se sientan alentados por la Iglesia para responder con un corazón agradecido.

Please be so kind as to make this a part of your group and private prayer.

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By Jay Nies

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight struck up a harmonious conversation with several hundred catechists and teachers who are actively engaged in the formation of young Catholic disciples.

“Tonight I’m with the choir of the Church,” he told a capacity crowd at the Jefferson City Knights of Columbus Hall on Jan. 28.

It was the annual Religious and Teacher Appreciation Dinner cosponsored by the Knights’ Fr. Helias Council 1054, Bishop McAuliffe Council 12992 and Msgr. Pleus Council 14906.

Honored guests included the teachers and staff of Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph Cathedral and St. Peter schools and Helias Catholic High School and the city’s three Parish School of Religion programs.

“You play a critical role in the mission of the Church, especially in the mission of our parishes,” Bishop McKnight told them.

He thanked the teachers and catechists for their commitment to Catholic education and for the sacrifices they make to carry-out their important work.

“You are teaching our young people not only about the catechism of the faith but about how God is present in our world in so many different ways and how He can be encountered, how we can experience God, in creation, science, mathematics and literature,” the bishop said.

He recounted a discussion he recently participated in at the Vatican with Cardinal Giuseppe Versaldi, prefect of the Church’s Congregation for Catholic Education.

“The cardinal made it very clear that when you’re talking about a Catholic school, it is the faculty above all else that preserves the institution as being Catholic,” the bishop recounted.

“I recognize that as well,” he said. “Your faith is very important to me as well as to the parents of the children that we have entrusted to your care.”

The grand knights of all three councils echoed the bishop’s appreciation.

“We Knights are supposed to be defenders of the faith,” Danny Vaught, grand knight of the Msgr. Pleus Council, told the catechists and educators, “but our schoolteachers are right behind us. You prop us up. We really appreciate that.”

Joining the bishop at the head table were Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki, diocesan vicar general and pastor of St. Michael parish in Russellville; Kenya Fuemmeler, interim diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools; Father Stephen Jones, president of Helias Catholic High School and administrator of St. Martin parish in St. Martins.

Msgr. Kurwicki led the prayer before the meal.

“We feel Your presence here tonight among these outstanding, dedicated Catholic professionals,” he prayed. “We ask You to bless them, to bless their families, to bless their students and the alumni of the schools that they represent.”

The priest asked God to fill everyone present with the holiness and zeal of St. Thomas Aquinas, “who changed the world by being not only a good student but an excellent teacher.”

The annual dinner has been a Catholic Schools Week tradition since Fr. Helias Council member Ron Vossen started it about 30 years ago.

Dan Smith of the same council, and his wife Kathy have been organizing the event for the past several years.
Pillars of Stewardship were the foundation for CSW celebration at Holy Family School in Hannibal

By Jay Nies

Holy Family School in Hannibal spent Catholic Schools Week celebrating the Pillars of Catholic Stewardship.

The school has been emphasizing the Pillars — formation, hospitality, prayer and service — and related concepts since the current academic year began.

“We’re really trying to focus on these Pillars so we can all have a better understanding of what it means to be stewards of God’s grace,” said Holy Family’s principal, Sister Bettry Uchtyil of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

“We all have something within us that the world needs, noted second-grade teacher Sara Hooley. “That’s the whole point of stewardship. We have to discover that and cultivate it and get it out there.

“What gifts has God given you? You might not know yet,” said Mrs. Hooley. “If we can help you unearth that and help you see the importance of putting it to use the way God wants us to, then I think we’re doing our job.”

Hospitality and prayer

Catholic Schools Week started with Holy Family students serving in various liturgical roles on the weekend Masses at Holy Family Church.

Several graduates who are now in high school or college came back to talk about how their time at Holy Family had helped prepare them for the next phases of their education.

Monday, Jan. 27, was a celebration of hospitality.

Students stood along the driveway leading up to school to greet parents and other adults who were dropping off children.

Third- through fifth-graders gave the adults a gift in thanksgiving for supporting the school.

These included thank-you notes, granola bars and painted rocks that say “Holy Family School Rocks!”

Tuesday was a celebration of prayer. Students placed spiritual bouquets, made of paper petals with prayers for others written on them, before the altar at Mass.

First and second-graders led a decade of the Rosary, followed by Benediction.

Each of the classes then spent time in Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Parents and teachers joined them throughout the day.

Father Michael Quinn, pastor of Holy Family parish, led an all-school prayer service and talked to the students about their impact on their prayers throughout the world.

Formation and service

On Wednesday, they focused on formation, including education and learning.

“We talked with the students about how when we share our faith and what we have learned, we become better stewards of what we’ve been given,” said Mrs. Hooley.

The students learned about the gift of being able to go to a Catholic school, where they learn to be like the saints who have gone before them.

They created puzzle pieces to illustrate the Communion of Saints and how everybody fits into God’s plan.

“We talked about how cool it is to be a saint, and how we can teach others how to pray, serve and grow in stewardship,” said Mrs. Hooley.

Thursday was a celebration of service.

Students worked on service projects, including gathering donations for Holy Family parish’s Good Neighbor Project.

“They’re good kids,” said Mrs. Hooley. “This is in their hearts. So in little ways, we’re helping them see that when they babysit or take care of the dog or do something for one of their neighbors, they are actually being good stewards of the time God has given them.”

Friday was a celebration of faith, family and fun, including a faculty-student volleyball tournament.

“Use it to serve

Mrs. Hooley said the faculty chose the Four Pillars as the theme for this school year.

“It kind of fell right into place with what Bishop (W. Shawn) McKnight has been sharing with us about stewardship,” she said.

Students throughout the school have been sharing age-appropriate lessons with their students on stewardship and a verse from Scripture: “As each one has received a gift, use it to serve another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” (1 Peter 4:10)

They started by introducing the students to the concept of stewardship and what it means.

Then they moved on to the first Pillar: hospitality.

“In the primary grades, we talked about being welcoming to people at our school,” said Mrs. Hooley.

“That includes looking up, making eye contact and communicating that love and peace that Jesus gave to everyone He encountered,” she said.

“We’re calling the kids to look around and ask: ‘In the hallways or the cafeteria or the playground, how do you help people feel welcome?’

The next Pillar they turned to was prayer.

“Even though they’re young, there’s so much they can do through prayer because so many people are in need of it,” said Mrs. Hooley.

For example, whenever a family member or loved one of someone in the school dies, the second-graders write their names on colored pieces of paper and turn them into flowers for a spiritual bouquet.

“They’re good kids,” said Mrs. Hooley.

“Then all week, we offer our prayers for that person,” said Mrs. Hooley.

The Catholic Missourian
Redskins’ Hale Hentges urges students to pray, persevere

By Jay Nies

Washington Redskins tight end Hale Hentges goes into every play with a prayer in his heart.

"Jesus, I trust in You. I could score a touchdown or break a leg and never play again. So whatever is supposed to happen on this play, just let it happen."

Mr. Hentges, a 2015 graduate of Helias Catholic High School and a 2011 graduate of Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City, spoke at an I.C. School assembly Jan. 29.

"Not too long ago, I was right where you are," he said. "Life is crazy and unpredictable and fun and it will all be the time of your life as long as you keep God with you."

He talked to the students about the importance of forming an unbreakable relationship with God, maximizing their talents for God’s greater glory, carving out time for prayer, and paying close attention to the direction He gives.

"God has given me gifts and He has given you outstanding, phenomenal gifts and He wants you to use them to glorify Him and His kingdom," he said.

Gives God the glory during Catholic Schools Week visit to his grade school, Immaculate Conception in Jefferson City

By Jay Nies

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Students at Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City line up to greet NFL tight end Hale Hentges during his Jan. 30 visit to his grade school during Catholic Schools Week. — Photos by Jay Nies

Hale Hentges of the Washington Redskins speaks to students in the gymnasium of Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City, from which he graduated in 2011.

Figuring out the best way to do that requires prayer — an ongoing, open dialogue with God.

"The No. 1 thing is, God is my best friend," said Mr. Hentges, who prefers to go by Hale. "Friends may come and friends may go, but throughout it all, God is there with you."

"In a separate gathering, he also spoke to the eighth-grade boys about respecting authority, embracing difficult challenges and treating women as treasured daughters of their Heavenly Father. It was the Wednesday of Catholic Schools Week."

"What a blessing it is for you to be able to go to a Catholic School, where you can share your faith in a place that everybody shares it with you and you get to grow as disciples of God with one another," he told the whole school.

Hale played in four college football national championshipships with the University of Alabama Crimson Tide before graduating with honors last January and entering the sacrament of marriage with his wife, Shannon.

He made the final roster for the Indianapolis Colts before finishing this season with Washington, scoring his first NFL touchdown Dec. 22 against the New York Giants.

The real reason

Hale said I.C. and Helias Catholic were catalysts for him becoming the person he is today.

"They can help you get wherever you want to go," he said. "You just have to put in the hard work and let God take it from there."

Having been given several options for college, he chose Alabama after engaging with God in serious prayer.

"Having a good relationship with God and asking Him for help can really make those big decisions easier," said Hale.

He headed south to play football — and play football he certainly did.

"But I actually ended up meeting my wife down there, which was the real reason I was supposed to go down there," said Hale. "I mean, it was awesome to get to play, but the real reason I was there was to answer my calling to marriage."

He noted that God has a plan for each person — marriage, religious life, Priesthood or single life.

"It’s not our job to know what God is doing in our life," he said. "It’s our job to say ‘yes’ to whatever He asks us to do."

Ups and downs

Hale noted that he has gotten to play for some excellent coaches, which reinforced for him the importance of respecting authority.

"Even playing in the National Football League, I’m at the bottom of the totem pole," he said. "I answer to so many people, most importantly to God."

He talked about some of the difficulties and disappointments he came up against while pursuing the dream he first had been having since he was 3.

He fought against his own doubts about his abilities in high school in college.

He dealt with a season-ending injury while he was a junior.

He and his wife were just getting settled in Indianapolis when injuries to other players on the Colts resulted in him getting cut to make room for reinforcements.

"But the Redskins claimed me, so I was lucky enough to get to continue to play," he said. "That’s what God had in store for me, and I hope to play some more next year."

Hale pointed out the importance of maintaining a childlike dependence on God.

"We can’t control everything in life," he said. "But we can control our relationship with God and our disposition about that reality."

"Difficult things will happen in your life, and for a lot of you, that may have already happened," he noted. "But as long as you have that friendship with God, there is nothing you can’t deal with."

Time to pray

Hale’s cousin, Zach Rockers, who is a teacher and football coach at Helias Catholic, noted that Hale is much more than a professional football player.

"He is a man of God," said Mr. Rockers. "He has is life in order, in terms of putting God first, then his family and friends, and then everything else."

Mr. Hentges pointed out that it took him a while “to really learn how to pray.”

While structured prayers and devotions are good and helpful, “it’s more about actually having a relationship with God,” he said.

It boils down to spending time and making an effort to grow in that relationship.

"God wants to hear from you and be part of your life,” Hale Hentges explained. See HENTGES, page 27
Five Catholic schools in Osage County get together for Catholic Schools Week celebration in Linn

By Jay Nies

More than 500 children from five Catholic schools in Osage County kicked off Catholic Schools Week with a day of faith, fellowship and fun.

Students from St. Mary School in Frankenstein, Holy Family School in Freeburg, St. George School in Linn, Sacred Heart School in Rich Fountain and St. Joseph School in Westphalia gathered at St. George School Jan. 27 to celebrate the gift of a Catholic education.

"It was a great way to kick off Catholic Schools Week," said St. George Principal Lisa Grellner. "It was amazing to see so many young people from Catholic schools interacting and having fun together. There was a lot of great energy among them."

Shannon Cerneka and Orin Johnson of Oddwalk Ministries kicked off the day with songs and stories about the light of Christ dispelling darkness.

"Beyond that, there was a lot of singing, a lot of just being up and moving and having fun," said Mr. Cerneka, who teaches at St. Peter School in Fulton.

They warmed up the crowd with a rousing sing-along of an Oddwalk praise anthem, "We Are His People."

They told the students about a boy named Sam, whose courage in the face of childhood cancer united people from different schools and churches throughout his community in prayer and solidarity.

They told a story about what happened recently when a young basketball player got injured at a tournament.

While the girl's condition was being evaluated, the adults and players in the gym held her up in prayer and concern.

"There was a big poster-board card that we made that everyone signed to give her," said Mr. Cerneka. "I had probably a dozen people ask how she was and say they were praying for her."

Mr. Cerneka and Mr. Johnson then asked the crowd to think about how they can be light for one another in times of darkness.

"These kids were tremendous," Mr. Cerneka said of the audience. "They were with us from the word 'go.' They participated well and were certainly welcoming not only to us but to each other."

That's what we want our Osage County Catholics to be — light in the darkness," said Mrs. Grellner.

Something for everyone

The pre-kindergarten students from Holy Family School joined those from St. George for some shared playtime.

Groups of kindergarteners, first- and second-graders from all the schools went from station to station in the gym, partaking of story time, games and crafts.

Third- through fifth-graders played Pictionary and word games.

Junior-high students were divided into integrated teams of 10 for an electronic scavenger hunt.

Led by a St. George student, each team made its way around the school complex in search of items such as symbols of their faith.

They took a picture of each item and then moved on to the next clue.

Worth repeating

Students from all grades are sack lunches together in the gym.

The junior-high students then gathered in a large circle and passed around pieces of candy based on their answers to questions.

Then they got back together with their teams for another game. The teams were given questions and five answers. The players worked together to determine which two of the five answers were incorrect.

The celebration closed with a prayer service for students of all ages.

"It was a good day," said Mrs. Grellner. "The junior-high kids had an especially good time."

The principals of all five schools hope to make this an annual Catholic Schools Week tradition.

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QUESTION CORNER

Why images of crucifixion? / Saints and self-flagellation

By Father Kenneth Doyle Catholic News Service

Q. Most of my family is Protestant, but I became an adult convert four years ago and was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith. Members of my family often ask me questions about Catholic beliefs, and usually I can answer them, but recently my mother asked me one that I need your help with. She said, “Since Jesus is now resurrected and sits at the right hand of God the Father, why do Catholics keep him crucified on the cross in your statues, religious jewelry, pictures, etc.” (Chillicothe, Ohio)

A. The image of the tortured body of Jesus on the cross has been used by Christians as a devotional symbol since the early centuries of Christianity. The purpose, of course, is to illustrate the immense love that Christ had for us and the sacrifices he endured to redeem us. The crucifix serves, too, to remind us that we are called to make our own sacrifices on behalf of others.

In one of his sermons, St. Augustine (354-430) gave the underlying rationale for the use of the crucifix, writing, “The death of the Lord our God should not be a cause of shame for us; rather, it should be our greatest hope, our greatest glory. In taking upon himself the death that he found in us, he has most faithfully promised to give us life in him, such as we cannot have of ourselves.”

This depiction of Christ on the cross takes its inspiration from St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians, where St. Paul writes, “We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles” (1 Cor 1:23). What you might want to say to your mother is that the Catholic Church honors her perception that Jesus now shares in glory — so much so that some Catholic churches today choose to portray the image of Christ on the cross dressed in the white robes of his resurrected glory.

Most crosses that adorn Catholic church steeples and bell towers display only the cross, not the body of Jesus; likewise, Catholics are not adverse to using such religious symbols as the Jerusalem cross or the Celtic cross. So Christians of all denominations, though their devotional symbols may sometimes differ, clearly reverence both the passion of Christ as well as his resurrection.

Q. When is violating one’s body through self-flagellation permitted to get “more points” for going to heaven? In a book I’m reading about Padre Pio, there is a mention of friars whipping themselves to the point of bleeding. Is this what God expects of us, or are there fanatic people who go to the extreme to be like Christ? (Beaverton, Oregon)

A. No, I don’t think that self-flagellation is what “God expects of us.” Corporal mortification has been part of the Christian life for centuries, but in contemporary society it is more often exemplified by such practices as dietary discipline. The portrayal in “The Da Vinci Code” of monks undergoing bloody self-beatings is clearly an exaggeration.

The website of the Catholic group Opus Dei says that some of its members do self-flagellate for one or two minutes a week but use a woven cotton string that causes some discomfort but does not draw blood. The purpose of the practice is to imitate Christ by sharing in his suffering. (St. Dominic prayed with arms outstretched for lengthy periods as Jesus did on the cross.)

In a 2010 article, reacting to a report that St. John Paul II kept a disciplinary belt in his closet, Father (now Bishop) Robert F. Barron explained that the instrument was likely a rope with a few small knots in it and that the actual physical pain was probably minimal.
**Black history is Catholic history**

**By Shannen Dee Williams**

Catholic News Service

In 1949, famed Harlem Renaissance writer Langston Hughes celebrated Negro History Week (the precursor to Black History Month) with members of the Oblate Sisters of Providence and their students at the all-black and Catholic St. Alphonsus School in Wilson, North Carolina.

“The Negro nuns had an assembly of tiny youngsters who did all by themselves in Wilson, North Carolina.”

From an awesome age-centered “I love you” lived in actions toward a stranger to the “I love you” deep with years of togetherness shared by spouses, bringing God’s kindness to the world is one of the most wonderful actions we engage in and central to our Christian faith.

But sometimes kindness can be mistaken for condescension or a clumsy power play or prejudice. Or, our own “baggage” can make for heavy lifting when it comes to giving or receiving kindness from someone else.

A remembered scene from high school illustrates what I mean:

The school’s band director, male, and a female student were walking ahead of me toward a closed door. As we approached it, the band director grabbed the handle and swung the door open, then stepped aside to let the student and me pass through.

I saw this as a courteous gesture, but the other student saw it as something quite different. She stopped, turned to him and said, “Oh, you’re just doing this because you’re a man, aren’t you? Well, I can open my own door.”

She turned away and went through the open doorway, leaving the band director looking quite surprised (and still holding the door handle). As I walked through, I looked at him and said, “Thank you,” but I suspect my gratitude didn’t quite make up for my fellow student’s reaction. I still wonder if the band director ever dared to wonder if the band director ever dared to hold the door for someone else.

Since that episode, I’ve seen others where the presence of a closed (or closing) door poses potentials for love and kindness and/or the opposite.

An elevator bank, with multiple possibilities of going up and down floors, can be tempting to those of us who are in a hurry.

We’ve maybe (probably) been in the situation where the doors to a car are closing just as someone else rushes toward it, hoping to catch the same car rather than wait for another. In those fleeting moments, do we think, “Oh, well, he/she will catch another soon enough,” or, “Where’s the ‘door open’ button ... ah! There it is.”

Someone carrying a heavy load obviously signal us to our help in holding doors or otherwise navigating with the bundle might be welcome.

But the physical presence of weight doesn’t have to be visible for us to be kind, patient and lend a hand; so many of the burdens that weigh people down cannot be seen, but are profoundly felt.

A door doesn’t have to be physical to be an impediment that we can help remove so someone else’s life can be a little easier, a little more hope-filled.

Job seekers or those working through various maze-like situations in health care, education or troubled relationships can benefit from the access we might be able to provide through our giving of time, counsel or other assistance, thus opening doors to opportunities, growth and strength.

Pain from past hurts, trauma that festers can surely affect the ease with which the door to our heart opens, especially if our kind actions seem to be met with resistance or hostility. In those times we may wonder, “Is it worth it to try again?” Or, “Should I just save myself the extra trouble?”

A quick glimpse back to the miracle of Christmas we have just enjoyed, or forward to Lent and Easter upcoming can especially in Africa, which became home to the world’s earliest Catholic Churches and monasteries in the third and fourth centuries.

Like Carter G. Woodson, the founder of Negro History Week, black nuns understood the subversive power of black history in the face of rampant discrimination, misrepresentation and erasure.

Because many black nuns were the descendants of the free and enslaved black people whose labor and sales built the early American Church, they also recognized how essential teaching black Catholic history was in the fight against racism in their Church.

Despite the herculean efforts of the black sisterhoods and those who followed, pain from past hurts, trauma that festers can surely affect the ease with which the door to our heart opens, especially if our kind actions seem to be met with resistance or hostility.

**For the birds**

**By Mark Saucier**

“Hey Grandpa. Come quick. You got to see this,” shouted my 3-year-old grandson. He was standing at the back door, staring out the glass panels.

I got there just before his second “Hurry up, grandpa!” He was jumping up and down. “It’s a ‘cawdnal’ he said, pointing at a red-robed bird, all plump and proud, perched on a wire.

It wasn’t there for long, but then we spotted a brown-headed cowbird, half-hidden in the branches of a small tree.

Looking up again, we saw a sparrow now on the wire, cheeping away, acting as if the cardinal was just the opening act.

“How many birds are there, Grandpa?” my grandson asked. I didn’t know if he was referring to all birds dotting the global skies or just the subset of those in his backyard. I simply replied, “Not as many as there were.”

A recent study reported that over the past 50 years, North America has lost more than a quarter of its bird population — over three billion birds. Hardest hit were just 12 families, familiar to many for their markings and their song.

Sparrows, warblers, finches and meadowlarks all suffered serious decline.

“Look at the birds in the sky,” Jesus admonished, making an example of their untroubled dependence on God. But that was before climate change, pesticides, urbanization and habitat degradation. Our feathered friends may be a little anxious now.

Birds have always been a part of our story. A dove brought Noah a branch, signaling the beginning of a new life. Quails, knee-deep in the desert, sustained the wandering Israelites. Ravens fed the prophet Elijah when he was in hiding.

Turtledoves — and pigeons for the poor — were sacrificed to expiate sin and implore God’s mercy.

In the first chapter of Genesis, God said, “Let the birds multiply on the earth.” Now subtracting instead of multiplying, we need to reconsider what God meant when He gave humans “dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.”

Maybe there’s a hint in the second chapter where the words are “cultivate and care.”

I worry that there will be a time when we can no longer take Job’s advice and ask “the birds of the air to tell you” of the hand of God in the world.

I worry my grandson may never hear “Hey Grandpa. Come quick. You got to see this.”

**Opening doors to love**

**By Maureen Pratt**

Catholic News Service

As Valentine’s Day approaches, so too does more awareness of love and how we express it to the diverse people in our lives. From an awesome age-centered “I love you” lived in actions toward a stranger to the “I love you” deep with years of togetherness shared by spouses, bringing God’s kindness to the world is one of the most wonderful actions we engage in and central to our Christian faith.

But sometimes kindness can be mistaken for condescension or a clumsy power play or prejudice. Or, our own “baggage” can make for heavy lifting when it comes to giving or receiving kindness from someone else.

A remembered scene from high school illustrates what I mean:

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World Day for Consecrated Life:
God’s love is worth more than any earthly good, Pope says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

When one is totally in love with the Lord, then poverty, chastity and obedience are not sacrifices, but vehicles of freedom, Pope Francis told consecrated men and women.

Celebrating the World Day for Consecrated Life, Pope Francis urged women and men religious to be people of hope, and he asked all Catholics to pray for the hundreds of thousands of women and men who continue to consecrate their lives totally to serving God and their brothers and sisters.

Led by candle-bearing men and women from a variety of religious orders, Pope Francis processed into a darkened St. Peter’s Basilica Feb. 1 for a vigil celebration of Candlemas — the feast of the Presentation of the Lord — and the Vatican celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life.

“It was the first time I was so close to the Pope,” stated Sister Cindy Weber of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, a former pastoral minister at St. Joseph parish in Westphalia, who is now serving at the SSND Generalate in Rome.

On the feast day itself, Feb. 2, the Pope spoke about how every member of the Church has a role to play in sharing the good news of salvation in Christ.

After reciting the Angelus prayer on the feast day, he asked people in St. Peter’s Square to join him in praying a Hail Mary for “the consecrated men and women who do so much work, so often hidden.”

In his homily at the Mass with religious the evening before, Pope Francis focused on the figures of Simeon and Anna, who were present in the Temple when Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus. Simeon and Anna, who dedicated their lives to prayer, recognized Jesus as the Messiah.

Simeon says that he can die in peace because he had seen “the grace that was worth more than life,” the Pope said.

Religious men and women and consecrated virgins also “caught sight of the treasure worth more than any world-ly good,” Pope Francis said. “And so, you left behind precious things such as possessions, such as making a family for yourselves.”

You fell in love with Jesus, you saw everything in him, and enraptured by his gaze, you left the rest behind. Religious life is this vision,” he said.

A key to perseverance and joy in religious life is to be always aware of the presence of God’s grace, the Pope told the religious. “The tempter, the devil, focuses on our ‘poverty,’ our empty hands,” the things one did not achieve, the lack of recognition and the struggles one has had.

A temptation that every Christian, including religious, experiences is that of seeing life in a “worldly way” rather than focusing on God’s grace at work. When that happens, the Pope said, people go off “in search of something to substitute for it; a bit of fame, a consoling affection, finally getting to do what I want.”

Focus on God’s enduring love is the only antidote, the Pope said. “If consecrated life remains steadfast in love for the Lord, it perceives beauty. It sees that poverty is not some colossal effort, but rather a higher freedom that God gives to us and others as real wealth. It sees that chastity is not austere sterility, but the way to love without possessing. It sees that obedience is not a discipline, but is victory over our own chaos, in the way of Jesus.”

Simeon was able to recognize the Messiah because he had been looking for him, the Pope said. He never lost hope.

“Looking around, it is easy to lose hope; things that don’t work, the decline in vocations,” the Pope said, but a life devoid of hope is a worldly one, not one focused on Jesus and trust in God’s love and fidelity.

“We become blind if we do not look to the Lord every day, if we do not adore him,” the Pope told the religious. “Adore the Lord.”

Rite of Welcome

Father Louis Dorn, a retired priest of the Jefferson City diocese, leads the Rite of Welcoming for people preparing for Sacraments of Initiation at Easter, during Sunday Mass on Jan. 12 in St. Joseph Church in Martinsburg. As part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), those seeking initiation at the parish placed their hands on a copy of the Book of the Gospels as a symbol of their receiving the Good News. As a sign of their new way of life, their sponsors traced a cross on their forehead, as well as all of the senses, and their hands and feet. Fr. Dorn was visiting his family in Nigeria. — Photos by Patty Fennewald
Public Rosary in Moberly

DATE: February 22
TIME: 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Members of St. Pius X parish in Moberly will participate in the national Praying a Public Square Rosary event from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, on the northeast corner of Rollins and Morley streets.

In one of her apparitions at Fatima, Portugal, the Blessed Mother said to the children: “You saw hell, where poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart in the world.”

The prayer intention in Moberly will be for a universal appreciation for the sanctity and dignity of all human life; and public reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus for society’s indignities against marriage, family, chastity and life.

“The Power of Lent” talk at St. Brendan in Mexico

DATE: February 23
TIME: After 9 am Mass

Chad Volmert, a 20-year-old Catholic speaker who is majoring in theology, will give a presentation on “The Power of Lent” after the 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 23, in St. Brendan Church, 615 S. Washington St. in Mexico.

Born and raised in Jefferson City, Mr. Volmert was always drawn toward his faith but often kept God at a distance. As a senior in high school, after “falling in a hole and making mistake after mistake,” he finally realized how important his faith is and made his relationship with God a priority in his life.

He is featured in a documentary titled “40 Days and 40 Nights,” in which he gives up some of the most important things in his life up for Lent.

He has traveled to parishes and schools to show the documentary and talk about the importance of Lent.

This spring, he will embark on a tour, giving presentations at the University of Missouri, the University of South Dakota, and The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

He hopes to “make the world a better place in the name of Jesus Christ, and bring people closer to God.”

“Faith Without Fear” conference in Montgomery City

DATE: February 29
TIME: 7 pm

Christy Boulware, founder and president of Fearless Women (www.fearlesswomenstl.com), a St. Louis-based organization that helps people overcome anxiety with God’s help, will leave a “Faith Without Fear” conference on Saturday, Feb. 29, in Montgomery City.

It will begin at 7 p.m. in the Knights of Columbus Hall, 318 N. Sturgeon St.

Ms. Boulware is the author of two video small-group studies, “Faith.Hope.Love” and “Fearless Fundamentals,” and is leading the way in her community with The Awakening Women’s Conference and The Wave Fearless Teens Camp.

God is allowing the pain that was once a crippling fear to become her platform to help other women.

Her mission is to teach that God’s perfect love casts out all fear.
Dominican sister speaks candidly about systemic racism, during adult-education session at Columbia Newman Center

By Eddie O’Neill

Sister Marcelline Koch OP is a nun on a mission.

For more than 15 years, this Dominican sister of Springfield, Illinois, has taken up the fight against racism.

As the justice promoter of her congregation, she is determined to educate people in particular on the scourge of institutional racism.

Visiting the diocese in November 2019, she gave a talk on this timely topic to around 40 people at the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia.

The talk was part of the parish’s adult-faith-formation program.

Sr. Marcelline began by explaining that racial inequality dates back to this nation’s founding.

“Laws were established (early on) to advantage the white person and disadvantage the non-white,” she said.

“That is what we call white privilege.”

She added that it was not her purpose to make someone feel bad or feel guilty because of the color of his or her skin.

“Instead,” she said, “I want you to see that racism is still systemically embedded in our country. I want to help change our policies, practices and procedures.”

In expanding on institutional racism, Sr. Marcelline noted the still common practice of “redlining” in the banking and real-estate industries.

Redlining is defined as refusing a loan or insurance to someone because they live in an area deemed to be a poor financial risk.

“Owning a home is an asset,” she explained. “It is something of value you have to pass on to the next generation, but not if you cannot get a home because you are redlined.”

Sr. Marcelline said she has heard stories of the effects of discriminatory lending policies firsthand, as she is part of the Springfield Coalition on Dismantling Racism.

She is called upon to give talks and training sessions to local institutions, government and civic groups several times a year.

She noted that a local medical school has heeded the call to end discrimination by promoting a diverse population throughout the institution.

“That’s encouraging,” she said.

Education on this topic is the key to change, she stated.

“Racism can’t be undone by one person but rather by like-minded groups,” she said.

She talked about the sisters of her own congregation’s efforts to practice what they preach.

“We want to be accountable to people of color,” she stated. “With that in mind, our leadership positions are not all white.”

She added that the fight against racism is often an uncomfortable one — one that most people would rather leave untouched.

“We need to be ready to be uncomfortable,” she said.

“This goes far beyond just being nice to people who are different from us. We need to realize we are all learners and be willing to stay in the conversation and listen and validate other experiences.

“It is slow and prodding work,” she said. “It is hard work, but most importantly, it is good work.”

Vatican donates masks to China to combat coronavirus outbreak

By Junno Arocho Esteves

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

The Vatican donated thousands of protective masks to several Chinese provinces affected by the outbreak of the deadly coronavirus.

In an email to Catholic News Service Feb. 3, the Vatican press office confirmed a report that appeared in the Chinese newspaper The Global Times, which said that since Jan. 27, the Vatican has sent 600,000-700,000 protective masks to China.

“The masks are destined to the provinces of Hubei, Zhejiang and Fujian,” the press office told CNS. “It is a joint initiative of the Office of Papal Charities and the Chinese Church in Italy, in collaboration with the Vatican pharmacy.”

According to the Global Times report, Chinese Father Vincenzo Han Duo, vice rector of Rome’s Pontifical Urbanian College, said the donation was made possible with the help of Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner.

The masks were paid for by the Vatican and Chinese Christian communities in Italy, while airline companies, including China Southern Airlines, provided free shipment, the report said.

“I hope the supplies could reach where they are needed as soon as possible, so that people who are suffering the disease could feel the concern from the Holy See. The whole world is standing together to fight the virus,” Father Han told The Global Times.

During his Sunday Angelus address Jan. 26, Pope Francis expressed condolences to the victims of the virus and his support for efforts to fight its spread.

“I wish to be close to and pray for the people who are sick because of the virus that has spread through China,” the pope said. “May the Lord welcome the dead into his peace, comfort families and sustain the great commitment by the Chinese community that has already been put in place to combat the epidemic.”

Students’ prayer bouquets are displayed in vases before the altar of Holy Family Church in Hannibal during the school’s celebration of prayer during Catholic Schools Week.

PILLARS

From page 5

She cited as an example how service, prayer and hospitality converge each time the fifth- through eighth-graders help out at Douglass Community Services.

“They spend one morning per month packaging food for distribution at the organization’s food pantry.

“It’s close enough to our school that they can walk there and back, so it’s an awesome gift that they’re able to give,” said Mrs. Hooley.

Last year, the school also raised $5,000 for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis.

She noted that Holy Family parish has had an active stewardship commission for over a decade, and that adults are setting the stage with their involvement at church and in the school.

“It’s so much a team effort — the parents, the school board, the staff, the kids,” she said. “I see us actually becoming a stewardship parish and continuing to work on that.”

Giving back

Mrs. Hooley, a lifelong Holy Family parishioner and graduate of Holy Family School, is in her 18th year of teaching there.

She’s grateful to be a part of a community that lets her share what she believes and put her faith into practice every day.

“I love what I do,” she said. “Whether I’m teaching social studies or math, I get to tie faith into my lessons and teach about Jesus.”

She’s been around long enough to see former students want to give back after graduating and moving on.

“They’re grateful for what they received here and want to do something to help the parish and the school,” she said.

“That’s our goal,” she stated. “When they’re old enough, we want them to make the decision to still be part of us, or take whatever seed we’ve given them to a new parish and continue growing it there.”
U.S. Immigration Law 101: Shining Light on a Complex Process

In this edition of Messenger, we offer this primer on U.S. immigration law to help shed some light on a complicated process that takes years to navigate for those seeking to make the U.S. their home. We hope this will take away some of the mystery of the U.S. immigration process for those unfamiliar with how the system works.

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), which governs current U.S. immigration law, was passed by Congress in 1965. It sets a limit of 675,000 permanent immigrant visas (often referred to as “green cards” because of their distinctive color) that may be granted on an annual basis. To ensure the diversity of the immigrant population, no more than seven percent of the total number of green cards awarded can go to immigrants from any one foreign nation.

Foreign nationals seeking to immigrate to the U.S. can legally apply for a “green card” if they fall into one of the following categories. Once granted a “green card”, they obtain lawful permanent resident status, but not citizenship. (continued on pg. 2)
Family Reunification

480,000 family-based visas are available each year. Immediate family members of U.S. citizens can be admitted if they are the spouse, unmarried child under 21, or parent of the sponsoring citizen, so long as they meet certain criteria and the petitioning citizen meets age and financial requirements. Adult children and brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens can also be admitted under the “family preference” category.

In Fiscal Year 2017, immigrants granted visas through family reunification accounted for 66% of all new immigrant admissions. To be admitted through the family-based immigration system, the sponsoring citizen must establish the legitimacy of the relationship, meet income requirements and sign an affidavit attesting that he/she will financially support the relative upon his/her arrival. Those seeking admission must submit to a medical exam, obtain any necessary vaccinations, pass a criminal background check, and establish that he/she will not become dependent on government assistance for their subsistence.

Reunification for legal immigrants can be a lengthy process. A sibling of a naturalized U.S. citizen from the Philippines, for example, can currently expect to wait at least 20 years before being able to immigrate legally to the U.S.

Special Skills of Value to the U.S.

140,000 permanent work visas are available for those with special skills. Immigrants admitted under this category must meet certain skill criteria, such as in the arts, sciences, education, or research and have a job offer from an employer willing to sponsor them. Visas for unskilled or low-skilled workers are limited to 5,000 annually. Religious workers, or those working for the U.S. foreign service may also qualify under this category for admission, along with those willing to invest between $900,000 and $1.8M (as of 11/21/19) in a job creating enterprise that employs at least 10 full-time U.S. workers. In fiscal year 2017, immigrants admitted through this category accounted for 12% of all new immigrant admissions.

“Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying out civic burdens.” – Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 2241
Defensive Asylum Cases Received by Country of Nationality: FY 2016 to 2018

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<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
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<td>China, People’s Republic</td>
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Individuals Granted Asylum Affirmatively or Defensively by Country of Nationality: FY 2016 to 2018

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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Refugees

Refugees are foreign nationals that flee their country because of political strife, war or personal conflict with their government. They seek “refuge” in the U.S. due to a “well-founded fear of persecution” if they return to their homeland because of their race, religion, national origin, political opinion, or being a member of a particular social group in their country of origin. Refugees apply for admission from outside the United States, typically from a “transition country” (designated by the U.N.) that is not their home country.

Each year, the president and Congress set a limit on the number of refugees that will be admitted during that calendar year. Since Donald Trump was elected, that number – called the “Presidential determination” (PD) - has been decreasing. In 2019, the PD was 30,000, down from 85,000 in 2016, 50,000 in 2017, and 45,000 in 2018. For 2020, President Trump has proposed 18,000 refugees be admitted, the lowest number since the current system was enacted in 1980.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), through its Migration Committee, has spoken out in recent years in opposition to reductions in the number of refugees admitted under the Presidential determination, stating in late 2019 that “[g]iven the unprecedented humanitarian need and the crucial global leadership role that our country plays, we strongly urge the Administration and Congress -- as they engage in the consultation phase mandated by statute -- to work together to restore U.S. refugee resettlement to normal, historical levels.”

The USCCB, through state charitable agencies like Catholic Charities, has been involved in helping settle refugees in the U.S. for years. In 2017, the U.S. admitted 53,691 refugees. The top five countries of origin of individuals admitted were the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, and Burma.

Asylees

Asylees are foreign nationals that cross into the U.S. and make a claim for asylum after they arrive here, unlike refugees who make a claim before they arrive. Like refugees, they must prove that they are unable to return to their native land because of a “well-founded fear of persecution.” Asylum seekers who arrive at the border and request asylum typically present their case to a government agency (affirmative cases), while those who enter the U.S. and are later apprehended by ICE present their case before an immigration judge during deportation hearings (defensive cases). The U.S. granted asylum (both affirmatively and defensively) to 26,509 individuals in 2017. Asylees accounted for just 2.3% of all new immigrant admissions in 2017.

Diversity Visa Program

In addition to the categories above, the Immigration Act of 1990 established a visa lottery whereby 55,000 visas are made available to foreign nationals from countries that have sent fewer than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. in the previous five years. Because of historical immigration patterns, the diversity program benefits primarily immigrants from Africa and Eastern Europe. 51,592 individuals were admitted as citizens in 2017 through the diversity visa program, accounting for 4.6% of admissions.

U.S. Citizenship

Obtaining a green card doesn’t confer citizenship status. Those holding green cards must wait at least five years before applying for citizenship through the naturalization process, which can take as long as 14 months after the application is submitted. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, demonstrate continuous residency in the U.S., possess “good moral
The Immigration Crisis at the Southern U.S. Border

Over the last five years, the U.S. has seen a rise in asylum cases brought by foreign nationals crossing the southern U.S. border, overwhelming the U.S. immigration infrastructure. Migrants from El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico and Venezuela, some traveling as families, have sought refuge in the U.S. due to rising political and social problems in those countries, grabbing headlines and increasing political and social tension in the process.

The unprecedented migration to the U.S. has led to a backlog in the immigration courts. In 2015, immigration courts in the U.S. faced a backlog of just over 500,000 cases. In September of 2019, the backlog reached an historic milestone of over 1 million cases. These cases are expected take as long as four years to be resolved, and the humanitarian crisis caused by the migration is far from over.

For those who arrive here on the Southern border, the reality is that most will not be able to stay. In the last ten years, roughly only one in five migrants seeking asylum have been granted relief, the other four seeing their requests for asylum denied. Despite an increase in the number of cases filed, the number of migrants granted asylum has stayed fairly consistent, at least for the last three years for which data are available. 20,362 individuals were granted asylum in 2016, 26,509 in 2017, and 38,687 in 2018. Of those granted asylum in 2018, 34.7% came from El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Venezuela. (see graphic on pg. 3)

The USCCB, again through its Migration Committee, has been advocating for the humane treatment of migrants at the border, some of whom come from historically Catholic countries and in the majority of cases are fleeing violence, crime, and political instability in their home countries. The bishops have opposed policies that result in detention and separation of children from their parents at the border, and ones that put migrants at further risk of exploitation or abuse. Various Catholic and other charity agencies are serving migrants at the border as part of their call to ministry, offering services to help arrivals maintain some sense of humanity and normalcy as they wait for their individual situations to be addressed.

DACA/Dreamers

Another hot topic in immigration law the last few years is a program that has allowed children brought to the U.S. by their foreign-born parents to remain here, despite the technical designation of no legal status in the U.S. Known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, “DACA” has received much publicity since its announcement in June 2012 by President Barack Obama. Foreign-born children who file for recognition under the DACA program are insulated from deportation proceedings. DACA recipients do not receive citizenship status but are temporarily protected from deportation.

To obtain relief under DACA, recipients must have been at least 15 years old and no more than 31 as of August 15, 2012, have entered the U.S. before age 16, have lived continuously in the U.S. since June 15, 2007, have been in school or have graduated high school or obtained a GED, or be in the military, and have no serious criminal history. DACA recipients are granted relief for periods of two years at a time. Only previously registered DACA recipients are currently eligible for this program, as no new DACA applications are being accepted.

For DACA recipients to obtain lawful permanent status, Congress would have to pass legislation like the “Dream Act.” The Dream Act would offer a path to citizenship to registered DACA recipients as a humanitarian gesture because they have lived here most of their life, have little — if any — legal status in their parents’ home country, and are effectively citizens without a country.

After his election, President Trump announced in September 2017 that he was going to phase out the DACA program, thereby putting in jeopardy the deferred deportation status of an estimated 600,000 – 800,000 “Dreamers.” Numerous lawsuits have been filed challenging President Trump’s decision, and the DACA program remains active pending the outcome of the cases, which have now reached the U.S. Supreme Court. At issue in the case is whether the court has the authority to review the decision to discontinue DACA, whether the DACA program was legal in the first place and whether it was lawful for President Trump to cancel it in the manner that he did. A decision on the cases is expected by the end of June 2020.

The USCCB has been supportive of DACA and the Dream Act, stating the Dream Act in particular “provides critical protection to Dreamers, immigrant youths who entered the United States as children and know America as their only home. The bill offers qualifying young people ‘permanent resident status on a conditional basis’ and a path to full lawful permanent residency and eventual citizenship.”

To learn more about the U. S. bishops’ positions on immigration issues, please visit the Justice for Immigrants website at justiceforimmigrants.org.

For statistical data on U.S. immigrants, visit the Department of Homeland Security’s immigration page at dhs.gov/topic/citizenship-and-immigration-services.

Join the Missouri Catholic Advocacy Network! (MOCAN)

Join the 10,000+ Catholic Missourians who make up the team of advocates who help the Catholic voice ring through the halls of the Missouri State Capitol. If you want to stay updated on pro-life legislation — or any of the many other legislative priorities the MCC advocates for — you will not want to miss the opportunity to join MOCAN.

If you’re already a member, encourage your family, friends, and fellow parishioners to join! As MOCAN grows, so does the Catholic voice in Missouri’s Capitol. Visit mocatholic.org, send us an email at mocatholic@mocatholic.org, or text MOCAN to 50457 to join.
Four people with strong ties to the Capital City will be inducted into the Helias Hall of Fame during the Foundation for the Benefit of Helias Catholic High School’s “Celebrate the Legacy” event.

It will be held on Saturday, Feb. 29, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. The honorees will include: Joyce E. (Schell) Amick, John D. Bryan, Louis H. Vetter and Jeremiah D. Winegar.

Photos and the full biographies of each of the honorees can be found in the online edition of The Catholic Missourian at www.cathmo.com.

The celebration will start with a 6 p.m. reception in the Capitol Plaza atrium, followed by dinner in the ballroom at 7 p.m.

The program, including the 2020 Hall of Fame induction ceremony, will begin at 7:45 p.m.

Dancing with a live band will commence at 8:30 p.m.

This Celebrate the Legacy event is geared toward honoring members of the Helias Catholic community while raising money to support the endowment and thus help keep tuition low.

This celebration will highlight various aspects of the Helias educational experience in order to make the community aware of the benefits of a Helias Catholic education.

New members are inducted into the Helias Hall of Fame each year. Individuals must have graduated at least 20 years prior to induction; demonstrated loyalty and service to Helias; distinguished him or herself in a chosen field; and have exhibited moral standards to the credit of the school.

Contact the Foundation at (573) 635-3808 on or before Feb. 21 for information.

Mike and Kathy Forck, leaders of the Columbia 40 Days for Life Campaign and the Midwest March for Life, accept special recognition from 40 Days for Life during a rally at the end of this year’s march.

Katrina Gallic, director of development for the national March for Life in Washington, D.C., predicted that the last abortion facility in Missouri would soon close.

She credited the precipitous drop in abortions in the state to legislative action, the prayers and witness of 40 Days for Life, and the work of local pregnancy resource centers and other organizations.

“As important as the work we do day-in and day-out on Capitol Hill, it’s here in the halls of state capitol that the change happens,” she said. “By your presence, you are sending a clear message to your state leaders that life is winning.”

She encouraged everyone to think about “how you are being asked to say yes to God’s call to do more for the unborn, to do more for their mothers.”

Bridget VanMeans, president of Thrive St. Louis, a life-affirming full-service women’s healthcare organization, said she’s proud to be a one-issue voter because no issue is more important than life.

She urged everyone who’s pro-life to pray for those who disagree with them.

“Can we pray for the abortion industry with the same love, zeal and passion as we pray for the babies?” she asked.

She said Thrive St. Louis had saved 22,000 babies by offering abortion-minded pregnant women a free ultrasound using the ultrasound machine in the Thrive vehicle parked outside Planned Parenthood.

The Knights of Columbus paid for the machine.

“Each of us has been ‘fearfully and wonderfully made’ in God’s image, and each of us has a very important purpose,” she said. “No matter how we are conceived, our circumstances, our race, our abilities, each of us has a purpose.”

She believes Missouri has passed during the Missouri legislative Session.

Bonnie Lee of Columbia 40 Days for Life was given the Champion for Life Award.

David Bereit, founder of the international 40 Days for Life campaign of praying, fasting, public engagement and prayerful witness outside abortion clinics, gave the keynote address.

He presented special recognition Mike and Kathy Forck, members of St. Andrew parish in Holts Summit, who started and continue to lead Columbia 40 Days for Life and the Midwest March for Life.

Mr. Bereit acknowledged the great progress Missouri had made on the pro-life front.

“But injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere,” he said.

“Until the number of abortions is zero, you and I have work to do. We must pray, we must hear and answer the call, and we must persevere.”

“Things are going to get tough,” he said. “The whole nation is now watching Missouri. This is going to get harder before it gets easier. Know that it’s worth it.”

Injustice anywhere

That afternoon, Mr. Bereit led a workshop on convincing people to be pro-life by offering a living witness of faith, hope and love.

“That will speak so much more loudly than words,” he said.

He predicted that when the history books are written, Missouri will be in the chapter on how abortion ended in the United States.

“You’ll be able to tell your children and grandchildren that you were on the front lines, and thanks be to God, abortion ended,” he said.

More photos from this event have been posted in The Catholic Missourian’s online edition, www.cathmo.com. Select “Photo Galleries” from the “Multimedia” tab on the menu bar.

Living history

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EDUCATORS

From page 4

Members of all three councils and ladies’ auxiliaries prepared the food and staffed the event.

The grand knights presented donations to the schools and PSR programs, as well as the Vogelweid Learning Center at St. Peter Interparish School, the Diocesan Excellence in Education Fund, and the diocesan Catholic School Office.

The money came from several fundraisers the Knights councils held throughout the previous year.

“Thank you all for that you do for our kids and for our Church,” Michael Flanagan, grand knight of the Fr. Helias council, told the guests.

The bishop closed the evening by giving his blessing.

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Stan Strope
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Matt Eisterhold
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Jeff Fennewald
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Matt Reel
660-216-6383

Chris Bohr
573-721-4613
PRO-LIFE

From page 1

attending her second March for Life.
She said the March was a microcosm of the kind of society the marchers hope to help create.

“It’s such a positive, loving atmosphere here,” she said. “We’re all about love and making sure everyone feels that love.”

She said a truly pro-life society would be filled with “extremely positive people who are pro-woman, pro-children, pro-family, pro-everone.”

Tolton Catholic senior Ashley Kippes was attending her fifth March for Life.

“The Pro-Life Generation is winning the fight against abortion,” said Miss Kippes, president of her school’s pro-life club.

It’s less of a victory of party or public policy than an emerging triumph of compassion and awareness.

“It’s the little things you do in your daily life,” she said. “Being kind to someone — you don’t know what they might be going through. Being open to helping women who are in crisis who need us — that’s an example of putting your pro-life views into practice.”

She believes the truth itself is a powerful witness.

“I believe every person has a chance,” she stated. “Science tells us that from the moment of conception, you have a separate, unique, new life. By Day 6, you have a heartbeat.”

“It starts here”

Tolton Catholic senior Silas Glade was on his fourth March for Life.

It concerns him when people say that since he can’t get pregnant, he has no say in the abortion debate.

“If I were not to exercise my right to speak out in defense of the right to life that’s integral to anyone and everyone, I would be doing a disservice to millions of pre-born babies who are being aborted,” he said.

He’s also disturbed what he sees as a growing anti-disability bias among people who assert the right to abortion.

“If you find out your child has Down syndrome, a lot of people want to push you to have an abortion,” he said.

His youngest brother has autism.

“He has special needs,” said Mr. Glade. “The idea that a child like him is somehow not worth as much because he has a disability does not make any sense to me. It doesn’t line up with my Catholic faith or the system of government we have that promotes the voices of every single person.”

Mr. Glade said some of the most important pro-life work between this year’s and next year’s March for Life will take place in respectful conversations.

“It starts here with being a proper steward of what you believe,” he said. “It starts with compassion.”

“Broken road”

At Mass before the group departed for Washington, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight reminded the travelers that they were being sent as ambassadors of the diocese and as pilgrims seeking to encounter Christ on their journey.

They arrived in Washington the next day and visited the Washington Monument and Arlington National Cemetery.

That evening, they joined about 10,000 other pilgrims in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the annual Mass and Prayer Vigil for Life.

Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Catholic bishops’ pro-life committee, noted in his homily that Jesus never said discipleship would be easy.

“He told His first disciples that in order to follow Him they must be willing to take up their cross,” the archbishop stated.

In standing "for the lives of unborn children, you may face ridicule and social exclusion,” the archbishop added. "You may be penalized in the academy and workplace.”

He shared that during his recent "ad limina" visit with Pope Francis, the Pope "encouraged me — I dare say, ordered me — ‘Please tell the pilgrims at the March for Life and the entire pro-life community: The Pope is with you! He is praying for you!’”

Pilgrims from this diocese gathered early the next morning for Mass and inspiration.

Father Paul Clark, diocesan moderator for pro-life ministries, said in his homily that love means actively pursuing the good of another person above one’s own.

“True love has the power of gentleness that draws other people in and transforms them,” he said. “This pilgrimage is about our hearts being transformed by God’s love so that we may go and share that transformation with every person we encounter.”

Amanda Durbin, a lifelong member of St. Patrick parish in Clarence, told the pilgrims about how her friend’s mother had been traumatized, stigmatized and marginalized by abusive relationships and a series of abortions.

“The Christian community let her down,” Mrs. Durbin stated.

“I ask that you remember those women who have gone down that broken road,” she said. “Pray for them and be there for them, too.”

She talked about the experience of praying on the sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood in Columbia and ministering to women seeking abortions.

“I came to understand the need for Christian love and open hearts for those women and to lead them, not label them — to love them, not judge them — and to just hold their hand through whatever trial brought them there that day,” she said.

Sometimes, women would accept help and turn away from abortion.

Other times, they would go through with the abortion.

“And we were still there when they came back out, waiting to love them and ready to keep walking with them,” she said.

With the help of several like-minded women, Mrs. Durbin opened Ray of Hope Pregnancy Ministries of Macon County.

A year later, they opened a second location for pregnant women in all kinds of crisis situations in neighboring Shelby County.

She spoke passionately of love overcoming fear.

“I’m begging you all to have a heart for everybody — the born and the unborn,” she said.

See WASHINGTON, page 27
11. Short for extraterrestrial.
12. J. Edgar Hoover led this fed.
13. No need to be coy, Roy.
15. Father Don Antweiler
16. ‘Then I saw her face, now ___ believer...’
17. Yes in old Cancun.
18. T he Dome in St. Louis was officially the Edward Jones Dome from 2002-2016. It was nicknamed by some as ‘The ___.’
19. Each gospel came from an agency.
20. No disciple is above his another.
21. The Catholic Missourian
22. A museum and jail there grew up.
23. This state contains Lake Itasca, the primary source of the Mississippi River (abbr.).
25. The Spirituality movement of the late 1800’s and early 1900’s as a means for people to try to communicate with the dead through ‘mediums.’ Later, it was/is sold as a harmless popular board game.
26. ‘No disciple is above his another.’ (Matthew 10:24).
27. ‘Blessed is the fruit of thy womb’.
28. Youngest child in the comic strip ‘Family Circus.’
29. ‘That which is human, so they say.
30. ‘Benedictus fructus ventris ____’; (i.e., ‘Blessed is the fruit of thy womb’).
31. The Human Dev. Index ranks countries by lifespan, education level, and gross nat. income. It doesn’t consider net wealth per capita or quality of goods which tends to lower the ranking of some advanced countries. In 2017, the U.S. was lower than Iceland and Singapore and Ireland but ahead of Britain, France, Japan, Spain, & Italy. 42. The ___.
32. ‘Then I said, ‘Is me, I am doomed!’” (Isaiah 6:5).
33. Before Common Era (____) is the term archologists often use instead of Before Christ (B.C.).
34. Several trips to different destinations: the Holy Land; Italy; France; Portugal, & Spain; Poland; Medjugorje, Lourdes, & Fatima; Ireland & Scotland; England; Austria, Germany, & Switzerland; Greece & Turkey; Budapest; Prague; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Domestic Destinations; etc...
35. A contrasting companion to even.
36. To inflict a disabling wound or loss of limb on another.
37. ‘No disciple is above his another.’
38. A tour of Mo. reveals many towns with interesting facts, stories and sights. Near Drexel, Mo. sits the Frontier Military Museum. In addition to frontier dry goods and ___-Am. (Osage, Sac & Fox) relics, it houses over 50 different military saddles, perhaps the greatest collection in America.
39. An debuted near Nashville, Mo., Harlow Shapley was born in 1885. Later in life, he became an honored astronomer and head of the Harvard College Observatory for 30 years. His study of the ___ of light proved that our solar system is only a peripheral member of our galaxy (i.e., a galaxy much much bigger than was thought).
40. Near Bishop, Mo. is the World’s Largest Small Electric Appliance Museum, a labyrinth of ceiling high display cases of waffle mixers, coffee pots and toasters.
41. Slip out the back, Jack. Make a new plan, ___.
42. No tour of Mo. reveals many towns with interesting facts, stories and sights. Near Drexel, Mo. sits the Frontier Military Museum. In addition to frontier dry goods and ___-Am. (Osage, Sac & Fox) relics, it houses over 50 different military saddles, perhaps the greatest collection in America.
43. ‘No disciple is above his another.’
44. Near Kearney, Mo. is the homestead where Jesse James was born, grew up and is ___.
45. ‘Then I saw her face, now ___ believer...’
46. ‘Benedictus fructus ventris ____’; (i.e., ‘Blessed is the fruit of thy womb’).
47. ‘Benedictus fructus ventris ____’; (i.e., ‘Blessed is the fruit of thy womb’).
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56. ‘Benedictus fructus ventris ____’; (i.e., ‘Blessed is the fruit of thy womb’).
“I wish to acknowledge and thank St. Mary’s Foundation for their leadership in providing us with a ‘down payment,’ if you will, on this important venture for our community,” said Bishop McKnight. “We are all better off when we pull together our resources to meet the needs of those who are less fortunate.”

He noted that there will be numerous opportunities to help and contribute before the building can serve its intended purpose.

“We are estimating the need for about $4 million to fund fully our dream for this facility,” he said. “I invite everyone in our community to consider how they might share in this work of love through a financial gift and by volunteering their time and talent.”

**What it will be**

Preliminary renderings by Architect Nick Borgmeyer of Simon Oswald Architects point to the transformation of a solid structure.

“It’s got good bones,” retired local contractor Jim Wisch, a member of the CCCCCNMO board of directors and the Shikles redevelopment planning committee, said.

Plans call for a 38-foot addition to the front of the building and upgrades to the utilities.

The former auditorium will be reconfigured for use as an after-school care program, a health clinic and other community services.

The area that was once the sanctuary of the La Salette Seminary chapel will become a quiet room for prayer and reflection.

The former gymnasium downstairs will become a food pantry, including a waiting room, shopping area, demonstration kitchen, warehouse, loading dock and packaging area.

New administrative offices for CCCCCNMO will be built in a mezzanine area overlooking the food pantry.

A large parking lot will be added, providing full access for people with disabilities.

**Unified vision**

CCCCNMO Executive Director Dan Lester said he was thrilled to welcome the group “to our new home.”

“It definitely needs a little bit of work, a little elbow grease here and there,” he said. “But I think we can make it shine it like new.”

St. Mary’s Foundation Board President Greg Meeker said the foundation is “very thrilled to plant a seed and make an investment in the community with this endeavor.”

“We look forward to what’s going to happen inside these walls as it extends outward of these walls,” he said.

The St. Mary’s Foundation raises money to sustain and enhance the life- and health-giving work of SSM St. Mary’s Hospital in Jefferson City.

Foundation Director Bev Stafford said the Catholic Charities project was an easy vision for the Foundation board to embrace “because it does, in essence, further our ministry of healthcare outside the walls of the hospital.”

“This certainly is something we will hold and cherish — helping establish this resource center for our community,” she said.

and devotions on the then-sprawling seminary grounds.

“What we’re doing now is reclaiming part of our Catholic heritage,” said Mr. Lester.

He recalled how the building had been the spiritual hub of a Catholic institution that prepared missionaries to minister to and advocate for people in great need all over the world.

One of them was the late La Salette Father Arthur Lueckennotto, a Meta native who served for 45 years in Madagascar.

“Whatever this building was is an essential part of the story of what it will become,” said Mr. Lester. “The area around it has grown up and changed, and here we are, coming right back around again to express that love in a way that is different but still the same.”

“That’s pretty amazing!” he said.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight joins St. Mary’s Hospital Foundation Director Bev Stafford, President Greg Meeker and other members of the foundation’s board of trustees in the former Shikles Auditorium in Jefferson City Jan. 31. Ms. Stafford and Mr. Meeker presented the bishop a $200,000 gift from the foundation toward an estimated $4 million renovation of the building, which will serve as the new headquarters for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri and a center providing help to people in need in the area.

--- Photos by Jay Nies

Wisch, a member of the then-sprawling seminary for the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette.

He noted that there will be numerous opportunities to help and contribute before the building can serve its intended purpose.

“Blessed of the Father”

The Jefferson City Housing Authority bought the property and converted it to a community center after the seminary closed in the late 1960s.

The Housing Authority renamed the building in 1983 after Helen A. Shikles, wife of longtime commissioner Lonnie Shikles, who made a contribution toward installing an elevator in her memory.

When the building became available, Sister Kathleen Wegman of the School Sisters of Notre Dame worked on behalf of the diocese with the Housing Authority, the St. Mary’s Foundation and Catholic Charities on a unified vision for the property.

Catholic Charities offers a variety of services to residents in need throughout the 38-counties of the Jefferson City diocese, providing care and creating hope through compassionate social services that respect the dignity of each person and engage the local community.

Bishop McKnight led the people at the gathering in prayer: “In His great love for all of us, Christ said that what we do for the least among us, we do for Him. He called those who show mercy ‘blessed of the Father’ and promised them eternal life.

“Let us then pray for the Lord to enrich His blessings on all the benefactors who are devoted to helping their brothers and sisters who are weak, who are sick or who are unfortunate and to make possible this new center of mercy and charity in our own community,” he prayed.

Mr. Lester believes the new center will unite people from various walks in life helping others while growing in their relationship with God.

“Bishop McKnight has really instilled within our whole diocese a sense that we are better when we’re working together,” said Mr. Lester. “It is my prayer and my hope that this space will become a truly shining example of that ideal.”

To learn more about the ongoing renovations or to volunteer or donate, visit the new Catholic Charities website at ccccnmo. diojeffcity.org.
**Fundraisers & Social Events**

**Feb. 7**  
*Westphalia*, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm

**Feb. 8**  
*Holts Summit,* “Escape St. Andrew’s” escape room-style fundraiser, 7-9 pm, for tickets or info, call 573-896-5010  
*St. Martins*, K of C Valentine dinner & dance, 6:30 pm

**Feb. 9**  
*Belle*, St. Alexander parish breakfast, 7-11 am  
*Lake Ozark*, Steve Angrisano in Concert, 3 pm, Our Lady of the Lake parish, for tickets call (573) 365-2241  
*Westphalia*, Lions Club Breakfast, 7:11-30 am, Lions Club Den

**Feb. 15**  
*Fulton*, St. Peter School “Black-light Bingo” fundraiser, 5:30-10 pm

**Feb. 16**  
*St. Anthony*, K of C breakfast, 7:30-11 am

**Feb. 21**  
*Loose Creek*, K of C fish fry, 5:30-8 pm, Immaculate Conception School basement

**Feb. 22**  
*Boonville*, St. Peter & Paul home and school auction & dinner, 5:30-10 pm

**Feb. 23**  
*Hannibal*, Holy Family School “Hats & Horses” dinner auction & fundraiser, 5-11:45 pm

**Feb. 24**  
*Hemmann*, St. George parish shrimps boil, 6-9 pm, school gym

**Feb. 25**  
*Montgomery City*, Immaculate Conception parish Mardi Gras, 6 pm-midnight, K of C hall

**Feb. 26**  
*Belle*, St. Patrick home & school trivia night, 6 pm

**Feb. 28**  
*Camdenton*, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm

**Feb. 29**  
*Cuba*, Holy Cross parish fish fry, 4:30-7 pm

**Feb. 22-23**  
*Columbia*, “From Seeker to Sage: Journey to the Unknowable.” pre-Lenten urban retreat sponsored by Contemplative Outreach of Central Missouri, Holiday Inn Executive Center, to register visit cocomo.org

**Mar. 1**  
*Frankenstein*, Our Lady of Good Counsel parish CYO breakfast, 7-10:30

**Mar. 2**  
*Camdenton*, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm

**Mar. 4**  
*Cuba*, Holy Cross parish fish fry, 4:30-7 pm

**Mar. 7**  
*Eldon*, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm

**Mar. 8**  
*Holts Summit*, St. Andrew K of C Lenten fish fry, 4-7 pm

**Mar. 9**  
*Jefferson City*, Fr. Helias K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, K of C Hall

**Mar. 11**  
*Jefferson City*, K of C #12992 fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph Undercroft

**Mar. 12**  
*Columbia*, Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program Orientation, 5:30-7 pm, 916 Bernadette Drive

**Mar. 16**  
*Taos*, Jefferson City area Ultreya for Cursillo, 7 pm, St. Francis Xavier school cafeeteria

**Mar. 17**  
*Columbia*, “The Way of the Cross,” by Donna Cori Gibson, 3 pm, St. George Church, for info visit church.saint-george-parish.org/St-George-Church

**Mar. 19**  
*Linn*, “Seeking Christ for Our Nation Mass,” 6:30 pm, St. George Church

**Mar. 20**  
*Mar. 21**  
*Mar. 22**  
*Mar. 23**  
*Mar. 24**  
*Mar. 25**  
*Mar. 26**  
*Mar. 27**  
*Mar. 28**  
*Mar. 29**  
*Mar. 30**  
*Mar. 31**

**Meetings & Conferences**

**Feb. 7**  
*Boonville*, Columbia/Boonville/Glasgow Area Ultreya for Cursillo & soup supper, 6:30 pm, St. Peter & Paul parish

**Feb. 13**  
*Columbia*, Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program Orientation, 5:30-7 pm, 916 Bernadette Drive

**Feb. 22**  
*Moerdy*, “Planning for the Triduum,” for parish pastoral musicians, 8:30 am-noon, St. Pius X parish, for info call 573-645-6579 or email npmjffcity-dio@gmail.com

**Feb. 23**  
*Mexico*, 40 Days & 40 Nights: The Power of Lent,” with Chad Volmert, after 9 am Mass, St. Brendan Church

**Feb. 25**  
*Columbia*, Cursillo School of Leaders, 7 pm, Sacred Heart parish library

**Feb. 27**  
*Columbia*, “The Way of the Cross.” by Donna Cori Gibson, 3 pm, St. George Church, for info visit church.saint-george-parish.org/St-George-Church

**Feb. 28**  
*Columbia*, Annual retreat for youth ministry and catechetical leaders with Steve Angrisano, 9:30 am-3 pm, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry-annual-retreat

**Feb. 16-19**  
*Laddonia*, “The Beauty and Grace of the Mass,” parish mission with Deacon Mark Dobelmann, 7-8 pm each evening, St. John Church

**Feb. 12**  
*Lake Ozark*, NET (New Evangelization for Teens) Retreat for grades 7-12, 3:30-8:30 pm, Our Lady of the Lake Church, for info or to register by Feb. 9, call Vicki at (573) 365-2241
Anniversaries

Argyle, St. Aloysius
Terry & Georgia Brunnett, 54 years

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception
Francis & Barbara Clark, 55 years
Vigil & Sandra Kay Moore, 53 years
Ron & Rose Paalhar, 53 years
Jerry & Peggy Ward, 52 years
Roger & Cindy Walsh, 46 years
Joe & Mary Sue Eneyate, 43 years
Landy & Kathryn McCurry, 41 years
Dennis & Sarah Paalhar, 40 years

Canton, St. Joseph
Lary & Pat Ellison, 52 years
Todd & Carolyn Nun, 26 years

Columbia,
St. Thomas More Newman Center
Dick & Donna Otto, 50 years

Jonesburg, St. Patrick
Henry & Pauline Hostdaniell, 57 years
John & Nancy Cobb, 49 years
Josh & Sara Johnson, 16 years
Brad & Julie Ellis, 15 years

Kahoka, St. Michael
Allen & Lorea Cameron, 50 years
John & Cathly Brennan, 31 years

Kirksville, Mary Immaculate
Bill & Penny Tiedemann, 54 years
Charles Lemley & Margaret Wilson, 33 years
Michael & Melissa Grugich, 21 years

Marceline, St. Boniface
Robert & Ellen Beaver, 60 years
Jerry & Stes Crisman, 60 years
Rick & Sanders Hoskins, 43 years
Landy & Tami Quinn, 41 years
Charles & Lena Lapper, 40 years
Troy & Laurie Bruner, 33 years

Mary’s Home, Our Lady of the Snows
Jim & Mary Alice Schuh, 60 years

Millin, St. Mary
Bill & Teresa Blair, 38 years
Roman Beneva & Josephine Preud, 34 years
Torres & Benerando Lorenzo, 27 years

Monroe City, Holy Rosary
Dwayne & Madeline Williams, 50 years

Montgomery City, Immaculate Conception
Thomas & Margo Nichols, 51 years
Dennis & Michelle Allen, 29 years

Palmira, St. Joseph
Franklin & Edna Tulsky, 66 years
J ohn & Jean Buckman, 55 years
Gary & Lenore Singleton, 50 years
David & Gable Lewis, 36 years
Kent & Vanessa Pup, 35 years

Russellville, St. Michael
Dave & Rendi Lepper, 49 years
Jeff & Kathly Wildhaber, 35 years

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul
Marvin & Kathy Brownfield, 52 years
Jim & Rose Rybak, 51 years
J ames & Carol Schib, 51 years
Nevin & Jean Alquist, 50 years
Robert & Robin Williams, 30 years

Vandallia, Sacred Heart
Mark & Sandy Klot, 36 years
Troy & Denise Allen, 27 years
David & Alisa Hays, 19 years
Michael & Amanda McCurdy, 16 years

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels
Junior & Mary Lou Merk, 63 years
Glen & Janet Nimeyer, 42 years
Danny & Alice Niemeier, 39 years
Greg & Patty White, 36 years
Greg & Carol Buntet, 30 years
Hank & Ashlee Pennington, 17 years
Adam & Leigh Ann Stallo, 16 years

Deaths

Deacon James R. “Russ” Butler, 87 —
a retired deacon of the Jefferson City diocese who ministered at Immaculate Conception parish in Jefferson City and served on the diocesan Matrimonial Tribunal, on Jan. 18 in O’Fallon. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Jan. 25 in Immaculate Conception Church in Dardenne Prairie, with his son, Monsignor Michael Butler of the St. Louis archdiocese presiding.

Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels —
Patrick Stefanski

Columbus, Our Lady of Lourdes —
Charles Saylor

Frankenstein, Our Lady Help of Christians —
Nancy Jane Jaegers

Hannibal, Holy Family —
Mae Chambers

Hemmann, St. George —
Edmund “Whitey” Ruettgers, Owen H. Steiner

Indian Creek, St. Stephen —
Adeline Elliott

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception —
Barbara A. Allen, Ruth Doerhoff

Jefferson City, St. Peter —
Mark S. Thomas

Baptisms

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph
— Eleanor Jo Smith-Vandergriff

Moberly, St. Plus X —
Brentley Cooper Lawson
son of the late Brandon Vanbiber & Sarah Lawson

St. Anthony, St. Anthony of Padua —
Owen Lawson Hagenhoff, son of Dustin & Elaine Hagenhoff

St. Elizabeth, St. Lawrence —
Maddox Ryan Loethen, daughter of Ryan & Morgan Loethen

Birthdays

Koeltztown, St. Boniface —
Zita Toppel, her 95th on Jan. 30

Bonnits Mill, St. Louis of France —
Dorothy Rustemeyer, her 95th on Jan. 30

Edina, St. Joseph —
Madelyn O’Brien, her 95th birthday

Frankenstein, Our Lady Help of Christians —
Mary Ann Kremer, her 90th on Jan. 29

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception —
Marie Skulp, her 95th on Feb. 9

Marceline, St. Boniface —
Zelma Delaney, her 95th

Marshall, St. Peter —
Paul Collier, his 95th

Mary’s Home, Our Lady of the Snows —
Alma Koetting her 97th on Feb. 15

Marshall, St. Peter —
Georgia M. Green

Martinsburg, St. Joseph —
Carl E. “Pete” Stickenschnier

Mary’s Home, Our Lady of the Snows —
Betty J. Kliethermes, Lucille Limbach

Moberly, St. Plus X —
Annie Meriwether

Osage Bend, St. Margaret of Antioch —
Wanda K. Lehmen

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart —
Delphine M. Bauer

St. Martins, St. Martin —
Bernard A. Kemna, Carolyn Lueckenotte

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul —
Steve Jackie Bridges, Lola Lobus

Vienna, Visititation of the Blessed Virgin Mary —
Emily Luebbe

Elections

Camdenton, St. Anthony —
Miriam Borden, Bob Raeth, Keith Schuster, to the parish pastoral council

Canton, St. Joseph —
Canty, the parish representative to the Canton Council of Churches

Eldong, Sacred Heart —
Bill Allen, Tom Irwin, Julie McDevitt, to the parish pastoral council

WILLIAMS

From page 9

in their footsteps, the teaching of black and black Catholic history outside of predominantly black Catholic institutions remains rare in the contemporary Church.

In the United States, where the roots of many black Catholics predate those of the vast majority of white and white ethnic Catholics by at least three centuries, popular and scholarly discussions and depictions of the American Catholic experience rarely include the Church’s black faithful. At best, black Catholics are presented as historical anomalies. At worst, they are altogether erased.

As one major consequence, recent calls for the Catholic Church to confront and make reparation for its long-standing histories of slavery and segregation have been met with genuine shock and confusion by far too many Catholics, religious and lay alike. There are also still many people who sincerely believe that there are no African American Catholics.

These realities stand as searing indictments of the Church’s enduring failure to tell the truth about itself and teach accurate and inclusive accounts of Catholic history in its schools, seminaries and parishes.

As we mark this 94th annual celebration of black history during February, I encourage all Catholics interested in justice, reconciliation and peace to commit to learning about the central place of black people in the Church’s long and complex history.

Black history is and always has been Catholic history. It is time for the Church to embrace this fundamental truth.

USCCB: Israelis, Palestinians must talk to get Mideast peace

By Andy Telli
Catholic News Service
Washington, D.C.

President Donald Trump's proposed Mideast peace plan deserves "serious consideration," but "the Israelis and the Palestinians are the only ones who can resolve the differences and agree on a common resolution to the chronic impasse," said a representative of the U.S. bishops.

"While acknowledging the significant role the United States plays, these principals must negotiate directly with each other with the support of the international community, that they may find a fair compromise, which takes into account the legitimate aspirations of the two peoples," said a letter from Bishop David J. Malloy, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on International Justice and Peace.

The letter, dated Feb. 3, reiterated the U.S. bishops' and Vatican support for a two-state solution to the issues in the Holy Land.

"Intrinsic to a fruitful discussion is the necessity that each state recognizes and supports the legitimacy of each other," it said. "The future peace and flourishing of life in the Holy Land depend on such a mutual recognition that calls for concrete steps in mutual counsel and collaboration, before the fundamental agreements can be achieved."

The United States and others who want to help "must do so as contributors to strengthen bilateral agreement between the two principal entities. As such, we are concerned 'Peace to Prosperity' makes propositions without these requisite conditions being met," it said, referring to the plan.

When it was released in late January, Catholic leaders in the Middle East said the plan endorsed "almost all" the demands and the political agenda of the Israelis while ignoring the demands of the Palestinian side. They called it a "unilateral initiative" that did not give "dignity and rights" to the Palestinians.
Solomon builds a temple for the ark

By Jennifer Ficcaglia
Catholic News Service

When King David moved to Jerusalem, he had the ark of God brought to the city.

The ark was housed in a tent, as it had been when Moses and the Israelites were wandering in the desert.

But David thought the ark should be housed in a much better dwelling and wanted to build a temple for it.

God had other plans, however, so He told the prophet Nathan to give David a message about the ark.

“When your days have been completed and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, and I will establish his kingdom,” God said in his message to David. “He it is who shall build a house for My name, and I will establish his royal throne forever.”

God was referring to David’s son, Solomon. After becoming king, Solomon began preparing the materials that would be needed to build a temple for the ark.

“The actual construction of the Temple began in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign, which also was the 480th year since God had freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

As the Temple’s construction was nearing completion, the word of God came to Solomon.

“As to this house you are building — if you walk in My statutes, carry out My ordinances, and observe all My commands, walking in them, I will fulfill toward you My word which I spoke to David your father. I will dwell in the midst of the Israelites and will not forsake My people Israel,” God told the king.

When the Temple was finished, the priests took up the ark and began moving it to its new dwelling. As the ark was being moved, King Solomon and the entire community of Israel gathered before it and made many sacrifices.

The ark was carried to the inner sanctuary of the Temple. Then the glory of God, in the form of a cloud, filled the Temple.

“The Lord intends to dwell in the dark cloud; I have truly built You a princely house, a dwelling where You may abide forever,” King Solomon said.

The king then turned and blessed the whole assembly of Israel.

Bible Accent

What was the ark of God, and what was in it?

In Exodus 25, we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to talk to God. God told Moses that He wanted a sanctuary made for Him so He could dwell in the people’s midst.

For 40 days and nights, God gave Moses detailed instructions about building the sanctuary and creating everything that was to be in it.

One of the items that was to be in the sanctuary was an ark made of acacia wood and plated inside and out with pure gold. God told Moses to make the ark 2 1/2 cubits long, 1 1/2 cubits wide and 1 1/2 cubits high. In modern-day units of measure, that was about 3 3/4 feet long, 2 1/4 feet wide and 2 1/4 feet high.

The ark was to be carried using gold-plated acacia poles that would go through gold rings attached to the ark’s sides. The poles were to remain in the rings and never be removed.

A cover of pure gold also was to be made for the ark, and two cherubim of beaten gold were to be placed on each end of the cover. The wings of the cherubim were to spread out and shelter the cover.

God also told Moses to place something special in the ark: the stone tablets on which God wrote down the Ten Commandments. His covenant with the Israelites.

That is why the ark of God is oftentimes referred to as the ark of the covenant.

Saint Spotlight

St. Francis-Regis Clet was born in France in 1748. When he was 21, he joined the Lazarists and taught theology and served as a novice master. In 1791, he realized his dream of becoming a missionary in the Far East, serving in China for 30 years. In 1818, all foreign missionaries in China were persecuted. Francis-Regis evaded arrest for a time but was eventually caught. He was imprisoned and tortured, and he was killed in 1820. We remember him on Feb. 17.

Puzzle

Using the hints provided, put a T next to the sentences about Solomon’s life that are true and an F next to the ones that are false.

1. Solomon asked God for riches and a long life. (1 Kings 3:7-9)
   T

2. Solomon decided which woman was the mother of a baby. (1 Kings 3:27)
   T

3. The Queen of Nineveh came to test Solomon. (1 Kings 10:1)
   F

4. All of his life, Solomon followed only God. (1 Kings 11:4)
   F

Essay

God said that he would grant Solomon anything he wanted. If you could ask God for anything, what would it be?

Answers:

1. F
2. T
3. F
4. F
Author explores literature from Homer to Tolkien


Reviewed by Patrick Brown
Catholic News Service

Every day, television headlines are more tiring, the social media scrolling more soulless and popular culture continues its pursuit of “relevance” over actual meaning.

It might be time to sink your teeth into written works that actually sought to plumb the depths of humanity and that actually sought to plumb actual meaning. Its pursuit of “relevance” over and popular culture continues media scrolling more soulless lines are more tiring, the social context and offering some lenses for interpretation (with no alerts for the spoiler-averse).

After the text, an appendix will spur dozens of friendly arguments. One hundred works of literature, from Homer to J.R.R. Tolkien, begging to be hashed over and pinned on fridges, suggested to bored teenagers and set as goals by ambitious retirees.

Pearce’s list displays a distinct Anglophilia. Devoting 13 slots to Shakespeare may be forgiven because, well, the Bard is the Bard. But he also selects seven works of C.S. Lewis, four by G.K. Chesterton, four by Charles Dickens, three by Robert Hugh Benson, and another three by the lesser-known Maurice Baring—that’s one-fifth of his list of 100 devoted to just five English writers who span just about a century.

Despite a considerate treatment of Mark Twain’s Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc and calling Moby Dick “de profundis” work in the book itself, they somehow do not merit inclusion in the final roll call.

These are, of course, the kind of debates any such list is meant to inspire, just as bargainers debate the furthest home run they ever witnessed. But a flaw in his treatment of fiction’s moral ambiguities is the biggest weakness of the book.

Take Graham Greene, the writer whose complex antiheroes and willingness to paint in shades of “black and gray” contrast with Pearce’s evident affinity for more black-and-white tales of moral heroism, like Benson’s Come Rain! Come Rain!

Readers who prefer tales of straightforward, Christ-like simplicity will, perhaps, appreciate Pearce’s disproportionate focus on those stories. But the appeal in novels like Greene’s lies in their understanding of the complexity of human action, the inability to turn off the small, still voice of conscience, and the insight that, as Fyodor Dostoevsky put it, “the line between good and evil runs through every human heart.”

There are many non-Catholic books by non-Catholic writers that uncover deep truths about man’s relationship to God, the divine, and his fellow man, but Pearce’s approach tends to discount them.

Despite occasional forays into a kind of paternalism, Literature shines when it allows Pearce to show off his erudition as well as his obvious affection for the writers he knows best.

His favorites aren’t hard to spot, and tend to be figures he’s profiled in other books: Shakespeare, Chesterton, Tolkien (with six references in the first 11 pages), Oscar Wilde, Hilaire Belloc and Dante.

When, in contrast to the usual brief sketches, he spends a generous five pages on Evelyn Waugh’s Brideshead Revisited, you sense Pearce come alive with excitement about the book he calls “arguably the finest novel of the 20th century.” His treatment of the Lord of the Rings trilogy is similarly passionate.

Those moments in the book conjure up a warm hearth, a stiff beverage, and a friendly argument about which stories worth most telling — the kind of conversations this book is meant to inspire, and that are improved by having a friendly, well-read guide like Pearce.

Brown writes from Columbia, South Carolina.

Movie Ratings

Dolittle (PG)  Playmobil: The Movie (PG)
1917 (R)  Dark Waters (PG-13)
Adults and Adolescents
J ojo Rabbit (PG-13)  Marriage Story (R)
L       The Two Popes (PG-13)
Parasite (R)  The Turning (PG-13)  Underwater (PG-13)

Ratings are supplied by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Film and Broadcasting Office. Visit usccb.org for current reviews.

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“Walk with them”

This Washington pilgrimage was a turning point for Tolton Catholic senior Mason Serio.

He had been put off by the toxic rhetoric she had seen on social media from both sides of the abortion debate.

“It’s hard for young people to make a decision when there’s so much harshness and finger-pointing,” she said.

On the pilgrimage, she found the emphasis on changing hearts, rather than laws and policies, to be refreshing. She was drawn to the idea of helping women who have had an abortion and are looking for healing.

“They need to know that there are people who do really want to care for them, who want to walk with them to Christ,” she said.

Miss Serio asked for prayers for better understanding among people on both sides of the abortion divide.

“I think people really need to focus on understanding each other,” she said.

“Maybe I can help”

Tolton Catholic senior Haley Kartheiser was amazed to see people from many backgrounds and faith traditions marching in unity for a noble cause.

“I’ve prayed two Rosaries while walking through the March, for all the people who don’t feel the way we do about this,” she said. “Even if I can’t change their heart, I pray that God will do that, and maybe I can help Him.”

She talked about how listening with an open heart to people with different points of view helped her decide to become Catholic in 2017.

She hopes that same spirit of openness and dialogue, with God’s help, will help more people become pro-life.

“We need to be praying for all mothers,” she said. “To be a mother is an amazing thing, and I don’t think mothers always get credit for everything they do.”

Hearing Mrs. Durbin’s story about helping pregnant women in crisis brought her to tears.

“It just touched my heart, what they’ve been able to do to help people,” said Miss Kartheiser. “I know I can help others, and that’s what I want to do.”

Miss Cross said the March is an occasion to thank women who overcome the difficulties of a seemingly ill-timed pregnancy.

She believes individuals and society need to do better at helping and encouraging women who are pregnant, regardless of their circumstances.

“We need to open our arms more,” she said.

“I hope that one day, we can stop abortion by standing together with these women and holding them up in their time of need,” she stated.

Contributing to this report was Mark Pattison of Catholic News Service.

HENTGES

From page 6

he said. “He loves you. He is your Heavenly Father and your best friend.”

Hale realized a long time ago that because his life revolves so much about football, he had to be intentional about setting aside time for God every day.

“My day starts with God and ends with God, and throughout the day. He wants me to hear from me,” said Hale.

It begins the minute he wakes up in the morning.

“The first thing I do is get on my knees for a few minutes and just thank God for letting me wake up and for this new day and for giving me another breath of life,” he said.

He encouraged the young people to spend some time greeting the Lord in the morning before even checking their phone.

“If you start your day like that, your day is gonna be great,” he said. “You’re gonna be happier and have more energy. You’re gonna realize that this day is a gift and that God is in control every aspect of it. He won’t let you down.”

Hale spends his 15- to 20-minute commute to work in silent prayer and reflection or listening to a Catholic podcast.

He sets the alarm on his cell phone to remind him several times a day to stop and communicate with God.

Quick prayers — “Jesus, I trust in You,” “God, I love You,” “Jesus, please help me” — turn ordinary tasks into acts of prayer.

When he’s on field, he offers a silent prayer before the beginning of each play.

“That alone is powerful,” he said. “That’s probably 40 to 50 times in a three-hour period. I would encourage you to stop and offer a quick prayer like that throughout your day.”

He suggested that the young people stop and pray every time they log onto Instagram, Twitter or other social media.

Before bed, he and his wife talk about their day and then offer a prayer of thanks together.

“Instead of it being just us two, it’s us three,” he said.

Be men of God

Hale pointed out that God might be calling one, two, three or more young men in the I.C. School’s eighth-grade class to be priests.

Most of the rest will be called to marriage.

Hale said the interactions they have with women today will set the tone for the kind of husbands and fathers they may become.

He urged them to be thoughtful and respectful and to start praying for their future wives if marriage is what God has in mind for them.

“If you’re being called to marriage, that means your wife is out there somewhere,” he said. “When you date someone, know that she is probably someone else’s future wife, so treat her the way you hope guys are treating the woman you will marry some day.”

Subject to temptations

He stated flatly that online pornography is a tremendous temptation for young men, especially since it is so readily available.

“It is the No. 1 way the devil tries to take young men from God,” said Hale. “It’s something you’re all going to be tempted with.

“If you are caught up in watching pornography, it’s not too late,” he said. “You can stop. God wants to call you back to respecting women.”

“You can do it”

Hale said he’s already been on a heck of a journey, “and God has been with us through the whole process.”

He’s hopefully just getting started, and so are the young people he was speaking to.

“Whatever you guys want to accomplish, with God and hard work, you can do it,” he said.

He urged them to keep going to Mass and receiving the Body and Blood of Christ often and making the best use of the sacraments that are readily available to them in a Catholic school.

He reminded them that how they treat the other people in their lives makes a big difference.

“We’re all members of God’s Divine Body. How you treat the least is how you treat the greatest,” he said.
Cursillo Grand Reunion in Columbia: Making a Leap of Faith

A Grand Reunion of all Cursillistas will be held on Saturday, Feb. 29, in Columbia. It will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, 3351 E. Gans Road.

It will be a day of enrichment inspired by Bishop Robert Barron’s book, *Letter to a Suffering Church.* The theme will be “Making a Leap of Faith.” All Cursillistas throughout the diocese are encouraged to attend.

Video presentations will include Bishop Barron and Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, who will speak on the theme, “Now is the Time for Cursillo to Stand Up.” Father Matthew Flatley, diocesan moderator for adult faith formation, will give the keynote.

Ray Hentges, Father Gregory Oligschlaeger and a Hispanic representative will discuss “celebrating Cursillos past, present and future.”

There will also be 30-minute break-out sessions on various topics.

Fr. Flatley will offer the closing Mass, which will fulfill the weekend obligation, at 3 p.m.

A $10-per-person donation is recommended.

Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share at the potluck lunch.

Copies of Bishop Barron’s book will be available for sale.

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**Marshall Mission**


Fr. Ford will preach the homily at all Sunday Masses the weekend of Feb. 22-23 in St. Peter Church, 1801 S. Miami Ave.

He will lead a period of reflection at 7 p.m. on Sunday through Tuesday of that week.

He will focus on a fruitful observance of Lent.

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**Holy Name Society Pancake & Sausage Breakfast**

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 from 7:30 am to noon

Adults $7
Children 12 & under $3
Children 5 & under Free

Proceeds to benefit St. Joseph School with portion to Special Olympics

Immaculate Conception Parish, Kertz Hall
Jefferson City

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**Knights of Columbus Council 2027**

**FISH FRY**

5:30-8 pm

Fridays

February 7 & 21

Fried fish, spaghetti, buttered potatoes, baked beans, hushpuppies, coleslaw, applesauce, vegan black bean soup & dessert

**Immaculate Conception School Basement**

**PRICES:**
Adults $10.00
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**St. Michael’s Parish Hall**

**2020 FISH FRYS**

FEBRUARY 7 & 21

4:30-7 pm

Adults $11 — Kids < 10 $5 — Kids < 5 free

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**Westphalia**

**ANNUAL BREAKFAST**

Sunday, February 16
Served 7:30-11:30 am

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Veterans of Foreign Wars Argyle Post 8045 & Auxiliary

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**Russellville**

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**FRIED USA CATFISH FILLETS**

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FEBRUARY 7 & 21

4:30-7 pm

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*Jesus said to them, “Come away by yourselves ... and rest a while.”*