

## Song of the Year

A Columbia parishioner Kate Basi will receive the Association of Catholic Publishers' 2022 Song of the Year award for her liturgical composition, "Come, All You Thirsty."

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# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

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Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## Taking time to remember, give comfort on Memorial Day



Catholics gather in St. Joseph Cemetery in Clifton City the Saturday before Memorial Day for Mass with Father Mark Smith and the blessing of the graves.

— Photo by Carolyn Aggeler Twenter

## 20 years after deadly shooting at monastery, survivor reflects on causes of ongoing violence

By Jay Nies

"God forgive me, I hope he's in heaven."

Benedictine Father Kenneth Reichert spoke of the man who entered Conception Abbey 20 years ago this week, pointed a MAC 90 rifle at him and fired twice.

Two monks were killed that day, including Pilot Grove native Benedictine Father Philip Schuster, cousin of Monsignor Donald W. Lammers.

Two others, including Fr. Reichert, were critically injured before the shooter entered the monastery's great basilica and turned the weapon on himself.

Fr. Reichert expected to die in a puddle of his own blood.

"God never left me," he nonetheless insisted. "I prayed many Acts of Contrition, and many times, 'God forgive me.'"

No day passes without Fr. Reichert remembering the events of that day.

Neither his body nor his mind will let him forget.

"Yet, I am grateful to be alive and to be given so many chances to repent and turn back to God since then," he said.

Fr. Reichert, a Brunswick native who has been a Benedictine monk for nearly seven decades, is convinced God also remained close to the defenseless children and their teachers who died in a recent school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

"He never left those kids," the priest insisted. "I am certain they're now in heaven and happy with Him."

But although present, God did not stop the shooter, nor did He stop any of the others who contributed to the bone-chilling litany of shootings that have dominated the news cycle these past several weeks.

"When something bad happens, we tend to want to blame somebody," said Fr. Reichert. "Part of that can be put on God: 'Why did God allow that?'"

See FR. REICHERT, page 21

By Jay Nies

"On this Memorial Day, for those who have given their lives in the service of our country, that they may rejoice for all eternity in the glory of God's kingdom, we pray to the Lord."

Catholics throughout the Jefferson City diocese gathered in cemeteries the morning of or during weekend before Memorial Day to lift up in grateful memory all of their loved ones who have died and especially those who gave their lives while protecting others.

Father Louis Nelen, pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, offered Mass in the Mausoleum Chapel of Resurrection Cemetery in Jefferson City.

"We take time out this day to pray here for all our loved ones who are buried here and for all the souls of the faithful departed, that God will embrace them in His peace and in His love," Fr. Nelen stated in his homily.

He pointed to Jesus's reassurance that His friends and followers would have troubles in this world, just as He did, but "take courage, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Jesus did so the same way He urgently commanded His Apostles to do: by loving God and loving one another.

"Jesus's love is incomparable," Fr. Nelen noted. "His love is what transforms the world and us for the better."

That love and reassurance is what gives people of faith the confidence to commend their deceased loved ones to God's care and compassion, saying "Yes, Lord, You will awaken them to glory, where they will see You face-to-face," Mr. Nelen stated.

"We know that in Christ, we have

See MEMORIAL, page 27

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## Correction

An item under Birthdays on the People Page in the May 27 edition of *The Catholic Missourian* included an incorrect parish. Anna Marie Scherf, who celebrated her 97th birthday on June 6, is a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Rich Fountain.

*We apologize for the error.*

## Laurie parish to host Eucharistic Miracles exhibit in June

**DATES: June 11-12  
June 18-19**

St. Patrick Parish in Laurie will host the Vatican International Exhibition of The Eucharistic Miracles of the World, on Saturdays and Sundays, June 11-12 and June 18-19.

The exhibit will be open after the Saturday and Sunday Masses and will feature display of over 30 Vatican-approved Eucharistic Miracles.

It will be held in conjunction with the June 11 pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, including speaker Ed VanBuskirk with topics on "Living the Ten Commandments."

The pilgrimage begins at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided. To determine a lunch count, reservations are requested for the pilgrimage, by e-mailing [shrinemothers@gmail.com](mailto:shrinemothers@gmail.com) or calling 573-374-6279.

After the 10:15 a.m. Mass on June 19, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, the parish will hold a Eucharistic Procession and public cookout.

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### IT Coordinator - Chancery Office



The Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking applicants for the position of **IT Coordinator**. This person will be responsible for coordinating, planning and leading computer-related activities within the diocese. This position provides direct support to the chancery office and is a supportive consultant to parishes. The focus of this position will require the coordinator to have hands-on experience with complex data management systems such as Blackbaud, email maintenance, telecommunication systems, website development as well as management and support for telecommunications and audio visual needs. Qualified candidates should send their resume to [HRDir@diojeffcity.org](mailto:HRDir@diojeffcity.org).

## Learning sessions this month on homelessness in Columbia

**DATES: March 26 and 27**

Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia will hold a special "eat and learn" gathering on Sunday, June 26, and Monday, June 27.

The subject will be: "Was Jesus homeless?"

It will be held on at 5:30 p.m. Sunday and at 10:30 a.m. on Monday in the Sacred Heart Activity Building, next to Sacred Heart Church 105 Waugh St.

Tom Turner, retired executive director and administrator

of the Bishop Sullivan Center in Kansas City, make a presentation and lead a discussion on the topic of homelessness.

He will begin with the question, "Was Jesus homeless?" based on Jesus' statement: "... And Jesus says to him, the foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man does not have a place where He may lay His head." (Matthew 8:20).

Participants will also discuss Matthew 25:35, part of the parable Jesus gave about the Last Judgement: "I was homeless and you took Me in."

Monsignor Gregory L. Higley, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, noted that the issue of homelessness in Columbia has been a topic of conversation at City Council meetings throughout the winter of 2021-22.

"This 'eat and learn' will be a good experience for anybody who attends to learn more about the realities homeless people face and the reasons why they are homeless," said Msgr. Higley. "And there will be plenty of opportunity to have discussion and ask questions."

## Serving with a future saint



**FROM THE ARCHIVES:** Father Joby P. Thomas, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Moberly, assists at Mass with Pope St. John Paul II (+1979-2005) in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City on Pentecost Sunday in 2000. Fr. Joby was serving as a transitional deacon in Rome during the Church's great Jubilee 2000 celebration and got to assist at Mass with the Pope several times.

### The Catholic Missourian

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— Bishop Joseph M. Marling C.P.P.S., July 7, 1957

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight  
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### Pray for deceased priests

- June 13 — Msgr. Louis W. McCorkle, Conception Infirmary, (2021)
- June 15 — Fr. Lawrence E. Bray, St. Peter, Marshall (1959); Fr. Henry W. Wiesmann, St. Anthony, Rosati (1973)
- June 17 — Msgr. Patrick E. Gavan, St. Brendan, Mexico (1964)
- June 18 — Fr. Philip M. Moriarity, St. Mary of the Angels, Wien (2009)
- June 19 — Fr. Albert M. Brincat, St. Theresa, Dixon (1994)
- June 20 — Fr. William D. Ludwig, St. Robert Bellarmine, St. Robert (1974); Fr. Henry J. Reichert, St. Andrew, Tipton; and Annunciation, California (2009)
- June 21 — Fr. Carlyle B. Green, Assumption, Morrison (1963); Fr. Ferdinand C. Bonn, Our Lady of the Lake, Lake Ozark (2007)

# MAKING CONNECTIONS

## Bishop McKnight

### The Catholic parish in a time of violence

Over these past few weeks, we have seen many serious, sad headlines and news stories reflecting a growing disrespect for the dignity of human life.

Every day, there is news about the suffering of the people of Ukraine who are fighting against an unjust and merciless aggressor. Russia's deliberate targeting of non-military targets and other atrocities violates the basic secular standards of a "just war," let alone our Christian principles. For this reason, the community of nations is responding with material support for Ukraine and sanctions for Russia.

Within our own country, we seem to be in an epidemic of mass shootings, with so many innocent people killed, leaving entire communities in deep pain.

Simple, daily activities like going to a supermarket in Buffalo, or to school in Uvalde, or a hospital in Tulsa are now associated with scenes of carnage.

While the root causes of these recent tragedies are legion, society has every obligation to improve gun safety as prudence would dictate.

And as we patiently await the Supreme Court to overturn nearly 50 years of mandated legal abortions in every state, we will soon find debates close to home about where to draw the line between private, individual choice and the right to life of the little "somebody" already present in the womb.

Some, including the Supreme Court, have been

**"I am heartened by the many good things our local church in central and northern Missouri is already doing to counter the throw-away culture and foster an integrated pro-life witness."**

— Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

wrong before about the dignity of all human life, as when slavery and racism were legally protected and enshrined into law.

It is a sober fact: Whenever we disregard the dignity of any class of human beings, we impoverish our own dignity and the bonds that hold our nation together suffer.

The laity, with well-informed consciences, must prudently judge the specific steps to limit, if not altogether eliminate, the means and opportunities for violence against innocent human be-

ings in our world, nation, and local communities.

Justice and the natural law demand it.

While the Catholic Church has every right and obligation to speak to the political issues of our time and to be clear about what our faith teaches, it would fail in its mission if its clergy reduced its sphere of concern to the political.

Preaching from the pulpit in a manner that condemns those who are wrong and does little to provide hope for the fallen only exacerbates this diminishment. We are a Church of relationships, through which the grace of God extends to the poor and brokenhearted, especially in our celebration of the sacraments.

As the chief pastor of the Diocese of Jefferson City, I have a responsibility to address the spiritual sickness which is at the root of the growing violence around us.

It is hard to fathom the internal motivations one might have to kill the innocent. Confusion, disillusionment and despair come to mind.

But whatever the motivation and wherever it comes from, the parish can and should be the place in which people are taught and shown the dignity we all have as God's children.

Pope Francis described his dream for the parish as "the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration" (*Joy of the Gospel*, no. 28).

Accordingly, our diocesan pastoral plan calls parishes to prioritize becoming centers of charity and sanctuaries of mercy, where those who are in need may experience help and support, not condemnation and rejection.

We have some work to do in this area, however. Our listening sessions for the synod-

al process surfaced that even some in our pews do not feel welcome. Their reasons are various; some find themselves to be judged because of circumstances of their lives, others feel they are invisible, hid-

organization is actively supporting immigrants and refugees from war and continues to feed the hungry, heal the sick, and educate those from broken families.

Many Catholics support and work for the Vitae Foundation and other organizations that support a culture of life by providing a pro-woman approach to reach those struggling with an unplanned pregnancy.

Many of our fellow parishioners belong to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, developing their own spirituality through their personal interactions with people who are poor in their local territories.

As we face the turmoil of our times together, I pray that our parishes going forward may manifest the culture of life that our world so desperately needs by teaching and healing with the hope we have in the grace of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

**"It is a sober fact: Whenever we disregard the dignity of any class of human beings, we impoverish our own dignity and the bonds that hold our nation together suffer."**

— Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

ing in plain sight in the pew.

The more our parishes can be true communities of welcome and hospitality, the more we will fulfill our mission to proclaim the Gospel and the more our society will be healed from its underlying spiritual sickness.

I am heartened by the many good things our local church in central and northern Missouri is already doing to counter the throw-away culture and foster an integrated pro-life witness.

Our Catholic Charities

#### Bishop McKnight's June prayer intention for our Local Church

For all fathers; that through the intercession of St. Joseph they will be able to use their skills and gifts to love and provide for their children and raise them in the faith.



#### Intención del mes de junio del Obispo McKnight por nuestra Iglesia Local

Por todos los padres de familia, que a través de la intercesión de San José puedan usar sus habilidades y dones para amar a sus hijos, proveer por ellos y criarlos en la fe.

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



### Bishop McKnight's Calendar

**JUNE**

- Jun 11-17** USCCB Special Assembly and Committee on National Collections Meeting, San Diego, CA
- Jun 28** Mass and Lunch, 11 am, Camp Siena for Young Women, Henley
- Jun 29** Seminarian Parents Dinner, 6 pm, Bishop's Residence
- Jun 30** Chancery Retirement Luncheon, 11:30 am, Chancery

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## Processions June 19 for Solemnity of Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Sunday, June 19, is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, also known as "Corpus Christi." Several parishes throughout the Jefferson City diocese have planned outdoor processions to mark the feastday and give public witness to their worship of Christ in His Most Blessed Sacrament. All are encouraged to participate, especially those who recently received their First Holy Communion or who were recently confirmed or are newly initiated into the Church. Processions will be held inside in the case of inclement weather. Here are times and locations for some of the local observances, including processions of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Each will be held on Sunday, June 19:

**Columbia** — Eucharistic procession following the 11:30 a.m. Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 903 Bernadette Drive

**Mexico** — Eucharistic procession following the 9 a.m. Mass in St. Brendan Church, 615 S. Washington St., through the adjacent park and back to church for Benediction

**Monroe City** — Eucharistic procession following the 9:30 a.m. Mass in Holy Rosary Church, 405 S. Main St., to three altars of repose in the neighborhood and back to the church for Benediction

**Sedalia** — Eucharistic procession at 12:45 p.m. at St. Patrick Chapel, 415 E. 4th St.

**Wardsville** — Eucharistic procession following the 10:30 a.m. Mass in St. Stanislaus Church, 6418 Route W, followed by Benediction

**Westphalia** — Eucharistic procession following the 10 a.m. Mass in St. Joseph Church, 125 E. Main St., to three altars of repose in the neighborhood and back to church for Benediction

## Father William Peckman reflects on 25 years of being a priest

*The following was written on June 7, 2022, the 25th anniversary of Fr. Peckman's priestly ordination. He is pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Macon, St. Mary Parish in Shelbina, St. Patrick Parish in Clarence and the Mission of Sacred Heart*

*in Bevier.*

By Father William Peckman

When a priest celebrates his anniversary, he isn't celebrating how many years on his job he has been. Priesthood isn't a job. Being a pastor or a teacher or a chaplain are jobs.

Being a priest is like being married. It is a calling from God to fidelity, love and self-giving, all in the service of God and His people. It is total dedication, faithfulness and selflessness, like a good husband does for his wife.

Being a priest is like being a dad. It means providing, protecting, instructing, counseling, interceding for and loving those placed un-

der his care, like a good dad does for his children.

Being a priest is 24/7, just like being a husband and dad is 24/7. It isn't a job ... it is a relationship. It does not shut on and off.

Today, I celebrate the 25th year of my ordination, not the 25th year of a job starting. I am thankful for most every moment. In these 25 years, I have served under three bishops and three popes. I have served 14 parishes. I have moved six times. I have prayed for and encouraged young men to think about priesthood since Day 1.

I am a blip in the overall picture. I will have served a statistically insignificant percentage of the flock for a statistically insignificant percentage of Church history. The Church was around for almost 2 millennia before I came, and it will stretch into eternity long after I am gone. But God has called to me to serve this tiny flock for this tiny time.

At the end of the day, I remember the great quote of



Father William Peckman

St. Theresa of Calcutta, "God does not call us to be successful, only to be faithful."

That tiny flock will need another shepherd, as do other tiny flocks, when the Lord calls me from this life. It is my earnest desire, since Day 1 of these 25 years, that more young men who would have the qualities of a future good husband and dad follow God's will to serve those tiny flocks.

So, if you are looking for the perfect anniversary gift for me, pray a Rosary for priestly vocations for our Diocese of Jefferson City.

If you are young man ... think about it and pray about it.

If you are a parent, encourage your sons or grandsons. Bring out the best. You will have my undying gratitude.

## Follow progress online on Cathedral renovation

Catholics throughout the diocese are invited to participate in a spiritual pilgrimage during the yearlong renovation and renewal of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

A special webpage includes articles, photos and videos showcasing the progress, allowing pilgrims to reflect on the interior artwork, learn about the emphasis on hospitality, and pray for all involved in the work.

[diojeffcity.org/cathedral-renovation](http://diojeffcity.org/cathedral-renovation)



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# Columbia composer's hymn honored as Song of the Year

By Jay Nies

A fellow member of the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Choir in Columbia approached Kate Basi after practice.

"I wanted you to know, you wrote that song for me," she gratefully stated.

It seemed that Mrs. Basi's latest liturgical composition, titled, "Come, All You Thirsty," had hit its mark.

"It's a really humbling thing to be a part of, to be among the people who are creating the music that we walk out of church singing," said Mrs. Basi, a Catholic columnist, author, composer, wife, mother and active parishioner.

"It's a tremendous gift and a tremendous responsibility," she said.

The Association of Catholic Publishers ([catholicpublishers.org](http://catholicpublishers.org)) on June 8 named "Come, All You Thirsty" as its 2022 Song of the Year award.

Mrs. Basi's "Show Us Your Face" was a finalist for the same award in 2019.

"It's a very illustrious group of nominees this year," she stated. "I feel honored just to be included among them."

Based on Isaiah 55, "Come, All You Thirsty" is a contemporary hymn, reminiscent of a lullaby, that invites all who are fatigued in body and soul to lay down their burdens and seek healing refreshment in God.

"This song," Mrs. Basi wrote in her composer notes,



Kate Basi

"belongs to all who are weary of battling forces (both within the Catholic community and in the world) that contradict the heart of the Gospel call. Come, Lord Jesus! Come to these broken places. Call us to the water and make us whole."

### An unexpected challenge

What began with a playful exchange during a parish hymn committee meeting ended up stalking Mrs. Basi for two years.

"There was some joking about how we needed another song on the 'Come to the Water' text," she recalled, referring to the passage from Isaiah and the time-honored Catholic hymn by Father John Foley of the St. Louis Jesuits.

She didn't really take the challenge seriously, "but by the time I left the meeting that day, the melody and the

first phrase was already in my head," she said.

The rest simmered for about two years.

"For a while, I kept ignoring the promptings of the Holy Spirit," she stated. "But it kept coming back to me. So, 'all right, all right, I'll do it.'"

Mrs. Basi doesn't use a smartphone, which allows her to ride her bicycle to the river and escape from the noise.

"That gave me the freedom to really get into my own head and my own soul and be still," she said.

Out of that stillness came pages of densely handwritten notes, filled with open-ended possibilities.

"Then, I would start trying to put them together and realize that line A works with lines B and C, but it could also go with this other set of lines," she said.

The challenge is always for the lyrics to be "accurate theologically but also poetic, to say something different from what's been said before, while containing truths that do not change," she said.

She discovered that Fr. Foley's song, a beloved fixture of the contemporary Catholic canon, focuses as much on

what Jesus says in Matthew 11:28-30 as on the Father's invitation in Isaiah 55.

"I decided to really focus on the Isaiah passage," she said.

She worked and prayed for the kind of familiarity that only God can provide.

"The thing about music for worship is that if you want the assembly to be able to sing it, they have to feel like they've known it their whole life, even though you're putting it in front of them for the first time," she said.

### "All you wounded"

All of this took place during a time of great sadness and division in this country.

The song "took shape over the course of a year — its contours defined by COVID, political ugliness, and revelations of abuse, assault and police brutality," Mrs. Basi stated in her composer notes. "All these

heartbreaking realities were in my thoughts as I wrote, revised and prayed."

The third verse contains a phrase that still pierces her heart: "Come, all you wounded, to the water, you who suffer broken faith, you who fear to trust in the love of God."

"When that came off my pencil, I said, 'That for sure is going in there. Everything has to work around that!'" she recalled. "Sometimes you write things out, and other times, it comes straight out of the mouth of God."

She believes that being a disciple means being part of such an invitation.

"My hope would be that singing something like this would put us all in touch with our own woundedness and make us more empathetic to others," she said.

See THIRSTY, page 19

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## Cross Catholic Outreach Empowers Educational Missions in Ghana to Transform Lives

When Church leaders in developing countries want to undertake ambitious projects — the construction of a school or classrooms, for example — they often turn to Cross Catholic Outreach for help. Since Cross Catholic Outreach was launched more than 20 years ago, its ministry team has had tremendous success funding, equipping and empowering in-country Catholic missions.

One recent example involves educational projects desperately needed in the African nation of Ghana.

“Each of the countries we work in is unique, has specific needs and is working to solve different problems. In Ghana, the Church has identified education projects as a priority, and we are doing what we can to support that mission,” confirmed Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach.

The Catholic Church’s interest in improving educational opportunities in Ghana is justified. While that country has made a lot of improvements to its education system in recent years, the poor still face many challenges in obtaining a quality education. Low education rates are believed to directly correlate to a higher incidence of childhood marriage, teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS infection rates and poverty.

For rural students, daily commutes to and from school can be daunting and even unsafe. Some students don’t even attend traditional schools at the end of that journey — their education takes place underneath a tree, according to Cavnar.

“Fortunately, Catholic leaders in Ghana are aware of these problems and are mobilizing to provide solutions,” he said. “They have plans to build safe classrooms, provide desks and other school furniture, bring in quality study supplies,

and improve or build modern bathroom facilities to alleviate the hardships caused by contaminated water systems. These changes could have a dramatic impact on how the poor are educated — but they can’t be achieved without help. That is why I’m encouraging compassionate American Catholics to support the Church’s educational mission. With the financial help of donors in the U.S., Catholic leaders in Ghana will be able to complete their wonderful educational projects and restore hope in the country’s poorest communities.”

Cavnar added that young girls will benefit most from this support.

“Because they traditionally face greater hurdles to attending school than boys do, girls from the poorest families only receive 4 years of education on average,” he said. “That is unacceptable, and we should be doing everything we can to improve their access to education. In countries like Ghana, education isn’t just a matter of personal growth. It is essential to escape poverty. When we educate these children, we give them an opportunity to explore their talents and achieve their God-given potential.”

**Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach education programs and other outreaches to the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02032, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner or write “Monthly Mission Partner” on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.**



**Above:** In Ghana, Africa, Cross Catholic Outreach is working to replace unsuitable classrooms like this with improved schools and quality supplies to enhance learning. **Below:** Ghana’s children are eager to learn, but they face incredible challenges. Schools need major improvements. Dioceses in the country are working hard to bring about that change, but they will need the support of American Catholics to succeed.



## Dedicated Catholics Make Major Impact on Poverty by Serving as ‘Mission Partners’

Consistency and reliability have always been recognized as important character traits in American culture, and most of us bring up our children to uphold those values, especially in the workplace. We do that because we know consistency and reliability produce stability and help us weather the unexpected storms in life.

The same is true when it comes to charity, according to Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. That is why his ministry cherishes its Mission Partners — donors who have

committed to monthly giving.

“Mission Partners represent the foundation of our ministry,” he said. “Their commitment to helping the poor on a monthly basis gives us a steady, reliable way to serve. Without them, the missions we support in the developing world would never know whether they could rely on us to help with long-term projects, and it would be much more difficult for us to respond to disaster situations. When we can depend on the support of Mission Partners, we can

move forward confidently and take on every challenge that’s put before us.”

Because monthly giving is so important to Cross Catholic Outreach’s work overseas, the ministry makes it as easy as possible for its donors to become Mission Partners. That option is included on appeals, on the charity’s website and in the brochures it distributes at Catholic parishes and in Catholic newspapers.

“Ultimately, we ask people to become Mission Partners because monthly

giving has a huge impact on the priests, religious sisters and Catholic lay leaders working in the trenches, fighting to end hunger and alleviate poverty,” Cavnar said. “When they face an unexpected crisis or a natural disaster strikes, the missions know they can come to us for help because our Mission Partners have provided the resources needed to overcome those immediate challenges. We can make decisions in a matter of hours and send help within days — and the poor are blessed as a result.”

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# American Catholics See Education as Key to Helping Poor Children Escape Generational Poverty

Even before the American colonies became a sovereign nation, civic leaders began to explore new ideas that would create a brighter and more prosperous future for their descendants. One of the goals they pursued involved establishing a more accessible public education system. The first taxpayer-supported public school was opened in Dorchester, Massachusetts, and it offered access to free education as early as 1639.

Hundreds of years have passed since then, but the importance of accessible education has remained a vital part of the American dream — and this view is just as sacred to Church leaders working to better the lives of the poor in developing countries. In fact, many priests and

***“...people are getting involved because they want poor boys and girls to have the same blessings their own children or grandchildren enjoy.”***

Jim Cavnar, President  
Cross Catholic Outreach

religious sisters firmly believe education is the best way to free families from hope-draining poverty.

“You might assume the priests and religious sister working in impoverished communities overseas are focused only on fighting hunger and providing safe water — and they are working hard to address those urgent needs — but they are just as eager to educate poor children because that’s the best way to break the cycle of poverty and put families on an upward trajectory in life,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, one of the leading Catholic ministries working to alleviate poverty in the developing world. “The only thing stopping these Church leaders from doing more is a lack of funding and resources. If we American Catholics help them, they can address the education problem — and do much more.”

Cavnar added that his ministry has received a lot of support for educational outreaches in recent years, and he commends compassionate Catholics in the U.S. who are making that need a priority. It is their support that ensures Church missions succeed.

“Some of these people are getting involved because they want poor boys and girls to have the same blessings their own children or grandchildren enjoy,” Cavnar said. “Others are familiar with the saying, ‘Give a man a fish and he



*For more than 20 years, Cross Catholic Outreach has been helping Catholic missions in developing countries expand their educational outreaches to the poor. Children who could not read or write have been blessed incredibly by these programs, and many have since gone on to college — breaking free of the cycle of poverty that had plagued their families for generations.*

eats for a day; teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime.’ They take that idea to heart and know that education will have a lasting impact. Ultimately, both groups of donors value education because it restores the dignity of a person and opens doors to opportunity. When it is offered through the Church, it can have a life-transforming spiritual impact as well.”

Cavnar speaks from experience. He has been involved in Catholic international relief and development work for more than 30 years and has seen its impact in developing countries firsthand. In fact, Cross Catholic Outreach and its American donors have blessed the poor through educational projects in more than 20 countries over the years, and thousands of children have benefited dramatically.

“When educational options are so severely limited — as is often the case in very poor communities — many children grow up illiterate and have very few opportunities to better their lives. As those kids grow up and have families of their own, that terrible cycle of illiteracy and poverty often continues from one generation to the next,” Cavnar said. “When we provide the poor with education, we can break that trend and

create a cycle of blessings in its place. Our efforts help children escape the slums, and when they do, those young people often lift their parents and siblings out of poverty too. As educated kids become adults, they also make educating their own children a priority, and the good cycle we created continues.”

As with the other humanitarian efforts it supports — feeding programs, water system installations, housing initiatives and the like — Cross Catholic Outreach achieves its successes in education by empowering Catholic missions already working in areas of great need. According to Cavnar, this resourcing of the Church’s existing work is both wise

and effective.

“The dioceses, priests and religious sisters we empower are perfectly positioned to help the poor. They just lack proper funding, supplies and equipment,” he said. “When compassionate American Catholics donate to Cross Catholic Outreach, we can supply those resources, and that makes the most of the in-country missions’ existing facilities and staff. It’s a very cost-effective way of helping the poor, and one of the projects we are working on now is focused on improving educational opportunities in Ghana, Africa.” (See the related story on the opposite page.)

## How to Help

**To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper, or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02032, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.**

If you identify an aid project, 100% of the donation will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.



## QUESTION CORNER

## Priest and monsignor / Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service



**Q. Could you explain for me the difference (if any) between “priest” and “monsignor”? Under what circumstances is a priest given the title of “monsignor”? (Burke, Virginia)**

A. “Monsignor” is a title bestowed on a priest who has distinguished himself by exceptional service to the Church. It is a title granted by the pope — typically, upon the recommendation of the priest’s diocesan bishop. It is a purely honorary title and has no effect on the priest’s duties or ministerial assignment.

Nearly 50 years ago, the Priests’ Senate in my own diocese passed a resolution asking that our bishop no longer name any priests as monsignors. As I recall our discussion, we felt that it was a medieval and inappropriate title (it derives from the Italian words meaning “my Lord”) and that its bestowal could cause hard feelings — not so much with priests who were passed over, but among parishioners whose own pastor had not been so honored.

So it was with some satisfaction that I noticed, in January 2014, that Pope Francis had instructed the bishops of the world that diocesan priests would no longer be awarded the title before reaching the age of 65. No reasons were published for the pope’s decision, but Pope Francis has often cautioned priests against careerism and personal ambition.

When he was a bishop and later a cardinal in Argentina, Pope Francis always asked people to call him “Father.” And notably, while he served as archbishop of Buenos Aires, not once did he petition the Holy See to have one of his priests named a monsignor.

**Q. When I was growing up, we celebrated Passion Sunday and the statues in church were covered with purple cloths. Then, a week later, it was Palm Sunday, and we received the blessed palms. The following weekend, we celebrated Easter. But for several years now, our parish has marked Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday on the same day, one week before Easter — and the statues are no longer covered. So my question is this: When did these two Sundays become one, and why? (Indiana)**

A. You are correct that, up until 1969, the Church celebrated “Passion Sunday” two weeks before Easter. A passion narrative was read as the Gospel passage for that day, and the Church began to turn its focus to the sufferings of Jesus.

Since 1969, when the Vatican published new liturgical norms and the three-year cycle of readings, this particular Sunday is now called “the Fifth Sunday of Lent,” and the Gospel readings used in antiquity have been restored.

The purpose of the change, as I understand it, was to be able to devote the first five weeks of Lent, as it was in the Church’s early history, to the preparation of catechumens for entrance into the Church at Easter.

One vestige of the former calendar remains: Beginning on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the practice of covering crosses and images in the church is permitted. (Note that it is “permitted,” not mandated; discretion is given to the local pastor.)

Images (statues of saints, for example) are uncovered after the start of the Easter Vigil; crosses are unveiled on Good Friday, when the faithful are invited to venerate the cross.

I have never heard the explanation you propose for veiling the cross — namely, that Jesus is “hiding” from those who would crucify Him. The reason most commonly offered is that the veils represent a sort of “fasting” from the sacred depiction of what ultimately led to the glory of our salvation.

## Papal Audience June 8, 2022

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on the meaning and value of old age in the light of God’s word, we now consider the words spoken by Jesus to Nicodemus: “No one can see the kingdom of God without being born anew” (Jn. 3:3) by water and the Holy Spirit. This spiritual rebirth does not negate or detract from the value of our earthly existence, but points it towards its ultimate fulfillment in the eternal life and joy of heaven. Our age, with its frantic pursuit of the myth of eternal youth, needs to relearn this truth and to see every age of life as preparation for the eternal happiness for which we were created. Jesus tells Nicodemus: “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but may have eternal life (v. 16). The elderly, through their faith, wisdom and experience, can bear convincing witness to the presence of God’s kingdom in our midst and the authentic meaning of our earthly existence as a foretaste of that true “eternal youth” which awaits us in the new creation inaugurated by Christ and his Holy Spirit.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s audience, especially those from England, the Philippines and the United States of America. I offer a special greeting to the many student groups present. Upon you and your families I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!



## Lake Area Community Orchestra

Seventy-six visitors to St. Michael Church in Russellville partake of the first performance for the Lake Area Community Orchestra’s 2022 Summer Concert Series on May 31. The orchestra, made up of 35 volunteer musicians and directed by Andrew Drennan, played a wide range of musical selections. The parish provided refreshments.



— Photo by Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki VG

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# Why do some Catholics challenge good Samaritans?

By Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio  
Catholic News Service



As retired bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, I, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, have a long history of service to immigrants beginning with my first priestly days. I am happy to be able to continue to serve the cause of migrants in my retirement.

So, I begin this series of articles titled “Walking With Migrants” that will appear in hopefully many diocesan newspapers, informing our Catholics about the facts of migration and how Church teaching affects the work and the policy positions taken by the Catholic Church.

My hope is that more Catholics will come to embrace the Church’s teachings on migration — a topic rarely preached upon, often misunderstood and even opposed by many Catholics.

Recently, the border situation in Texas has prompted a number of lawsuits against the Diocese of Brownsville and its Catholic Charities.

It is truly unfortunate that an organization called CatholicVote worked in tandem with Judicial Watch to file a Freedom of Information Act request to probe the relationship between the diocese, Catho-

lic Charities and the federal government, and then to sue the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) over this information.

CatholicVote claims that somehow the government and the Church are in collusion with one another, trying to bring more migrants across the border. Yet, the work of Catholic Charities is totally humanitarian.

Many people crossing the border today are asylees, who under international law have a right to a hearing on the merits of their claim. Many are apprehended, and later DHS turns some over to Catholic Charities for basic humanitarian services such as lodging and food. Some eventually are provided with assistance (bus fare) to travel to their relatives where they will await their asylum hearings, while in removal proceedings.

CatholicVote’s claim is that somehow this kind of assistance is a form of human trafficking. Of course, it is not, which it could easily have found out by asking the Diocese of Brownsville.

It is important to understand Catholic teaching on this very human issue. When I was chairman of the U.S. Conference Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration, the U.S. bishops worked together with the Mexican bishops to develop five basic principles that guide the work of the

church in this area.

One principle is that sovereign nations have the authority and responsibility to administer their borders, but at the same time (this is the fifth principle) the human dignity and human rights of refugees, asylum-seekers and undocumented people must be respected.

As Sister Norma Pimentel, director of Catholic Charities in the Brownsville Diocese said in February, “I can assure you (migrants) are not uprooting themselves to come to our Respite Center so they can take a bath and have a meal or sleep on a mat. They are leaving dire circumstances back in their home countries, risking everything to come here with the hope they can find a safe place to raise their families.”

The root causes of migration go much deeper than the supposed pull factor of some humanitarian aid available at the border. The push and pull theory of migration has long been disproven as simplistic. The root causes of migration de-

mand much study.

Most of the migrants coming today, from Central American countries, are fleeing situations of violence and persecution. It can, however, be difficult for many migrants to meet the strict standard and provide the level of proof demanded of them by the courts to be granted asylum.

Creating new and strengthening existing legal immigration pathways based on family ties, humanitarian needs, and school and work opportunities could serve to reduce the number of people taking dangerous journeys to the border.

The governor of Texas, Gregory Abbott, issued an executive order, GA-37, prohibiting the transport of migrants by anyone other than government agents. This order — like the CatholicVote lawsuit — was aimed at Catholic Charities, which legally assists migrants, after release, to go to bus stations or airports for travel to their destinations.

See DIMARZIO, page 22

## Sitting in grief

By Katie Prejean McGrady  
Catholic News Service



We went to Hobby Lobby.

It just opened up, you see. Brand new store. Because back in August 2020, the old one was blown away in Hurricane Laura. And so for

nearly two years we’ve waited, sometimes not so patiently, for the store with wooden signs with pithy phrases to reopen.

Earlier, as I sat at home watching the horrific headlines cross my TV screen yet again, “19 children dead in school shooting,” I asked my nearly 5-year-old daughter if she wanted to go to Hobby Lobby.

Because it felt like something normal that we could do. And nothing else felt normal. Nothing else felt right. Nothing else felt OK. Let’s just go to the new store and buy some craft supplies and a sign that says, “Live Love Laugh,” and try to not think about the tragedy of tiny children being killed in their classrooms two days before summer vacation.

We bought some kites. They have Elsa from “Frozen” on them.

Then we got back in the car, turned on the Disney station on Sirius XM and “Shiny” from “Moana” began.

“Oh this one’s my favorite, Mom! Can you turn it loud!”

And we drove home, the songs from “Moana” making my minivan shake.

Just one tiny normal excursion, to remind me of the gift my child is, to help me stay grounded in a moment of deep grief at the thought that 19 children will never go to Hobby Lobby or get buckled into the minivan ever again.

I hopped over to AP News to look at more news about the tragic shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas. A quick rundown of “What We Know So Far” was top of the website, and as I scrolled through the story, a tiny detail jumped out.

Some students at the school, after the awards ceremony that morning, were sitting in their classroom watching “Moana,” enjoying that first taste of summer break while still at school for just a couple more days.

And that’s when they heard the pop pop pop of the AR-15, ran to take cover, hide, escape.

I lost it.

Tears flooded my eyes. My heart began to pound. The room seemed to spin.

Minutes before we’d listened to “Moana” songs, the same songs those little kids

See MCGRADY, page 20

## REFLECTION

### “Teach us to pray”

By Mark Saucier

“Our thoughts and prayers are with you.”

It’s a genuine response by some unable to say anything else in the face of another’s pain.

It may be cliché, but it is true: they are thinking, at least, of those left behind.

Uttered by others who might make a difference but refuse to even try, it is hypocritical, cowardly or both. Prayer is empty without some subsequent act to fill it.

Most of all, though, the words bear a staggering challenge.

How do you pray for people you’ve never met, living somewhere you’ve never been, struggling through a tragedy that few have ever faced?

And for whom do we pray? Those who have been violently ushered out? They are in the hands of a loving and merciful God.

Do I pray for their loved ones, their classmates or neighbors? What do I know of their grief, their torment or their fears?

We went to a prayer service planned after the shooting in Buffalo, and before it could even take place there was another in Uvalde.

How can we say “Our thoughts and prayers are with you” when there is no time to linger in either before death calls us to another killing field?

One thing we can do is make it personal.

Ruth Whitfield was more than a name on a casualty list. At 86, her husband was in a nursing home. She rode a bus nearly every day to visit and bring him clothes she had washed and ironed. She’d shave him, trim his nails and just sit and talk. Going home, she stopped to get groceries.

Jose Flores, was “Josecito” to his family. He played baseball in the Uvalde Little League. He loved all sports and most cars.

At 10, he wanted to be a cop. School was hard for him, but he just made the honor role. Then his life ended, not with cancer or in an accident, but from a hail of bullets piercing his little body.

If “our hearts and prayers are with you,” then we must lament, crying to God about all the suffering.

Death shouldn’t come like this. Ruth should be kissing her husband and Jose rounding second.

We should lament the loss of life, of dreams and of hope. Our lament should unveil the carnage, groan in pain, and fill us with anger.

We lay it all before God, praying “my soul is in deep anguish. How long, Lord, how long?”

# Franciscan Sr. Mary Evelyn Lamb OSF, Aud native, observes platinum jubilee

By Brian C. Blasco

Springfield, Illinois

Franciscan Sister Mary Evelyn Lamb, 99, a native of Aud in Osage County, is observing the 70th anniversary of her first profession of vows with the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis.

Sr. Mary Evelyn was born on Dec. 27, 1922, the daughter of J. Earl and Hada (Mantle) Lamb.

She is a 1935 graduate of Aud Public School and a 1946 graduate of Chamois High School.

She entered the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis in Springfield, Illinois, on Sept. 8, 1949, and professed first vows on June 13, 1952.

“Early in my life, I remember that my father was very religious and really taught us to pray,” Sr. Mary Evelyn said.

“He also taught us to depend on God and to attend daily Mass whenever possible,” she added.

Her mother taught the children catechism from a “big, brown catechism book our pastor had gotten for her,” she said.

“Daddy would read us bed-



**LEFT:** Franciscan Sister Evelyn Lamb in 1950. **RIGHT:** a more recent photo of Sr. Evelyn.

time stories from the Lives of the Saints,” she recalled, “and every night before we went to bed, we knelt in the dining room and prayed the Rosary led by Daddy.”

In 1956, she graduated from Quincy University with a Bachelor of Science degree.

She graduated from St. John’s Hospital School of Nursing in Springfield, Illinois, in 1958, and in 1975 from Sangamon State University in Springfield with a Bachelor of Arts degree in nursing.



She has carried out many assignments with the Hospital Sisters, including at:

- St. John’s Hospital in Springfield, Illinois;
- St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay, Wisconsin;
- St. Mary’s Hospital in Decatur, Illinois;
- St. Joseph’s Hospital in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin; and
- St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield, Illinois.

She also worked for the Springfield, Illinois & Sangamon County Community Action; the Alverna Home Nursing Center in Chicago; and Interfaith Caregivers Inc. in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis is an international congregation of Franciscan Sisters founded in Germany in 1844.

Provinces include Germany, Poland, USA, Japan and India.

The American Province, based in Springfield, Illinois, was founded in 1875 when Sisters from Germany arrived and began a healthcare ministry.

The Province is the Founding Institute of Hospital Sisters Ministries, which sponsors 15 hospitals and an integrated physician network across Illinois and Wisconsin through Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS).

*Mr. Blasco is director of communications and Provincial archivist for the USA Province of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis ([hospitalisters.org](http://hospitalisters.org)).*

## Nodding and smiling



These custom-made bobblehead dolls depicting members of the local clergy were auctioned off as part of a fundraiser during the Columbia Knights of Columbus councils’ annual Vocations Appreciation Dinner in May. They include desktop replicas of Father Brad Berhorst, who is concluding his tenure as associate pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish; Father Daniel Merz, pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish; Father Paul Clark, who is concluding his tenure as associate pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish; and Monsignor Gregory L. Higley, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish. A company in California custom-made each of the amenable statuettes, based on portraits sent by the dinner’s organizers. The auction generated over \$2,400, which will be given to seminarians the councils support, with a portion being donated to the diocesan Vocations Office. Council 1529 (Our Lady of Lourdes), 7231 (St. Thomas More Newman Center) and 14414 (Sacred Heart) work together to organize the Vocations Appreciation Dinner each year.

— Photo by Tim Vargenko

## Pilgrims’ progress



Father Henry Ussher, pastor of St. Clement Parish in St. Clement, St. Joseph Parish in Louisiana and the Mission of Mary Queen of Peace, gathers in the chapel of the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Startkenburg with a group he led on pilgrimage to the shrine on May 26. They also visited the outdoor grottos and Stations of the Cross and the St. Martin Church Museum.

— Photo from Fr. Ussher’s Facebook page



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# Tolton Catholic H.S. graduates to continue blazing a trail

By Jay Nies

Stormy skies gave way to Trailblazer blue as Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School's 66 newest graduates embarked on the next stretch of their path to heaven.

"If there's one thing I learned at my time here at Tolton Catholic, it's 'Once a Trailblazer, always a Trailblazer!'" Claire Thurnau told fellow members of the Class of 2022 during their graduation ceremonies May 15.

Graduating senior Justin Boyer led the invocation, thanking God for the school, the faculty and staff, the seniors' families, their friends, the hardships they have endured together, the jokes and happy memories they've shared, and for God's love, "which has been made evident through the relationships we will carry with us beyond these walls."

Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, vicar general of the Jefferson City diocese, congratulated the graduating seniors, their teachers and their families.

He spoke of "Three Gs" that he hoped for them: gratitude, goals and the Gospel.

"May your hearts always continue to be grateful to God and to all those who work amidst you here in the heart of Missouri," he said.

He urged them to put what they've learned and experienced to best use in forging and carrying-out new goals as their future unfolds, including "the way we serve the community, Church and our nation."

He reminded them that having witnessed the power of Christ among them in difficult and easy times, they must now follow "the command of our Lord to go out and teach the whole world the Good News."

Joining Msgr. Kurwicky on the platform were Dr. Daniel Everett, PhD, president and principal of Tolton Catholic; Dr. Erin Vader, PhD, diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools; Father Christopher Cordes, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia and chairman of the school's board of trustees; and Father Michael Coleman, who has been a chaplain at the school

since its founding in 2011.

## Tears and fire

Fr. Coleman presided at the school's Baccalaureate Mass the evening before graduation.

"As we say goodbye to you all, it's with tears in our eyes and fire in our hearts," he told the soon-to-be graduates. "Because you're going to do great things for God."

He reminded the seniors that Jesus is inviting them to be His disciples. He urged them to talk to God frequently, listen to Him, and love Him above all else.

"You were loved, even before you were formed in the womb," the priest insisted. "God has loved us for all eternity, and there is nothing and no one who could ever take that away!"

Joining Fr. Coleman at the

**More photos from this event have been posted in *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition, [cathmo.com](http://cathmo.com). Select "Photo Galleries" from the "Multimedia" tab on the menu bar.**

altar were Fr. Cordes and Father Daniel Merz, pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia.

## "Just the beginning"

Two members of the Class of 2022 addressed their classmates and their families at graduation.

Claire called to mind some of her class's achievements, such as contributing to six district titles and 12 state appearances in sports, resulting in eight state championships; an average cumulative grade point average of 3.8223; and an average ACT score of 23.9.

"Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us that 'God has a great plan for you,'" Claire stated. "Thank you to the faculty and staff who spent the past four years helping us know how to seek



The members of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School's Class of 2022 toss their mortarboards into the air at the end of their graduation ceremony on May 15 in Columbia.

— Photo by Jay Nies

His path."

She thanked the seniors' friends and families "who helped us pursue our dreams and encouraged us every step of the way."

"But most of all, thank you to the fellow seniors of the Class of 2022 for all the memories, late-night adventures, group chats to help with classes, the laughs, game days, the FaceTime calls and of course, the senior year story," she said.

Carley Sapp carried the theme of trailblazing through her recollections of the past four years.

Despite setbacks and challenges, "we achieved greatness, and we definitely won our senior year," she said.

She thanked the parents for choosing Tolton Catholic; Fr. Coleman and Father Paul Clark, chaplains, for their constant reminders that "God is good"; and the teachers who taught subjects as well as how to be better people and responsible adults.

"Although this feels like an ending, it isn't," Carley insisted. "It's just the beginning of a new section of the trail we have already been blazing."

## "Never forget"

Among the awards presented to the graduating seniors were:

•The St. Paul Service Award to Serena Anderson, Catherine Mayhan, Emma Spencer and Matthew Sutter, who completed more than 200 hours of community service during their

four years at Tolton Catholic;

•The Fr. Coleman Award to Anna Devine and Christian Rischer, for exemplifying the spirit of the school;

•The Bishop Gaydos Award to Catherine Mayhan, and the school's highest honor, the Fr. Tolton Award, to Christian Rischer. Both awards are for exemplifying the school's mission.

Dr. Everett and Msgr. Kurwicky presented the diplomas.

Fr. Coleman called down a blessing upon the Class of 2022.

"Never forget that you are loved," Dr. Everett told them.

## Time of transformation

Four of the newly minted graduates took part in an infor-

mal discussion about what Tolton Catholic has meant to them and how they've changed in the past four years.

Andrew Jenner knew only one of his classmates when he landed at Tolton Catholic as a freshman.

"But I ended up getting a lot of friends, and I opened up more and became more myself through these four years," he said.

Christian wasn't particularly outgoing when he first arrived at "Trailblazer Central."

"But I've definitely branched out, which I think has helped me grow as a person," he said.

Claire recognized her biggest change in her capacity to lead.

"I used to be a follower," she said. "But here at Tolton, they helped shape me into being a person who believes, 'You are your own person. You can do whatever you set out to do, and no one is going to judge you for it.'"

Likewise, Catherine grew in self-confidence.

"I'm much more willing to just be me," she said. "I've grown in my ability to lead,

See TOLTON CATHOLIC, page 19

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# Sacred Heart Class of 2022 told to remain grateful, courageous

By Jay Nies

The years gone by have been blessed, filled with happy and sad memories and with gratitude and anticipation.

All of that was evident as Sacred Heart High School's Class of 2022 came together to recognize and give thanks for all the blessings of the time they spent together.

The blessings are abundant.

The 13 members of the high school's 78th graduating class posted a combined 3.67 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale, with nine graduating seniors posting a 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher, and seven maintaining 3.85 or higher over their four years of high school.

The new graduates have been offered a combined \$1,915,472 in college scholarships and will take more than 200 hours of college credit with them.

## Giving thanks

The evening of May 20, two days before graduation, the seniors and their families gathered in the Sacred Heart Chapel for their Baccalaureate Mass.

Father David Veit, one of the pastors *in solidum* of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, presided at the Mass and preached the homily, using the prayers for the Votive Mass of Thanksgiving.

"We gather with great joy for this unique opportunity

to make a prayer of thanksgiving for the good things that God has already given these seniors, and also for the things that they will do in the future," said Fr. Veit.

He spoke of Sacred Heart School's primary mission, which is to help prepare young people to follow Christ for the rest of their lives.

"What we do in a Catholic school is to raise up disciples and give our students opportunities to live out their faith, that they might gratefully recognize what God has given them, receive those gifts and then, in gratitude, share those gifts," he said.

He told the seniors that their diploma will be much more than a wall decoration.

"For me, it's a reminder of everything that happened in high school that formed me and changed me — and I'm continuing to be formed and changed because it never ends — into a better disciple of Jesus Christ," he said.

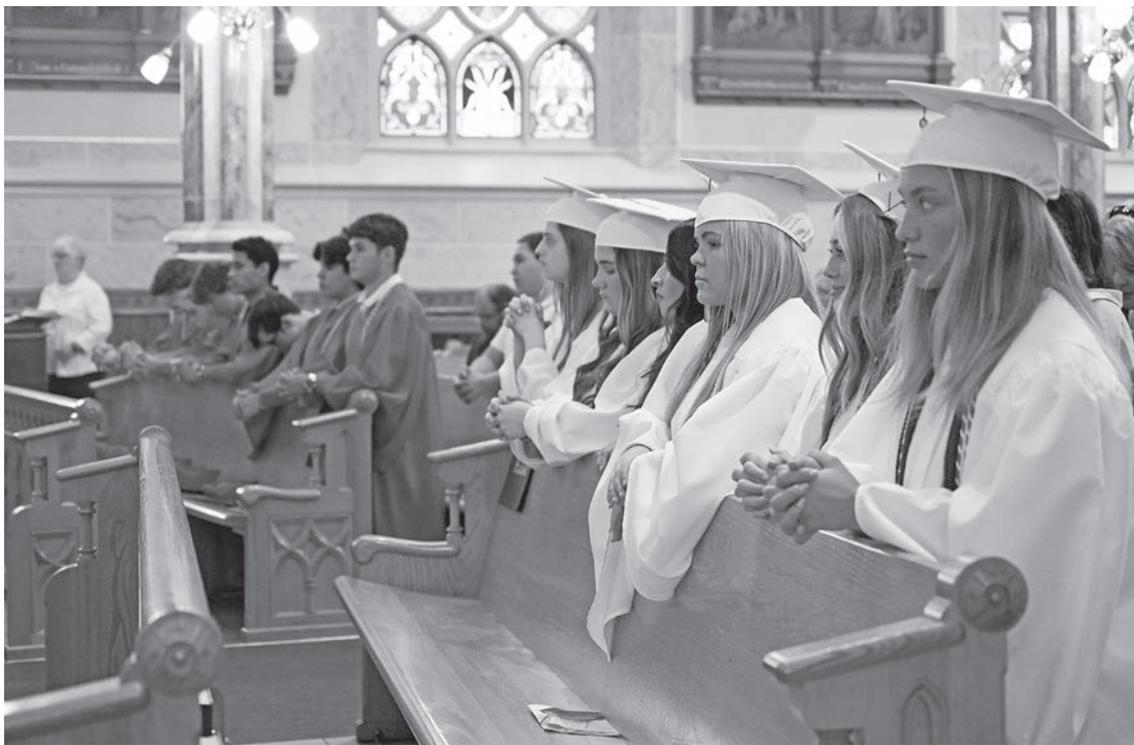
He reminded the seniors that God has chosen them to receive His gifts in gratitude, recognize them and share them with others.

Fr. Veit said graduation is about giving thanks.

"Not because you're done with anything, but because now you are beginning, in full measure, out into the world, to share these gifts that you have been developing and have recognized and joyfully received," he stated.

He said what will distinguish the soon-to-be graduates of Sacred Heart School is that they were "not just educated but that you were formed for the values that Christ handed on to us."

"And we rejoice in that!" he said. "We rejoice in the im-



Soon-to-be-graduating seniors of Sacred Heart High School in Sedalia kneel during their Baccalaureate Mass in Sacred Heart Chapel.

— Photo by Jay Nies

mense potential that is going to be when you cooperate with God's grace, fulfilled in you, that you are appointed, chosen by God to bear great and lasting fruit!

"You have been doing that for your whole time at Sacred Heart," he said. "This is truly not the beginning of the end, but the end of the beginning of your discipleship."

## "Have courage"

History teacher Jane McMullen, herself a Sacred Heart graduate, gave the keynote address at commencement.

She urged the graduating seniors not to be afraid of difficult things. "It is from adversity that you learn the most and continue to grow emotionally, intellectually and in wisdom," she said.

She told them to keep trying new things without fear of failure, to surround themselves with supportive people, to keep long-term goals in mind, to have fun and stay close to God and their faith.

"Have the courage to seek the truth, and speak the truth, to stand up for the underdog, and to stand up against intolerance — even if yours is the lone voice," she advised.

"Have the courage to trust your gut and your own moral compass — your innate understanding of right and wrong," she said. "Have the courage to love fearlessly and uncondi-

tionally, and don't compromise that love because of arrogance or insecurity."

## "Always coming back"

Many of the graduates had been in school together for 13 years, including Claire Smeltzer and Kiley Beykirch.

"You know absolutely everyone and their stories, and it's a lot of friendships," Claire stated.

They've all seen the best and worst of each other, and they choose to remain friends, she said.

"A lot of these relationships not just with your classmates but with the teachers in the school have been such a big part of our lives since kindergarten," Kiley noted. "So going from these people being a huge part of my life, to only seeing them when we come back and visit, it's going to be pretty hard.

"But they've shaped us, so they've been worth it," she said.

Kiley plans to attend Texas Christian University in Fort Worth this fall. Claire plans to attend Truman State University in Kirksville.

Both said it will feel different not having numerous reminders throughout the day to put their faith into practice.

"Here, you're always being reminded of God, so you're always coming back to Him," said Kiley. "Especially in times

when you're going through childhood or when you're a teenager and you're feeling a little like rebellious in the mind, it's really good to be hearing that reminder, because otherwise you might have strayed away."

For Claire, just being at school is full of important reminders.

"I've grown up being Catholic," she said. "It's just a part of my life. I think I'd truly be missing something if I let go of it or forgot about it."

Kiley said: "If I didn't have my faith, I'd definitely feel a void that needed to be filled by something, and I don't think anything else could really fill that void."

She added that she loves the formality of the sacred rituals, which she and her classmates got to learn the meaning and significance of as students of Sacred Heart.

"So it's all the more special because you have the education to back it up," she said.

Claire said that when it comes to leading other people to Christ, it's important for people to practice their faith with joy and an attitude of openness.

Both encouraged adults to see that young people are growing up amidst constant change.

"Listening to the younger

See SACRED HEART, page 17

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# Messenger

A quarterly publication by the Missouri Catholic Conference

## Missouri Rolls Out School Choice Scholarship Program

MISSOURI  
CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE 

June 2022

**School choice advocates take note!** The Missouri Treasurer's office is rolling out the new Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESA) program, passed into law in 2021, that allows qualifying students to apply for a scholarship to attend a private or other qualifying school. Scholarships are funded by donations made to scholarship granting organizations called education assistance organizations (EAOs), which distribute the scholarships and provide donors with a state tax credit equal to the amount of their donation. The total amount of tax credits available is currently capped at \$25M, limiting the number of scholarships available to around 3,900. Each scholarship is \$6,375, which is the state "adequacy target," the amount of money the state allocates to public school districts for each public-school student.

Education scholarships like these have been a priority for school choice advocates for years, including the Missouri Catholic Conference, but passing such a bill in Missouri has proven elusive until last year. House Bill 349, sponsored by Rep. Phil Christofanelli (R-St. Charles), passed the House early in the 2021 legislative session with just 82 votes, the minimum required for passage, before heading to the Senate. The bill was expected to face significant resistance on the Senate floor, but once it was brought up for a vote in the final weeks of session, the Senate voted 20 in favor and 13 against, sending the bill to the governor, who signed it on July 14th.

Since that time, the Missouri Treasurer's office has selected the education assistance organizations that will distribute the tax credits and the scholarships. It has also published regulations governing the program.

In this *Messenger*, you'll learn more about the program, including which students qualify, donation standards and EAO regulations.



MCC FROM THE  
*CAPITOL*

The accompanying episode of MCC from the Capitol features guests Jeremy Lillig from the Bright Futures Fund and Nicolette Gibson from MoCAPE. Join along as we dive into the program, how it works, and what it means for the students in your life.

*Scan here to listen*



## Who qualifies for the Missouri ESA program?

The Missouri ESA program, MOScholars, provides scholarship accounts for qualified students using tax credit- leveraged contributions from private donors.

Qualified students, in order of priority, are defined as:

- Any elementary or secondary school student who is a resident of Missouri and resides in an eligible city or county (a county with a charter form of government, or any city with at least 30,000 residents), who:
- Has an approved "individualized education plan" (IEP) developed under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The term "individualized education plan" means: An individualized education program (IEP) as defined in 20 U.S.C. §1414(d)(1)(A)(i); or
- An individual service plan (ISP) that is developed in cooperation with a local educational agency under the IDEA, specifically those provisions pertaining to parentally placed private school children found in 20 U.S.C. §1412(a)(10) and 34 CFR §300.132(b).
- Any IEP or ISP that is proffered for program eligibility must be dated within thirty-six months of the date of the student's application to the program.
- Students with ISPs that are not developed under the IDEA are not eligible.

OR

- Lives in a household whose total annual income does not exceed 100% of the free and reduced lunch rate; and,  
Attended a public school as a full-time student for at least one (1) semester during the previous twelve (12) months; or  
Is a child who is eligible to begin kindergarten or first grade.

If funding remains available after all students who meet these qualifications have been served, then the next category of qualified student is any student who: Is a member of a household whose total annual income does not exceed 200% of the standard used to qualify for free and reduced lunches and meets at least one of the following qualifications:

- Attended a public school as a full-time student for at least one (1) semester during the previous twelve (12) months; or  
Is a child who is eligible to begin kindergarten or first grade.

## What expenses do scholarship funds cover?

Scholarship funds may be used only for eligible program expenses, including: Tuition or fees at a qualified school; Textbooks required by a qualified school; Educational therapies or services from a licensed or accredited practitioner or provider including, but not limited to, licensed or accredited paraprofessionals or educational aides; Tutoring services; Curriculum; Tuition or fees for a private virtual school; Fees for a nationally standardized norm-referenced achievement test, advanced placement examinations, international baccalaureate examinations, or any examinations related to college or university admission; Fees for management of the Missouri empowerment scholarship account by firms selected by the EAO; Services provided by a public school including, but not limited to, individual classes and extracurricular programs; Computer hardware or other technological devices that are used to help meet the qualified student's educational needs and that are approved by an EAO; Fees for summer education programs and specialized after-school education programs; Transportation costs for mileage to and from a qualified school.

## Funding Scholarship Accounts

Certified EAOs will utilize MOScholars tax credits to solicit contributions from eligible donors. Donors reserve tax credits through the MOScholars online system, then make a contribution to the certified EAO. The contribution is used to fund scholarships, and the donor receives a tax credit that is used to offset their Missouri tax liability under sections 143 and 153.

The certified EAO is responsible for accepting eligible contributions and submitting supporting documentation from eligible donors, then providing donors with a State Treasurer's Office (STO) approved receipt for the contribution.

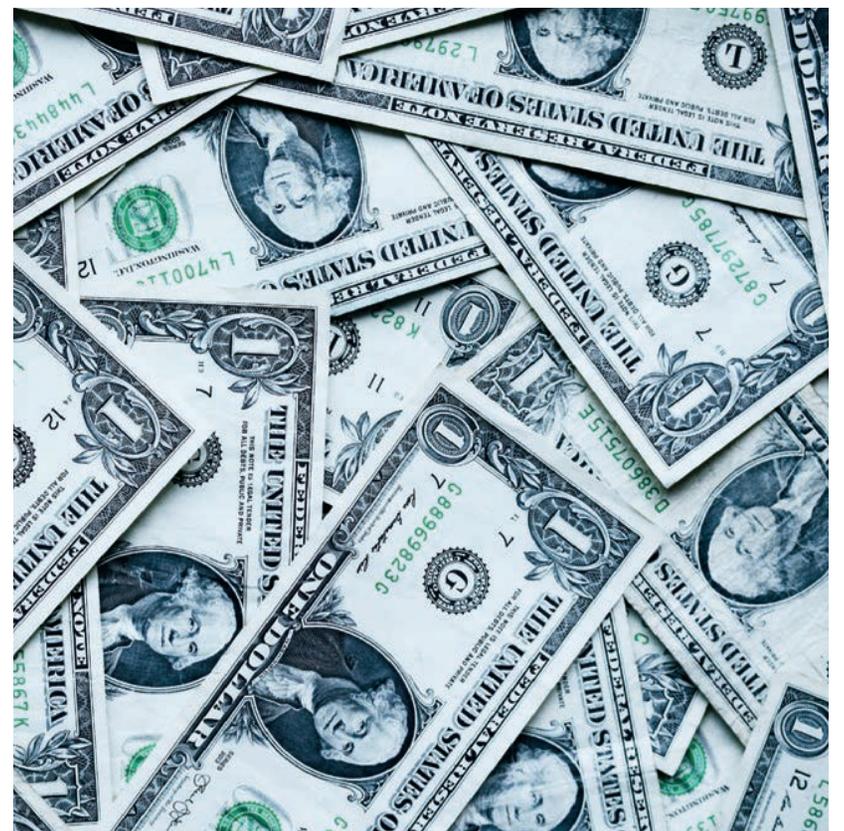
*See the donation process graphic on the next page*

## Eligible Contributions

Eligible contributions are monetary donations of \$500 or more, including: Checks drawn on a US banking institution; Money orders; Electronic funds transfers

## MOScholars Tax Credits - Special Features and Limitations

- The credit is equal to 100% of a contribution to a certified EAO, not to exceed 50% of the donor's state tax liability for the tax year the credit is used.
- Any portion of the tax credit not used against Missouri tax liability in the year it was first claimed may be carried forward for four (4) subsequent tax years.
- The contribution date is the date the funds are deposited in the EAO's account.
- Tax credit contributions cannot be designated for a particular student.
- The tax credit is not sellable, transferrable, or refundable.
- Prior to issuing tax credits to donors, the Missouri Department of Revenue will check for tax delinquencies and offset any donor credits accordingly.



## MOScholars Organization Eligibility

An EAO is a nonprofit organization that, after being certified by the Missouri State Treasurer's office, can receive qualified contributions from individuals and businesses to award scholarship accounts to qualified Missouri students. The EAO establishes and maintains relationships with eligible schools to create a network of schools students may use scholarship funds to attend.

- An organization that desires to be an EAO must meet the following eligibility criteria:
- The organization is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3).
- The organization is registered to do business and is in Good Standing with the Missouri Secretary of State's Office.
- The organization has a physical presence in Missouri.
- The organization has not been through a Chapter 7 or Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the seven years immediately preceding the application for certification.
- The organization participates in E-Verify. E-Verify is a web-based system that allows enrolled employers to confirm employee eligibility to work in the United States. E-Verify employers verify the identity and employment eligibility of newly hired employees by matching information provided by employees on the Form I-9 against records available to the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Entities receiving allocations of Missouri state tax credits are required to participate in the employment verification program. To learn more about E-Verify or to register, visit: <https://www.e-verify.gov/>
- An EAO may not have a president, officer, or director who owns or operates a qualified school that is participating in the program. Additionally, an EAO may not provide a scholarship account to a child of: a president, officer, or director; a member of the board; or, an employee of the EAO.



More information can be found at <https://treasurer.mo.gov/pdf/MOScholarsEAOGuidelines.pdf>

## The Donation Process

Donor visits the STO website to reserve MOScholars tax credits and receives a confirmation

Within 30 days, the donor submits the donation and confirmation to the EAO

The EAO submits the confirmation, along with proof of the donation to the STO

The STO processes the tax credit, then sends the tax credit receipt to the EAO, for forwarding to the donor

Monthly, the EAO sends a remittance report and supporting documents to the STO

Donor uses the tax credits against taxes owed to the MO Department of Revenue

Learn more about two Catholic organizations that have been selected to serve as EAOs.



The Bright Futures Fund strives to challenge and encourage students in Kansas City to discover their full potential while developing a personal relationship with Christ. The money raised by this fund fully supports operating costs of our two Bright Futures Schools and subsidizes tuition for nearly 100 percent of students at those schools. Additionally, Honoring Family Scholarships and the Richard and Olivia Mock Scholarship Program provide assistance for families who wish to continue with Catholic education for their children at select Catholic high schools. Through these programs, we aim to develop a foundation of social justice within every student and build communities where families can feel safe and welcome, regardless of economic or immigration status.

The Bright Futures Fund is an independent 501(c)(3) corporation, with 100% of donations going directly to students. All administrative costs are underwritten by the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

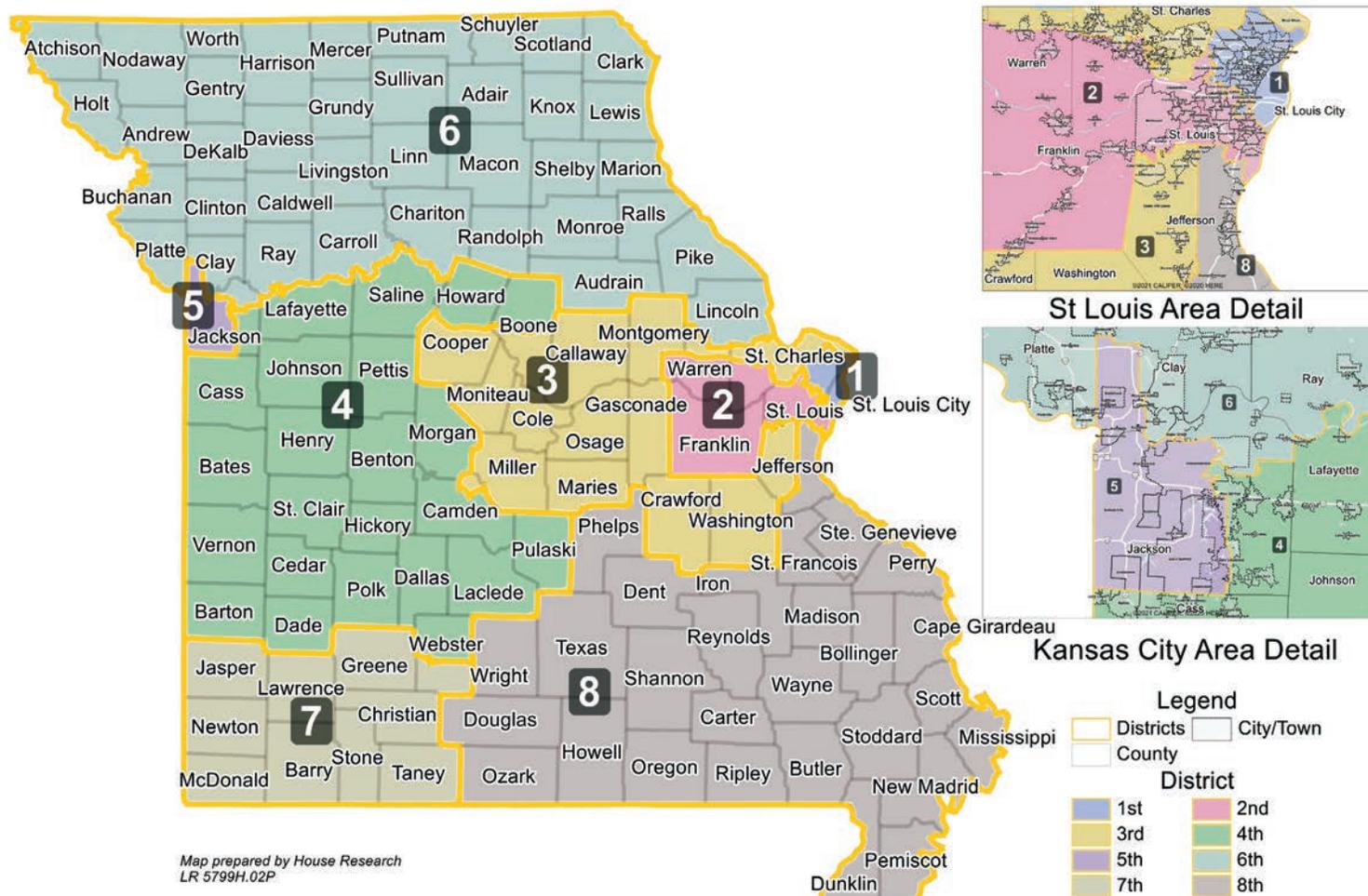


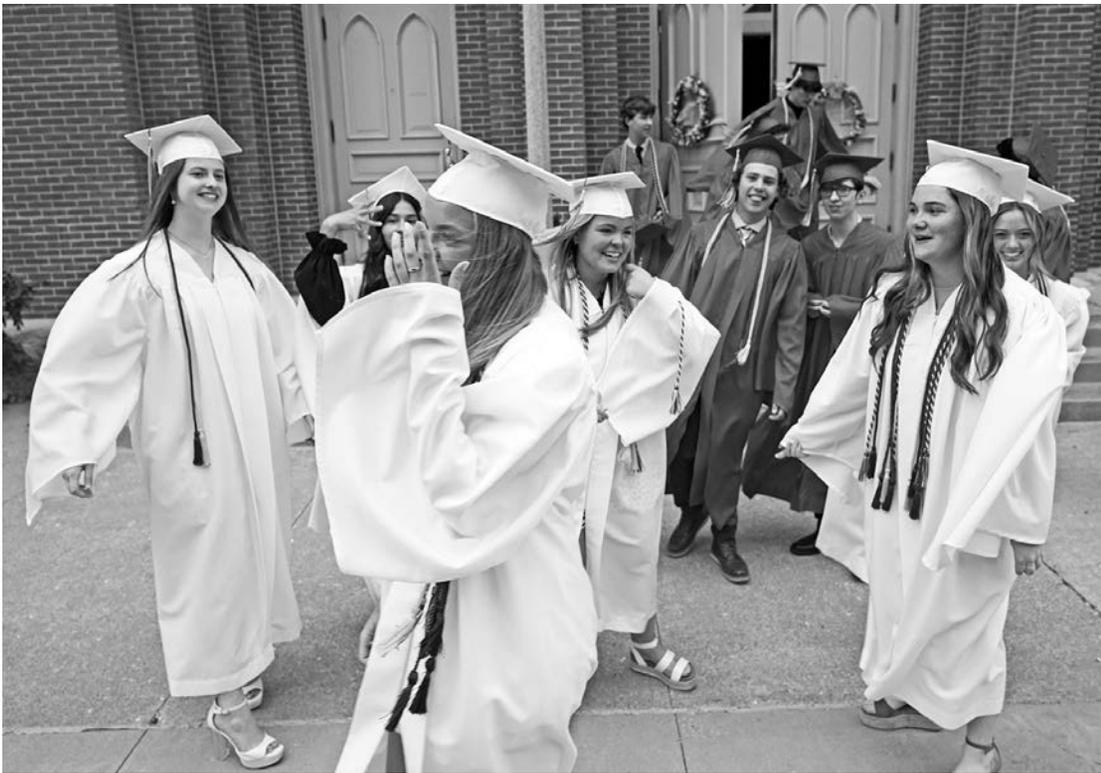
The Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation (TTEF) was founded in 1991 as a 501(c)(3) organization by a concerned group of corporate and civic leaders, and has grown into largest elementary school scholarship organization in the state of Missouri and the 4th largest of its kind in the United States. Since its founding 30 years ago, TTEF has raised more than \$175 million from local and national funding sources to provide need-based tuition assistance scholarships, enabling thousands of St. Louis children to attend the school of their choice.

Today, TTEF provides need-based, tuition assistance scholarships to any eligible family in St. Louis and the surrounding counties who desires to offer their Kindergarten through 8th grade child(ren) a private or parochial elementary school education.

The Missouri General Assembly has completed its work on the Congressional Map for Missouri for the 2022 election cycle. This map will govern the congressional districts until the next U.S. Census in 2030. For more information about the end of 2022 legislative session, visit [mocatholic.org](http://mocatholic.org).

Proposed 2022 Missouri Congressional Districts (HCS HB 2909 Perfected)





Members of Sacred Heart High School's Class of 2022 celebrate outside the Sacred Heart Chapel in Sedalia following their Baccalaureate Mass on May 20.

— Photo by Jay Nies

## SACRED HEART

From page 12

generations and adapting — we definitely do have different problems and issues, as we saw with the COVID pandemic," said Claire. "We're in a constant pattern of change."

Kiley said it's important for people to show that the Church keeps up with the times and they're willing to adapt to new problems that the younger generations face.

Claire asked for prayers for a smooth transition to college life in a place with many more people and perspectives.

Kiley suggested also pray "for us to remember who we are and where we came from, and no matter what, that we not get too big for our britches or too concerned with earthly desires, and that while college is a new and exciting place, that there are a lot of new and fun things, and that's awesome, that we remember who God is and where we came from and our morals."

### Friends forever

Alexander Karigan landed at Sacred Heart as a kindergarten. Ian Viscarra Mendez, a foreign exchange student from Bolivia, arrived as a freshman.

Both plan to study at State

Fair Community College in Sedalia this fall before moving on to the next phase of their education.

Both said they have benefitted from the small, tight environment.

"That's what I'll miss the most," said Ian. "But I will say

**More photos from this event have been posted in *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition, [cathmo.com](http://cathmo.com). Select "Photo Galleries" from the "Multimedia" tab on the menu bar.**

that I'm ready for some new things, and for changes."

He noted that the COVID pandemic and the abrupt changes it brought were difficult, including returning to school with a litany of health protocols.

Alex recalled that several of his friends moved to other schools after eighth grade, but that two students who arrived during his freshman year are now among his closest friends.

Both said they've been surrounded at school by reminders of their Catholic faith.

"It's going to be weird not having that in college," said

Alex, "but I'm thankful that I got to grow up with that in my life."

Ian said he recognizes God's presence all the time when he's at school and at home, "and it's thanks to the school."

"It truly is a Catholic school because they teach us and help us be with God and closer to God," he said. "So you know that He's with you and in the back of your mind that He's gonna be there if you need Him."

Ian added the foundation has been built, and it's up to each graduate to continue growing in faith, getting closer to God and putting their faith into practice.

Alex, who is Lutheran, said that same foundation will help him grow in his Christian faith and make good decisions down the road.

He requested prayers for help taking the important things seriously in college.

"I believe everyone in the class will go on to do great things but I believe if you keep praying for us, it will be a little extra something to get us there," he said.

Ian asked for prayers for him and his classmates to stay in contact with each other.

"I would like to have these people as friends for the rest of my life," he said.

# Pope announces new cardinals, including U.S. Bishop McElroy

By Junno Arocho Esteves  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Francis announced he will create 21 new cardinals Aug. 27, including 68-year-old Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego.

The pope made the announcement at the end of his "Regina Coeli" address May 29, telling the crowd in St. Peter's Square the names of the 16 cardinals under the age of 80, who will be eligible to vote in a conclave, and the names of five elderly churchmen whose red hats are a sign of esteem and honor.

"Let us pray for the new cardinals so that, in confirming their adhesion to Christ, they may help me in my ministry as bishop of Rome for the good of the entire holy people of God," the pope said.

After the Aug. 27 consistory, there will be 132 cardinals eligible to enter a conclave, and the number of those over 80 will be 97, bringing the total number of cardinals to 229.

Here is the full list of the new cardinals, in the order named by the pope:

- Archbishop Arthur Roche, 72, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

- Archbishop Lazarus You Heung-sik, 70, prefect of the Congregation for Clergy.

- Archbishop Fernando Vérgez Alzaga, 77, president of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State and president of the Governorate of Vatican City State.

- Archbishop Jean-Marc Aveline of Marseille, France, 63.

- Bishop Peter Ebere Okpaleke of Ekwulobia, Nigeria, 59.

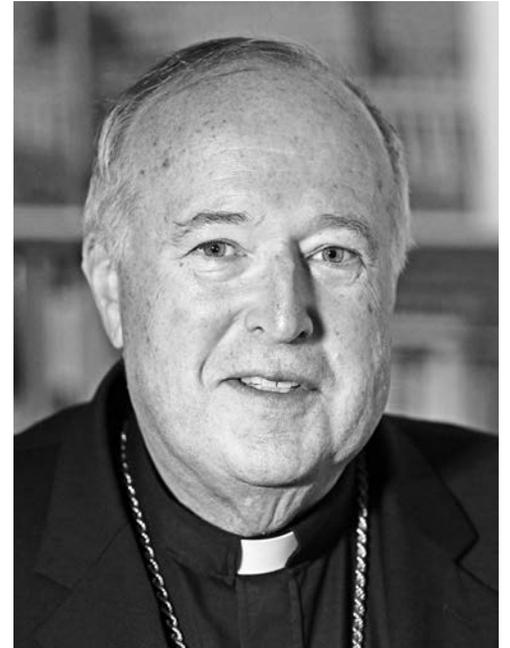
- Archbishop Leonardo Ulrich Steiner of Manaus, Brazil,

71.

- Archbishop Filipe Neri António Sebastião do Rosário Ferrão of Goa, India, 69.

- Bishop Robert Walter McElroy of San Diego, 68.

- Archbishop Virgílio do Carmo da Silva of Dili, Timor-Leste, 54.



Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego was among 21 new cardinals named by Pope Francis May 29, 2022. Cardinal-designate McElroy is pictured in a 2019 photo.

— CNS photo/Paul Haring

- Bishop Oscar Cantoni of Como, Italy, 71.

- Archbishop Anthony Poola of Hyderabad, India, 60.

- Archbishop Paulo Cezar Costa of Brasília, Brazil, 54.

- Bishop Richard Kuuia Baawobr of Wa, Ghana, 62.

- Archbishop William Goh Seng Chye of Singapore, 64.

- Archbishop Adalberto Martínez Flores of Asunción, Paraguay, 70.

- Bishop Giorgio Marengo, apostolic prefect of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, who will be 48 June 7.

- Retired Archbishop Jorge Jiménez Carvajal of Cartagena, Colombia, 80.

- Retired Archbishop Lucas Van Looy of Ghent, Belgium, 80.

- Retired Archbishop Arrigo Miglio of Cagliari, Italy, who turns 80 July 18.

- Jesuit Father Gianfranco Ghirlanda, professor of canon law, who turns 80 July 5.

- Msgr. Fortunato Frezza, canon of St. Peter's Basilica, 80.

## You are a priest forever



## Holy Spirit pushes people to repent, change, love, pope says

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

The Holy Spirit shows everyone where to begin, what paths to take and how to walk the great journey of life, Pope Francis said.

“Let us sit at the school of the Holy Spirit, so that he can teach us all things,” the pope said in his homily June 5 during Pentecost Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica.

“Let us invoke him each day, so that he can remind us to make God’s gaze upon us our starting point, to make decisions by listening to his voice and to journey together as church, docile to him and open to the world,” he said.

Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, dean of the College of Cardinals, was the main celebrant at the Mass, and Pope Francis delivered his homily from a wheelchair on a platform in front of the altar. The pope has had ongoing difficulty walking and standing because of a knee problem. During the Mass, he sat in a chair facing the altar in the area normally reserved for dignitaries; the Vatican pushed news photographers further back than usual for the ceremony.

“The Holy Spirit will never tell you that on your journey everything is going just fine,” the pope said in his homily. The Holy Spirit “corrects you; he makes you weep for your sins; he pushes you to change, to fight against your lies and deceptions.”

The Holy Spirit, however, will always offer a hand, comfort and constant encouragement because conversion calls for “hard work, interior struggle and sacrifice,” the pope said.

“The evil spirit, on the contrary, pushes you to always do what you think and you find pleasing. He makes you think that you have the right to use your freedom any way you want,” he said. But then “once you are left feeling empty inside,” the evil spirit “blames you and throws you down.”

“When you feel troubled by bitterness, pessimism and negativity,” he said, “it is good to remember that these things never come from the Holy

Spirit. They come from evil,” which likes to fuel impatience, self-pity, complaints, criticism and the tendency to blame others for every problem, making people “edgy, suspicious and querulous.”

The Holy Spirit encourages people to never to lose heart and always to start over again, he said, “by jumping right in, without waiting for someone else to start. And by spreading hope and joy, not complaints; never envying others,” but rejoicing in their success.

The Holy Spirit wants people to be together, united in their diversity, harmonizing everyone’s different gifts, Pope Francis said. The spirit “makes us church” as a concrete reality, teaches the church how to be “an open house without walls of division,” to walk and go forth to evangelize and face the problems of today.

The evil spirit, on the other hand, “drives us to concentrate on our own problems and interests, on our need to appear relevant, on our strenuous defense of the nation or group to which we belong,” he said.

The pope asked people to let the Holy Spirit liberate them from an “obsession with

emergencies” and a desire to “program” or “modernize” everything as a solution.

Later, before leading the recitation of the “*Regina Coeli*” prayer, the pope said that, for some, the Gospel may seem “to be outdated, unable to speak to our current moment, with its demands and its problems,” especially in an age of “the internet and globalization.”

But thanks to the Holy Spirit, “who connects the teaching of Jesus with every time and every person,” the pope said, “the words of Christ come alive today” for each individual.

Sometimes when people experience “a setback, a struggle, a crisis,” they forget Jesus’ love and fall into doubt and fear, Pope Francis told people in St. Peter’s Square.

“The remedy is to invoke the Holy Spirit” often, but especially before difficult decisions, he said.

The pope suggested that at such crucial moments people pray for the Holy Spirit to come and “remind me of Jesus, enlighten my heart,” and then to open the Gospel and read a small passage slowly “and the Spirit will make it speak to our lives.”

## Brutal attack on in Nigeria is called attack on ‘entire Church’

Catholic News Service

New York

The brutal attack on people at a Catholic church in Nigeria on Pentecost Sunday is “an attack on the entire Church,” said a U.S. official of Aid to the Church in Need, an international Catholic charity.

According to the Reuters news agency, gunmen fired at people inside and outside St. Francis Xavier Church in Owo, located in the southwestern state of Ondo.

At least 50 people were reportedly killed during Mass June 5. Dozens more were injured and rushed to nearby hospitals.

“We extend our prayers for the victims, the wounded, their families and the entire Catho-

lic community of Owo,” said George Marlin, chairman of the board of Aid to the Church in Need/USA, which is based in New York.

“We stand with the Diocese of Ondo to help treat the wounded and those traumatized by this horrible tragedy. This is the latest in the ongoing wave of brutal attacks on Nigeria’s Christians,” he said in a June 6 statement.

Marlin called it “imperative” that the U.S. State Department “reinstate Nigeria as a Country of Particular Concern that violates religious freedom.

Christians are not the only victims of faith-based violence in Nigeria, but they are the principal target,” he stated.

Bishop Curtis Guillo-ry SVD, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas, ordained Father Carl Gales SVD, former music director of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, and Father Derek Nguyen SVD to the Holy Priesthood on May 28 in Our Lady of Africa in Chicago. Fr. Gales entered the SDV novitiate in 2014 after serving for two years as music director at the Cathedral in Jefferson City. He professed final vows as

a member of the Society of the Divine Word (SDV), the largest Roman Catholic order that focuses on missionary work, last September and was ordained a transitional deacon shortly thereafter. To read an article *The Catholic Missourian* published about him on Sept. 3, 2021, visit [cathmo.com](http://cathmo.com) and type “Gales” into the search box.



## TOLTON CATHOLIC

From page 11

and learned to manage my time better.”

### Onward and upward

Gratitude permeated the students' perspectives.

Claire is thankful for the teachers and staff, as well as her grandparents, who encouraged her to go to school at Tolton Catholic.

Christian, who spent four years on the varsity golf team, is thankful for his coaches and teammates.

“They all helped me grow as a person,” he said.

Andrew is grateful for having learned about and grown in his faith. As a four-year member of the varsity track team, he's also thankful for his coaches and teammates and for everything they accomplished together.

Catherine is most grateful to her parents, who worked very hard in order for her to be able to receive a good Catholic education.

She defined that as “a good, safe, Catholic education with teachers that treat us like we're family, and we really get that personal experience just being here.”

### Like family

All four agreed that God made His presence known to them consistently through their time at Tolton Catholic.

“I can tell that God is here just because of the community of people,” said Christian, “not only the teachers, because they do a good job of trying to educate and also be there for you when you need them, but also the student body.”

He and many of his classmates have been together since kindergarten at Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School.

“As a class, we are extremely close,” he said. “I think the community is where God is most evident for me.”

“You can tell that God is in the school and is with us,” said Catherine, “because as soon as you walk in the doors, you feel loved by every person that's in here.”

For Claire, God's presence was most evident in the familial bonds she and her classmates share.

“You're not just a student at Tolton Catholic, you are a fam-

ily member of Tolton Catholic,” she said.

Andrew said it's hard to describe how close he and his classmates have become.

“It's very personal because everyone here kind of knows who you are and respects you,” he said.

### “Always with me”

Andrew, Catherine and Christian have been Catholic their whole lives and intend to stay Catholic.

Claire is Lutheran and wants to remain so.

All four agree that the adults in their churches need to lead by example and give them opportunities to do likewise.

Adults “need to show love and support to everybody,” said Catherine. “And they need to continue to support the Catholic mission, the Christian mission overall, and help inspire younger people to stay in their



Claire Thurnau addresses her fellow graduating seniors of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School during their graduation ceremony on May 15.

— Photo by Jay Nies

faith, even after graduating from high school.”

Claire believes she can take the experience of the tight, accepting community she found at Tolton Catholic and help recreate it wherever she goes.

“My next steps in my career can be realizing all that the people did for me here and how I

can do the same for other people,” she said.

Catherine said she plans on taking her Catholic faith with her “and the knowledge that God is always with me, no matter where I go.”

All four are counting on people's prayers for them and their fellow graduates.

Andrew asked for prayers “for us to be sure to keep the faith and grow in the faith,” as well as for people who have not yet experienced God's goodness or had the faith revealed to them.

Christian asked for prayers for safety as the graduates embark on separate paths toward the next stage in their life.

“Pray for people to grow each day and become a better person, a better Catholic, a better athlete, better academically, better at whatever they're going to do now,” he requested.

Claire suggested praying for the graduating seniors to always appreciate the time they spent together and with their teachers at Tolton Catholic.

Catherine asked for prayers for God to guide them in making good decisions — “to stay within our faith, so that we don't get off track — to keep us on track for heaven.”

## THIRSTY

From page 5

### A balanced chorus

Mrs. Basi believes her call is to explore the faith through her experience as a woman, a wife and a mother.

“The things women tend to notice are different, as are the things men tend to notice,” she said, “and we need both of those perspectives reflected in our faith.”

She pointed to a hymn she recently composed for Christmas, titled, “Still.”

“It's from Mary's perspective, about nursing the Baby in the middle of the night,” said Mrs. Basi.

It includes the lyric, “a milk-drunk smile.”

“The first time I put that out in front of people, the response I got was, ‘My gosh, what is this word?’” she recalled.

But mothers see those words and know exactly what they mean.

Mrs. Basi spoke of how while growing up, many children often relate first to their mother's faith, which is often more nurturing than a conventionally male approach to God.

She cited two examples in sacred music: “O God, You Search Me,” by Bernadette Farrell, and “In Every age,” by Jeanette Sullivan Whittaker.

She proposed that women, by nature and by nurture, tend to be relationship-builders, and “those two songs are exquisitely about the God-human relationship.”

### In community

Mrs. Basi has been serving for the past year on the steering committee for the Liturgical Composers Forum (LCF).

Founded by Fr. Foley, the LCF gives people who compose music for assemblies a chance to spend time together, worship together and pray together, culminating with an annual concert of sacred music.

“Being part of the Composers Forum has helped me grow, because it's helped me get to know some of the people behind the music and really think of my own vocation as a writer through more lenses than I did before,” she said.

“Vocations are better practiced in community,” she added.

She pointed out that the beloved hymns and anthems of Catholic worship — from “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” to “Be Not Afraid” — are effective because of their power to unite entire congregations in worshiping God and experiencing His transcendence.

“It takes time to learn what music really connects with assemblies,” she noted. “There are so many things that figure into what the Church will be singing 100 years from now.”

She cited a call she received from one of the Our Lady of Lourdes choir members on Sept. 11, 2001, after the terrorist attacks involving commercial airliners in New York, Washington, D.C., and rural Pennsylvania.

The choir had learned and sung a hymn Mrs. Basi had composed but never published, called “Keep Me Safe,” loosely based on Psalm 16.

“She called to tell me, ‘I've been singing ‘Keep Me Safe’ all day, since the news came out,’” Mrs. Basi recalled. “That was a very humbling moment to know something I had written had that kind of an impact on another person.”

### Setting the tone

Mrs. Basi also writes books and articles, and is pleased with the reception her first novel, a faith-based offering known as *A Song for the Road*, has received over the past year.

Her heart remains rooted in sacred music. She believes the way people worship God at Mass affects how they serve Him the rest of the week.

“I feel a great gratitude to be able to hopefully make a difference in this way,” she said. “That's the purpose of writing this music: to use what God put in me to try to make the world better, to make it more like He wants it to be.”

“Liturgical music has a real power to do that, because we walk out of church singing songs,” she said.

*Mrs. Basi's song can be heard online at Youtube, by searching “Kat Basi Come All You Thirsty.”*



By Father Don Antweiler

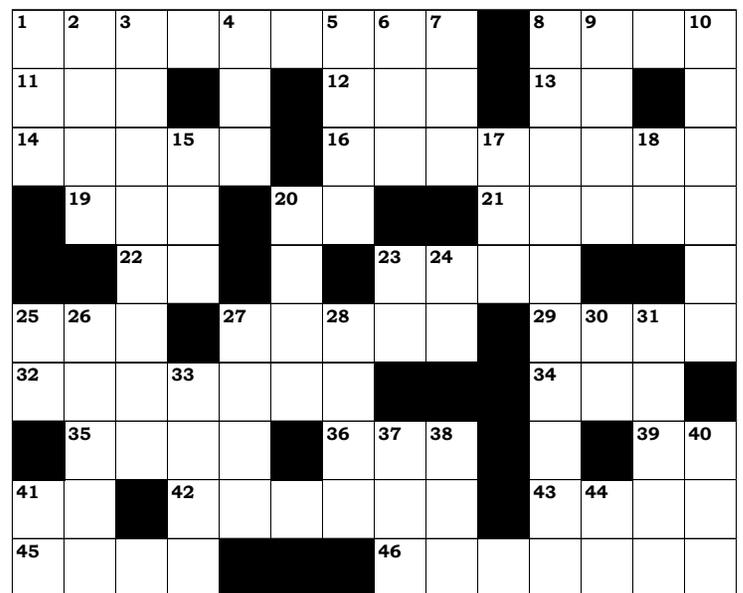
### ACROSS

1. One of Mo.'s \_\_\_\_ is the Cave State. Mo. is home to 7,000+ caves. 700 are found in one county, Perry Co. where they are topped by thousands of sinkholes.
8. "\_\_\_\_ all your worries upon him because he cares for you," (1 Peter 5:7).
11. Year in Madrid.
12. Nestled deep in the Mark Twain forest, 20m. south of \_\_\_\_, Mo. in Douglas Co., is Assumption Abbey, one of only 15 Trappist monasteries in the entire U.S.
13. Crater Lake in this State is, at 2,000 ft., the deepest lake in the U.S. (abbr.)
14. Crevice Cave in Perry Co., at 30 \_\_\_\_ long, is the longest known cave in Mo. 4 of the 5 longest caves in Mo. are found in Perry Co.
16. Sinkholes were fenced off from livestock. Concrete was removed and replaced with a buffer zone of native plants to filter \_\_\_\_ out of the sinkholes.
19. Tender loving care.
20. Home State of Elvis (abbr.).
21. "\_\_\_\_: the final frontier. These are the voyages of the Starship Enterprise," —intro to Star Trek TV episodes.
22. Letters for Alpha & Omega, first & last letters in the Greek language, the language of the early Church. They symbolize God as the beginning and end of everything.
23. "Go wash in the \_\_\_\_ of Siloam," (John 9:7).
25. Cleo's snake.
27. One participating landowner himself removed two loaded 18-wheelers of metal, old cars, \_\_\_\_, and hundreds of tires from 50 of the thousands of sinkholes.
29. Little devils.
32. In the 1800s, county boosters touted the sinkholes and caves as a great way to \_\_\_\_ of household sewage.
34. Name of an old Russian space station; also the Russian word for peace.
35. Every high schooler.
36. I was told as a child that too much sugar would \_\_\_\_ my teeth. I have found that to be partly true.
39. Abbr. for "in other words."
41. Prefix for plane or location.
42. "Away down the river, a hundred miles or more, other little children shall

- bring my boats \_\_\_\_," — Robert Louis Stevenson.
43. Auction actions.
45. \_\_\_\_ in his pants; nervous, jumpy.
46. In 2015, researchers entered the caves once again and found water quality greatly improved with not only a rebounded sculpin population but \_\_\_\_, flatworms, crustaceans and frogs.

### DOWN

1. In the years since the war, relations between Viet\_\_\_\_ and the U.S. have broadened, "supporting, through trade, an independent country capable of contributing to international security."
2. Corruption is rampant in the country and the Prime Minister is \_\_\_\_ up to his neck (2 wds.).
3. The Co. Seat of Perry Co., Perryville, Mo. (pop. 9000), currently manages over 300 sinkholes. Sinkholes often \_\_\_\_ suddenly, occasionally close to buildings or where people or pets play.
4. "...sed libera \_\_\_\_ a malo"; ...but deliver us from evil." Also, a brand of energy drink.
5. The Grotto Sculpin, a rare fish found only in the caves of Perry Co., was declared endangered in the early 2000s because of 2 \_\_\_\_ die-offs of the sculpin. People suddenly realized that the bad water the sculpin were swimming in was the same water they were getting their drinking water from.
6. The night before.
7. "But when he heard this he became quite \_\_\_\_, for he was very rich," (Luke 18:23).
8. "I believe you are the devil himself!" Sterndale cried. Holmes smiled at the



\_\_\_\_," —*The Adventure of the Devil's Foot* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

9. \_\_\_\_ code.
10. Potatoes.
15. Prefix for system.
17. Prefix for metric or late.
18. The Wright Brothers completed their first flight in Kitty Hawk in this State (abbr.).
20. 4th rock from the sun.
23. Letters indicating an add-on at the end of a letter.
24. This State is second in the number of U.S. Presidents that have been born there: seven (abbr.).
25. I volunteered for the \_\_\_\_-hoc committee.
26. \_\_\_\_-\_\_; Civil Rights action in the 1960s (2 wds.).
27. Resisting top-down regulations but wanting good water quality, Perry Co. residents began an unprecedented volunteer sinkhole/cave clean-up. The Mo. Dept. of Conservation helped organize clean-ups of 400 \_\_\_\_ of decades-old refuse, including 3,000 tires, from private lands.
28. Prefix for #21 ACROSS.
30. Do-Re-\_\_\_\_.
31. Landowners now take a greater interest in the sinkhole/cave system beneath them. In fact, "for many the lowly Grotto Sculpin has become a source of local \_\_\_\_."
33. They come in pods.
37. The earth is an example of one.
38. Ball holder.
40. 19th of 26.
41. College degree.
44. Crooner Sinatra was known as \_\_\_\_' Blue Eyes.

## MCGRADY

From page 9

heard yesterday, moments before they were shot at — killed.

I wept. We all seem to be at this moment. As we should.

In moments of tragedy, as the horror of violence and evil become more obvious as the story unfolds, we sometimes run to "fix it" so it never happens again. And we should fix it, and we must try to make sure it never happens again.

But first we must sit and lament. First we must sit and cry. First we must sit and grieve. First we must sit, still as can be, and look at the tragedy.

And then, stand up, and remind ourselves this is not the end.

The tragedy is not the end. The tears are not the end. The horror is not the end.

We lament, and we sit in pain, and we grieve and mourn and cry, and enter a tomb of darkness, and cling to the seemingly impossible hope that the stone will roll away, the sun will rise, the tears will dry, and the tragedy is not the end to the story.

We sit, so that we can then stand. We weep, so that we can perhaps dance once again.

The tragedy of mass shootings — in a grocery store and a school in less than two weeks — is not one to move on from anytime soon. We must sit in this grief and feel this pain.

And then, we must cling to the words of Jesus, Who we know told us there will be trouble in this world, but to take heart, for He has conquered all.

*Katie Prejean McGrady is an author, speaker and host of "The Katie McGrady Show" on The Catholic Channel on Sirius XM. She lives in Lake Charles, Louisiana, with her family.*

ANSWERS on page 23

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## FR. REICHERT

From page 1

“Well, because God gave them free will, just as He gives it to you and me,” the priest stated. “When we’re the one who is hurt, we wonder why God didn’t step in and take away the free will of another person. But I don’t want God to take away my own free will.”

Fr. Reichert noted that doing so would remove each individual’s ability to do evil but also his or her capacity to love.

“God loves us freely and wants us to love Him freely,” said Fr. Reichert. “Coerced love is not love at all. Love is freely given.”

### “Evil does exist”

Stunned and horrified by the dreary drumbeat of mass-shootings, especially the children who died in their classroom in Texas on May 24, Fr. Reichert said he’s at a loss for answers.

“But I do believe that our nation and all of us need to grow in love,” he said.

He’s concerned about the hopelessness and lack of love and family connection many mass-shooters seem to hold in common.

He also suspects a pattern of “copycat” behavior when so much of the news coverage focuses on the perpetrator, rather than the victims and their families.

“If someone is angry and mixed up in the head and going through a difficult time in their life, and they hear about something like this, they see it as an opportunity to repeat the same thing,” he surmised.

He observed that most mass-shooters wind up dying by suicide.

“That suggests to me that we’re dealing with people who are profoundly confused and can’t or don’t think through what they’re doing,” he said.

He’s also convinced that diabolical influences play a role in such calloused and deadly behavior.

“There is a devil. Evil does exist in our world, and evil works in people,” he said. “It is not just a thought. Today, it manifests itself in some individuals who put it into practice in this way.”

So it’s both a physical and a spiritual battle.

“One thing we can do is

pray,” he said. “God is love, and we need love to replace the evil that is in our lives.”

### No simple answers

Fr. Reichert believes it’s too simple to blame easy access to firearms.

“Guns are probably too easily available, but they’ve always been available,” he said.

His own family always had a shotgun and a rifle, which he and his siblings all learned to use as part of helping on their family farm.

“We didn’t think of shooting people and then taking our own life,” he said.

But there was never a moment in his or any of his four brothers’ lives that they didn’t know they were loved by God and by their parents.

That seems to be part of what’s missing when people set out to do great harm, the priest said.

“We don’t always know what’s going on in a person’s life when they decide to go and do something like this,” he stated.

“I think all of us are seeking love in life,” he said. “We all want to be liked and loved by other people. And it seems to me that some of these people who do the shooting have felt that they were left out.

“We want love, we need love, and we need to give love,” he stated. “And one thing that

**Benedictine Father Kenneth Reichert stands outside the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at Conception Abbey in Conception, Missouri, in this June 2003 photo, taken a year after two monks were killed and Fr. Reichert and another monk were seriously wounded in a shooting at the monastery.**

— CNS photo by Kevin Kelly, *Catholic Key*

all of these shootings seem to have in common is someone who’s lacking love, who doesn’t see love, who doesn’t know love.”

Fr. Reichert asserted that the difference between heaven and hell is the presence of God, Who Himself is love and the source of all love.

And while Fr. Reichert hopes to meet in heaven the man who tried to kill him, he knows that heaven is freely chosen.

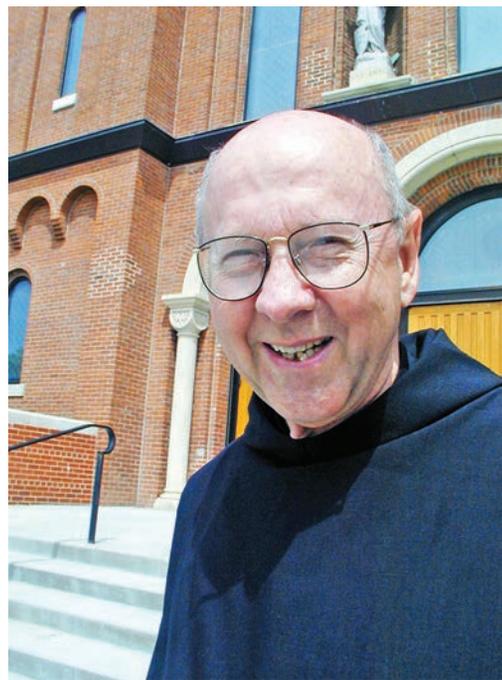
“It comes back down again to our free will,” he said. “Who knows? At the very last moment, he might have repented.”

### Having known love

Also killed that day in 2002, was Benedictine Brother Damian Larson.

Benedictine Father Norbert Schappler, like Fr. Reichert, was injured but survived.

Fr. Reichert, having been wounded in the lower abdomen and the leg, spent three weeks in a hospital in Maryville and could not attend the Funeral



He also received so many visitors in the hospital during that time that the nurses finally had to ask people to leave a note for him so he could rest.

His soul will never let him forget that great experience of love.

“We who have known God’s love from birth all the way until now should approach the Lord with a spirit of gratitude,” Fr. Reichert stated.

“God loves us all, and we frequently experience that love through other people,” he said. “We have known God’s love because we have known

it primarily through our family and those who are close to us.

“And we always have to remember that we show God’s love to other people by the way we treat them, as well,” he said.

Mass for his two fellow monks.

He only heard about the tremendous outpouring of sympathy and love that filled the monastery basilica and ascended to heaven as prayers for healing and reconciliation.

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## Fundraisers & Social Events

Jun. 12

Belle, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am; Loose Creek, Immaculate Conception Parish picnic, 11 am-10 pm

Jun. 13

Jefferson City, Louis H. Rackers Memorial Pro-Life Golf Classic benefiting Vitae Foundation, 8 am-6 pm, Jefferson City Country Club, for info or to register visit [vitaefoundation.org](https://vitaefoundation.org)

Jun. 15

Jefferson City, St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary Ice Cream Social, 11 am-6 pm, St. Peter Parish's Selinger Centre

Jun. 17

Westphalia, Relay for Life of Maries/Osage Counties drive-thru BBQ, 4-7:30 pm, K of C Hall

Jun. 18

Taos, St. Francis Xavier Parish Summerfest, 2-10 pm, school parking lot

Jun. 23

Holts Summit, Concert to benefit Mary's Meals, 6-9 pm, Canterbury Hills Winery, to RSVP call 573-761-3575 or email [mickeller75@icloud.com](mailto:mickeller75@icloud.com)

Jun. 23-25

Fulton, St. Peter Parish rummage sale, Thurs. 5:30 pm-8 pm, Fri. 7 am-6 pm, Sat. 7 am-noon

Jun. 25

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception Parish Pro-Life Committee rummage sale fundraiser, 7-11 am

Jun. 26

Linn, St. George Parish picnic, 11 am-6 pm

Jul. 3

Vienna, K of C breakfast, 7:30-11 am

Jul. 10

Bahner, St. John's Ice Cream Social, 5:30-10 pm; St. Martins, St. Martin Parish picnic, 11 am-9 pm

## Meetings/ Workshops

Jun. 18

VIRTUAL, Couple to Couple League natural family plan-

ning introductory session, 8-9 am, to RSVP email [MidMoNFP@gmail.com](mailto:MidMoNFP@gmail.com)

Jun. 21, Jul. 19

VIRTUAL, Marriage Prep Facilitators' evening refresher, 5:30-6:30 pm, for info or to RSVP email [faithformation@diojeffcity.org](mailto:faithformation@diojeffcity.org)

Jul. 5

VIRTUAL, Marriage Prep Facilitators' morning refresher, 10:30-11:30 am, for info or to RSVP email [faithformation@diojeffcity.org](mailto:faithformation@diojeffcity.org)

Jul. 17-22

Milford, OH, CLEF Summer Program for Ensemble Musicians, Jesuit Spiritual Center, for info or to register email [info@clef.life](mailto:info@clef.life) or visit [clef.life](https://clef.life)

## Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

junio 9-12

Sedalia, Cursillo de Hombres, La Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información o registrarse contacte a Oswaldo Diaz al 660-829-5213 o por correo electrónico a [deleono@sedalia200.org](mailto:deleono@sedalia200.org)

junio 16-19

Sedalia, Cursillo de Mujeres, La Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información o registrarse contacte a Oswaldo Diaz al 660-829-5213 o por correo electrónico a [deleono@sedalia200.org](mailto:deleono@sedalia200.org)

junio 21

VIRTUAL, Sesión de Capacitación para Facilitadores de Preparación Matrimonial, 12:15-1:15 pm, envíe un correo electrónico a [faithformation@diojeffcity.org](mailto:faithformation@diojeffcity.org) antes del lunes anterior si planea asistir

junio 25-26

Marshall, Formación y Entrenamiento Musical: Discipulos, Ministerios y Músicos, Parroquia San Pedro, para más información contacte a Marcelino Chavez al 660-631-3748 o Maria Tapia al 660-202-9421

junio 26

Sedalia, Bienvenida de Cursillistas, Iglesia de San Patricio, para más información y registrarse llame Oswaldo Diaz 660-829-5213

julio 5

VIRTUAL, Sesión de Capacitación para Facilitadores de Preparación Matrimonial, 5:30-6:30 pm, envíe un correo electrónico a [faithformation@diojeffcity.org](mailto:faithformation@diojeffcity.org) antes del lunes anterior si planea asistir

julio 9-10

Sedalia, Retiro: Sanando Nuestras Relaciones Fraternas, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a [ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com](mailto:ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com)

julio 16

Sedalia, Planificación Familiar Natural-Familia de las Américas, 9 am-12 pm, Parroquia San Patricio, para información sobre instructores y clases contacte a Enrique o Crísthia Castro al 573-680-3650 / 501-454-8308 o por correo electrónico a [ecastro@diojeffcity.org](mailto:ecastro@diojeffcity.org) / [cmguzman10@gmail.com](mailto:cmguzman10@gmail.com)

julio 19

VIRTUAL, Sesión de Capacitación para Facilitadores de Preparación Matrimonial, 12:15-1:15 pm, envíe un correo electrónico a [faithformation@diojeffcity.org](mailto:faithformation@diojeffcity.org) antes del lunes anterior si planea asistir

julio 23-24

Marshall, Retiro de Parejas, Parroquia San Pedro, para más información o para registrarse visite [diojeffcity.org/eventos-diocesanos/](https://diojeffcity.org/eventos-diocesanos/)

## Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Jun. 11

Jefferson City, Pre-Cana Program for engaged couples, 8:45 am-4:30 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, for info or to register, visit [diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/pre-cana-registration](https://diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/pre-cana-registration)

Jun. 14, 21, 28 & Jul. 5

Jefferson City, "Metanoia: A Journey with Christ to Conversion," video series hosted by Fr. Dave Pivonka, 6:30-8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info email [jimkemna@gmail.com](mailto:jimkemna@gmail.com)

## Liturgical

Jun 11

Laurie, Pilgrimage with Ed Van Buskirk, 8:30 am-5:30 pm, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, for info or to register call 573-374-6279 or email [shrinemothers@gmail.com](mailto:shrinemothers@gmail.com)

Jul 16

Laurie, Pilgrimage with Deby Sansone Schlapprizzi, 8:30 am-5:30 pm, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church,

for info or to register call 573-374-6279 or email [shrinemothers@gmail.com](mailto:shrinemothers@gmail.com)

## Youth

Jun. 19-24

Camdenton, Camp Macca-bee (session 1) summer adventure camp for high school-aged young men, for info or to register, visit [diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-macabee](https://diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-macabee)

Jun. 26-Jul. 1

Conway, Camp Siena summer camp experience for high school-aged young women, for info or to register, visit [diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-siena](https://diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-siena)

Jul. 10-13

Conway, Camp Lolek (session 1) summer camp for junior high boys, for info or to register, visit [diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-lolek](https://diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-lolek)

Jul. 13-16

Conway, Camp Lolek (session 2) summer camp for junior high girls, for info or to register, visit [diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-lolek](https://diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-lolek)

Jul. 17-22

Camdenton, Camp Macca-bee (session 2) summer adventure camp for high school-aged young men, for info or to register, visit [diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-macabee](https://diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-macabee)

## DiMARZIO

From page 9

Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas, is one of several organizations challenging the governor's executive order. A federal court has blocked this order. However, other federal efforts to prevent migration remain in effect and expose people fleeing danger and precarious social conditions to additional risks.

The border situation is truly lamentable. Migrants can be turned back under Title 42 of the U.S. Code on the pretense that doing so is "necessary to prevent the introduction, transmission or spread of communicable diseases from foreign countries."

This decades-old public health order was implemented by the prior administration in March 2020 and remains in effect. Many organizations — including 164 Catholic organizations — are lobbying the federal government to vacate that rule, since testing is not done, but this measure is just used as a general excuse to rapidly expel asylum-seekers.

There are many solutions to the present-day migration situation. One of which would be better communication between the United States, Mexico and especially the Central American countries.

The universal nature of the Catholic Church positions it as a potential bridge across borders for both individuals and policy conversations. The right of free movement is something that the world would like to maintain, but that does not mean that no regulations can be imposed on the movement of peoples between countries.

It does mean that legal migration pathways should be expanded and strengthened. Processing refugee applications in Mexico would also be a welcome change. The root causes are deep, in the Central American countries especially, where unstable political situations exacerbate the plight of many, particularly the poor.

The underlying problem we deal with is the negative attitude toward migrants coming to our country, especially those who cross our borders without authorization. At face value, this is an important issue, but there is a more pressing humanitarian concern that we cannot ignore.

It is so important that the Church be the Good Samaritan in today's world, taking care of those on the wayside, not fearing lawsuits or other incriminations, and doing what Jesus told us in the Gospel, to welcome the stranger.

## Anniversaries

**Father Bill Peckman**, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Milan, St. Mary Parish in Shelbina, St. Patrick Parish in Clarence & the Mission of the Sacred Heart in Bevier, his 25th priestly anniversary. He was ordained on June 7, 1997, in St. Patrick Church in Laurie.

### Argyle, St. Aloysius

Urban & Frances Wieberg, 61 years  
Arnold & Pat Steinman, 54 years  
Jim & Jean Kampeter, 49 years  
Jim & Joyce Brunnert, 35 years  
Don & Laurie Kleffner, 33 years  
Kevin & Jenny Wieberg, 30 years  
Scott & Jackie Reichel, 18 years  
Kevin & Kelly Schwartze, 18 years  
Rick & Stacia Dawson, 17 years

### Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul

Vernon & Barbara Zeller, 66 years  
Tom & Joyce Adair, 62 years  
Bill & Joyce Bryan, 57 years  
Ken & Linda Schuster, 56 years  
Bob & Peggy Irish, 51 years  
Wayne & Dianne Klein, 51 years  
Darryl & Nancy Kempf, 50 years  
Ed & Sandra Larm, 50 years  
Michael & Donna Pomajzl, 50 years  
Mark & Virginia Thomann, 50 years  
David & Janet Joynt, 49 years  
Tom & Marsha Fitzgerald, 48 years  
Kent & Marcheta Friedrich, 48 years  
Bob & Jani Sandknop, 44 years  
Bill & Sherry Shelton, 44 years  
Bill & Vickie Kueny, 42 years  
Brad & Kim Grissum, 38 years  
Tim & Annamarie Smith, 36 years  
Jeff & Cindy Lammers, 35 years  
John & Bonnie Dillon, 34 years  
Tony & Michelle Imhoff, 34 years  
Mark & Patty Stretz, 34 years  
Jude & Cynthia Florek, 30 years  
Doug & Sharon Gramlich, 30 years  
Rick & Jennifer Marshall, 29 years  
Phil & Beth Rumbaoa, 29 years  
Gary & Teresa Barnes, 28 years  
Mike & Georgia Esser, 28 years  
Ken & Mona Brownfield, 27 years

### Camdenton, St. Anthony

Ron & Kathy Porterfield, 60 years  
Jim & Donna Hoffman, 52 years  
Bob & Charlene Nielsen, 52 years  
Allen & Lucia Davis, 50 years  
David & Alice Reinke, 50 years  
Bob & Katie VanStedum, 46 years  
Chuck & Desri Amato, 36 years  
Chris & Kerry Blackwell, 32 years  
Matt & Michelle Rollheiser, 26 years  
Robert & Catrina Sperberg, 17 years

### Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes

Chris & Kim Heffner, 45 years

### Columbia, St. Thomas More Newman Ctr

Leo & Karen Downey, 36 years

### Edina, St. Joseph

Bill & Margaret Delaney, 65 years

### Fayette, St. Joseph

John & Pat Merk, 48 years  
Douglas & Leigh Ginter, 36 years  
Brian & Jennifer Spielbauer, 21 years

### Glasgow, St. Mary

Tim & Carol Monnig, 55 years

### Hermann, St. George

Dave & Mary Beth Strassner, 35 years

### Holts Summit, St. Andrew

Anthony & Linda Rush, 50 years  
Martin & Terry Schwartze, 42 years

### Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception

Alfred & Nordelle Lueckenhoff, 70 years  
John & Sandy Starke, 34 years

### Kirkville, Mary Immaculate

Tom & Cheryl Hawkins, 53 years  
Bob & Janie Theobald, 53 years  
Mike & Mary Carol Early, 49 years  
Dan & Sandy Lammers, 42 years  
Kevin & Paula Brawner, 41 years  
Charles & Cathy Kelly, 41 years  
Brian & Darice Todd, 37 years  
Pat & Tammy Kriegshauser, 33 years  
Dan & Deborah Holte, 32 years  
Joquin Maldonado & Katherine Velez, 31 years  
Bob & Michele Behnen, 20 years  
Brian & Michaela Altenhofen, 11 years

### Koeltztown, St. Boniface

Doug & Joyce Branson, 32 years  
Ralph & Juliana Loaiza, 31 years  
Dave & Jen Brooks, 24 years

### Linn, St. George

Jerry & Debbie Backes, 34 years

### Martinsburg, St. Joseph

Brad & Becky Hoyt, 24 years  
Kevin & Erin Oligschlaeger, 13 years

### Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows

David & Mary Ann Frank, 60 years  
Christopher & Debra Goose, 40 years

### Meta, St. Cecilia

Lawrence & JoAnn Wansing, 61 years

### Mokane, St. Jude Thaddeus

Dan & Pat Dickneite, 60 years  
Scott & Tammy Clardy, 37 years  
Cory & Pam Smith, 36 years  
Alan & Jill Luebbert, 31 years  
Justin & Kelsey Lauf, 10 years

### Palmyra, St. Joseph

Tony & Mary Beth Lenzini, 54 years  
Clinton & Linda Reeves, 52 years  
Greg & Kathryn Cox, 47 years  
Gilbert Jr. & Rosemarie Hudson, 46 years  
Herb & Alice Schwartz, 46 years  
Rich & Kim Donelson, 42 years  
Raymond & Cammie Foster, 41 years  
Steve & Kim Bunten, 37 years  
Larry & Helen Huber, 36 years  
Kerry & Monica Bross, 31 years  
Doug & Amy Hoerr, 29 years  
Darin & Joelle Goodwin, 24 years  
Bernard & Shelly Hirner, 23 years  
Joe & Deanna Jones, 16 years  
Jared & Gina Pontius, 15 years  
Dustin & Mary Smith, 12 years

### St. Martins, St. Martin

Ron & Janice Eggen, 50 years  
Charles & Mariam Kuensting, 45 years

### St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle

Ray & Shirley Volmert, 55 years

### Tipton, St. Andrew

Carl Leon & Patricia Moon, 65 years

### Vienna, Visitation

Steve & Carol Steinman, 50 years  
Jerome & Mary Jane Wieberg, 50 years

### Wardsville, St. Stanislaus

J.B. & Alice Dewesplore, 65 years  
James & Barbara Howard, 32 years

## Baptisms

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Silvana Jimenez, Hazel Makowski**

Cuba, Holy Cross — **Nova Fernanda Castro Martinez, Piper Tallent**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Scarlet Drew Millard-Anzalone**, daughter of Braden Millard & Isabella Anzalone; **Amelia Kathleen Sponsel**, daughter of James & Sarah Sponsel

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Kimberly Rivera Alvarez, Larissa Cristel Rivera Alvarez, Amnian Noel Gomez, Cruz Sergio Gomez, Enrique Santo Gomez, Jasmin Leslie Gomez**

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Liam James Crisp, Jack Robert Crisp, Gregory William Kelly**

Marshall, St. Peter — **Xenia Isabella Melara, Luca Valentino Morales**

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Wesley James Bell**, son of Dalen & Alison Bell; **Millie Jean Massman**, daughter of Jonathan & Ashley Massman; **Bennett Charles Wilson**, son of Ethan & Amanda Wilson

St. Elizabeth, St. Lawrence — **Warren Paul Dickneite**, son of Henry Dickneite & Ashley Twehus; **Ruby Jocille Kesel**, daughter of Jason & Holly Kesel

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Avery Catherine Stockman**, daughter of Zachary & Alanna Stockman

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Leo Michael Welch**, son of Benjamin & Mikayla Welch

## Deaths

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Rosemary M. Larm, Joyce Schwartz**

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception — **Georgie Burstert**

Camdenton, St. Anthony — **Dale Burns, Theresa Power**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Joan Baillargeon**

Hermann, St. George — **Leona O. Baur**

Holts Summit, St. Andrew — **August C. Wieberg**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Henry L. Hagenhoff, Angeline A. Maasen**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Theresa C. Thomas**

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Clayton Dillavou, Frank L. Williams**

Koeltztown, St. Boniface — **Lillian M. Falter**

Linn, St. George — **Linda Green**

Mary's Home, Our Lady of the Snows — **Wilbur E. Bernskoetter**

Mokane, St. Jude Thaddeus — **Bobby L. Mealy**

Monroe City, Holy Rosary — **Joe Thompson**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Marcella M. Crocker, Jerome A. Winthorst**

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Delphine M. Luebbering**

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Ron Vetter**

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul — **Richard Eads**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Lorene E. Heet, Melvin T. Lock, Thomas J. LeComte**

Vienna, Visitation — **Ralph Buschman, Anthony M. Vrana**

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels — **Georgie Burstert**

## Marriages

Cuba, Holy Cross — **Lanora Baston & James Buechler**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Laura Fry & Philip Henzler**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Sophie Teeter & Evan Milnar**

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Macy Endres & Shane Colonius**

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior — **Kayla Lowder & Tyler Englert**

Tipton, St. Andrew — **Brandy Bettels & Jonathan Luebbert**

Vienna, Visitation — **Malerie Meier & Tyler Roberds**

## Birthdays

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart — **Anna Marie Scherf**, her 97th on June 6

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels — **Sylvia Dunning**, her 99th on June 18

### Crossword puzzle answers

S	E	T	J	E	R	E	S	J	N	V
S	D	O	N	R	E	O	H	S	V	I
E	I	E	J	O	R	N	E	J	E	R
R	I	M	H	S	V	R	J	P	S	D
S	J	M	H	S	V	R	J	P	S	D
R	O	O	P	V	O	V	A	T	T	J
E	C	V	S	P	S	M	C	T	J	E
J	N	E	M	D	E	S	E	T	I	M
V	R	O	V	A	V	O	N	V	I	T
J	S	V	S	S	E	M	V	K	C	I
O	I	6	8	7	9	5	4	3	2	1

## Sharing a good book



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight reads to fifth-graders during the St. Martin School Read-A-Thon on May 11 in St. Martins. Other special guests included Sergeant Josh Stockman, Helias Catholic High School President John Knight; Father Jason Doke, pastor; Mayor Daryl Raithel of St. Martins, and several parishioners who took time to read to the students. Students contacted sponsors to make pledges, raising almost \$6,000 toward the purchase of new literature sets for our classrooms. — Photo by Father Jason Doke



Father Jason Doke, pastor of St. Martin Parish in St. Martins, reads to students of St. Martin School during the school's May 11 Read-A-Thon. — Photo from the St. Martin Catholic Parish Facebook page

## Beautifying God's acre



## Having a field day



ABOVE: Students take part in a sack race during the St. Andrew School field day in Tipton on May 17. Students enjoyed a sunny day outside with games, bounce houses and the Koana Ice truck as they start to wind down the school year. LEFT: Molly Gump, left, and Ruby Tuttle throw a wet sponge back and forth as part of a game during St. Andrew School's field day.

— Photos by Becky Holloway, courtesy of the Tipton Times newspaper

## Making home visits in Mary's honor



ABOVE: Junior-high students of St. Joseph School in Salisbury head out into the community on May 19 to surprise parishioners at home with prayers, cards and flowers in observance of May as the month of Mary. — Photo from the St. Joseph School-Salisbury Facebook page

LEFT: Boy Scouts from Troop 401 in Kirksville perform a spring clean-up at Mary Immaculate Cemetery on April 25. — Photo from the Mary Immaculate Parish bulletin

# Queen Jezebel plots against Naboth

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic News Service

A man named Naboth lived in the city of Jezreel, which was located in the northern kingdom of Israel.

Naboth owned a vineyard right next to the palace of King Ahab, the ruler of Israel's northern kingdom who lived in the capital city of Samaria.

One day, the king came to talk to Naboth about his vineyard.

"Give me your vineyard to be my vegetable garden, since it is close by, next to my house. I will give you a better vineyard in exchange, or, if you prefer, I will give you its value in money," the king said.

"The Lord forbid that I should give you my ancestral heritage," Naboth said in refus-



ing the king's request.

King Ahab acted like a pouting child who didn't get his way. He went back to his palace, climbed into his bed and refused to eat.

His wife, the pagan Queen Jezebel, came to him.

"Why are you so angry that you will not eat?" she asked.

"Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him,

'Sell me your vineyard, or, if you prefer, I will give you a vineyard in exchange.' But he refused to let me have his vineyard," the king said.

"A fine ruler over Israel you are indeed!" she scoffed. "Get up. Eat and be cheerful. I will obtain the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite for you."

Queen Jezebel hatched an evil plan.

She sent letters in the king's name to the elders and nobles, telling them to proclaim a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people.

"Next," the queen wrote, "get two scoundrels to face him and accuse him of having cursed God and king. Then take him out and stone him to death."

The elders and nobles did

just as they had been told. When the evil deed was done, they sent word to Jezebel that Naboth had been stoned to death.

When Jezebel learned that Naboth was dead, she returned to Ahab.

"Go on, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite that he refused to sell you, because Naboth is not alive, but dead," she told the king.

Then King Ahab arose and started off toward the vineyard to take possession of it.

### Read more about it...

#### 1 Kings 21

1. What did King Ahab want?
2. Who helped him get what he wanted?

## Bible Accent

Why was Israel divided into two kingdoms?

In 1 Kings 11, we read that King Solomon, David's son, had many pagan wives who turned his heart away from God.

This made God angry. Since Solomon did not keep God's covenant and statutes, God told him that the kingdom of Israel would be torn away from him and given to his servant.

But, God said, for the sake of David, who followed God with his whole heart, this would not happen to Solomon but rather to his successor.

And, for David's sake and that of Jerusalem, God said He would not tear away the entire kingdom from Solomon's heir. The kings of David's line would keep one tribe of Israel, while the other 10 would be given to Solomon's servant.

Also in 1 Kings 11, we read that the prophet Ahijah told a man named Jeroboam — a servant of Solomon's — that he would be given 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel and become their king.

When Solomon died, his son, Rehoboam, became king. Rehoboam was harsh and

didn't listen to the people, so they rebelled against him.

Then God's words through Ahijah came true. Ten of the tribes of Israel rejected Rehoboam and made Jeroboam their king. Rehoboam continued to rule his own tribe, Judah, plus the tribe of Benjamin.

After the kingdom of Israel was divided, Rehoboam's portion in the south became known as Judah.

Jeroboam's kingdom in the north became known as Israel, and for a time, it was ruled from the city of Tirzah. When Ahab became king, he ruled from the city of Samaria.

## Saint Spotlight

### St. John Fisher

St. John Fisher was born in 1469 in Yorkshire, England. He became a distinguished scholar at Cambridge University and was ordained a priest at age 22. John held several important offices: chaplain to a king's mother; vice chancellor and chancellor of Cambridge; bishop of Rochester, England; and counselor to Catherine of Aragon during King Henry VIII's divorce proceedings against her. John angered the king by refusing to recognize him as head of the church in England. When the pope named John a cardinal, King Henry became even more angry and ordered John to be beheaded. John died in 1535, and we remember him on June 22.



## Puzzle

Using the hints provided, answer the questions about King Ahab and Queen Jezebel.



1. Who told King Ahab that there would be a drought? (1 Kings 17:1)
2. Who was King Ahab's father? (1 Kings 16:29)
3. Why was Queen Jezebel angry with Elijah? (1 Kings 19:1-2)
4. Who urged Ahab to do evil things? (1 Kings 21:25)

## Essay

How would you help someone feel better when they didn't get what they wanted?



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Charles Prather • Rick Prather  
Tom Kummer



Answers: 1. Elijah; 2. King Omri; 3. he killed the pagan prophets; 4. Queen Jezebel.

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## Book about quest for Merton's legacy has strong Missouri connections

*Enacting Love: How Thomas Merton Died for Peace*, by John Smelcer, 262 pages.

Reviewed by Dr. Robert J. Martin, Ph.D.

If you're at all interested in Thomas Merton, *Enacting Love: How Thomas Merton Died for Peace* is a must-read.

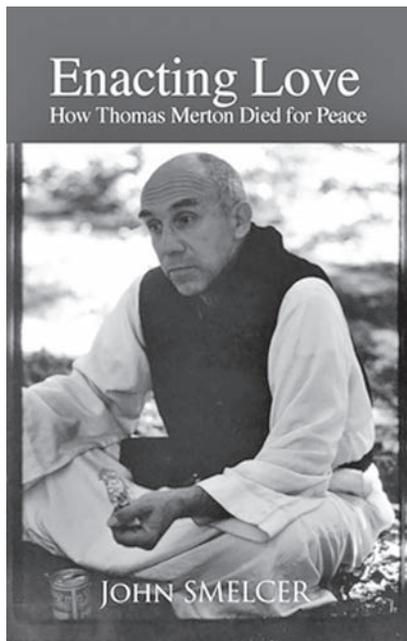
It is the story of how the author, John Smelcer, became part of two Merton legacies — Merton's spiritual quest to take a more direct part in bringing peace and justice to a country torn by the Vietnam War, and racial injustice and the physical legacy of his possessions.

This is the story of how the author became immersed in the very history he ends up writing about.

Merton was the most famous monk in 20th-century America. Smelcer relates how he became engaged in Merton's legacy through interviewing and making friends with Helen Marie Grimes.

Helen Marie (formerly Sister Mary Pius) knew Merton as her friend and spiritual director. She married one of Merton's friends and fellow monks, Robert Grimes (the former Brother Irenaeus).

She shared her story with the author and entrusted him with two trunks of Merton's possessions that she had safeguarded for 50 years.



The book came about through a happy accident. The author was sitting at a table drinking coffee and writing in Kirksville, Missouri. On the table was a book by Thomas Merton.

A man approached and introduced himself. They talked, and the man told him about a woman he had known decades ago who was a friend of Merton and had a trove of his belongings — mostly clothing.

The author begged to be introduced to her.

Smelcer's book is a follow-up to what happened when he met with the former nun in Lee's Summit, Missouri, and was given the two trunks of Merton's possessions to be

taken care of and donated to appropriate museums.

Most of the contents are now in possession of the Thomas Merton Center in Kentucky, with certain other items being at the Smithsonian Institution and the Vatican.

Smelcer's book narrates his efforts to learn more about the Merton's legacy and tells the stories he learned about along the way.

The author's narrative drew me in and kept me reading — and thinking. Each chapter of the book is an aspect of Merton's life through the author's quest to learn more about Merton.

With each chapter, I became absorbed in reading and thinking about the network of people, places and events that connects Merton to the world in which he lived. These include World War II, the Vietnam War, the American peace movement, the Civil Rights movement, American politics, the Second Vatican Council, and the ecumenical movement.

The book includes the stories of Helen Marie and Robert Grimes, including a chapter about Robert and his service in World War II as a young man who became a gunner on a U.S. bomber with many missions over Germany. He was shot down, became a prisoner of war, escaped several times only to be recaptured, and finally returned to the United

## Movie Ratings



Adults and Adolescents

The Bad Guys (PG)  
Family Camp (PG)



Adults and Adolescents

The Bob's Burgers Movie (PG-13)  
Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness (PG-13)  
Downton Abbey: A New Era (PG)  
Firestarter (R)  
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13)



Morally Offensive

The Northman (R)

Ratings are supplied by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Film and Broadcasting Office. Visit [usccb.org](http://usccb.org) for current reviews.

States.

In reading Grimes's story, I better understood how so many young men came to Merton's monastery after World War II, looking for mental peace after having undergone so many traumatic experiences.

They came to the Gethsemane monastery in Kentucky because Merton was there, a man who was famous for writing *The Seven Storey Mountain* (and many other books) and living a life of seclusion.

There's a chapter about the early life of Helen Marie, the woman who entrusted the author with the trunk of Merton's belongings.

There's a chapter on Robert Grimes and Helen Marie's friendship and life together as husband and wife — all relevant to understanding Merton's legacy of friendship and commitment to serve the world and the cause of peace and justice.

There are chapters on the two trunks, their contents, and the adventures involved in getting them to the Thomas Merton Center. (The enthusiastic Foreword to the book is by the Director of the Center, Dr. Paul Pearson).

The big question raised in the book (as in the subtitle, *How Thomas Merton Died for Peace*) is whether Merton was assassinated in Asia, possibly by the CIA.

The book is not so much about the case that Merton was assassinated, but about Merton's quest to enact his de-

sire for peace and civil rights in new ways. More important than the question of assassination is the author's quest to understand Merton's legacy — a legacy that may have been about to enter a new phase at the time of his death.

Smelcer provides evidence from Merton's writings, interviews and other documents that Merton wanted to go beyond a life dedicated to prayer, writing and a voluminous correspondence to take more direct action on the two main issues facing the United States during the 1960s: civil rights, and peace in Vietnam.

Smelcer is not the first to write about this possibility. Was Merton assassinated for being determined to become more directly involved in protesting the Vietnam War? As Smelcer points out, there is some evidence, but the evidence does not prove the case.

Smelcer devotes the second chapter of the book to this question — and provides additional information at various other points as he learns things relevant to the question.

Reading the book, I was drawn to the narratives. In particular, I appreciated the author's inviting us to read and contemplate Merton's writings.

Part history, part meditation, this book takes us on a journey as we read about Merton and the people who were involved with him and his legacy.

See MERTON, page 27

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94.7 FM, Columbia  
103.3 FM, Fulton  
K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

## MEMORIAL

From page 1

our hope and we have our joy, something that no one can take away from us," he said. "As we pray for all those who have died, we also realize, God is near to us."

Christ Himself knows from experience what it feels like to be feel alone, abandoned and isolated, most notably during His crucifixion.

"And He doesn't want us to have to feel that way," Fr. Nelen counseled. "So we are reminded that the Father is with us, but we are also with each other. That's why we come together as a community, to give each other support with our prayers."

Genuine love, in sacrificial imitation of Jesus, has the power to subdue this world.

"Because we see how God's love through the Holy Spirit, as we see throughout the Acts of the Apostles, throughout the works of the Church, changes lives, changes hearts, completely transforming people," said Fr. Nelen.

"We know that God loves us so much that He went through a lot of planning, a lot of intentional work in order to get us to heaven so that we can share in His life," the priest stated. "So today, we remember that as we offer this Mass for all those who have gone before us, that God's love is able to open for them a path to the heavenly realms."

Together, the people offered a prayer of supplication for the deceased, especially those who recently died: "Almighty, ever-living God, Who rule both the living and the dead and are merciful to all, we humbly beseech You, that those for whom



**Father Robert Fields, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Kahoka and Shrine of St. Patrick Parish in St. Patrick, reposes the Most Blessed Sacrament after Holy Communion during Mass on Memorial Day in the Shrine of St. Patrick. After Mass, he led a procession to the parish cemetery to bless the graves.**

— Photo from the St. Patrick, Missouri Facebook page

we pour out our prayers may obtain pardon for their sins through your tender mercy, rejoicing together, blessed in Your sight, and praising You without end."

Memorial Day started out as a day set aside to decorate the burial places of loved ones who had died defending this country.

### For God and country

Priests throughout the diocese offered special Masses for Memorial Day.

In St. Patrick, people processed from the Shrine of St. Patrick to the parish cemetery for the blessing of the graves.

Howard Kirchner of the St. Patrick Cemetery Association led 24 people on a historical

tour of the cemetery, highlighting the lives of several families that have been laid to rest in that place of beauty and peace.

A reception was held immediately following for all in attendance.

In Clifton City, Father Mark Smith, pastor of Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Boonville and St. Joseph Parish in Pilot Grove, offered a late-afternoon Mass and blessed the graves the Saturday before Memorial Day in St. Joseph Cemetery near the St. Joseph Chapel.

Fr. Smith also offered Mass in the St. Martin Cemetery near the former site of St. Martin Church in Martinsville, in rural Cooper County. About 75 people attended.

## MERTON

From page 26

The book reminds us of the many connections that we all of us have — and especially how many connections Merton, through his writings and correspondence, had with leaders we know about through the news or through their lectures or writings — Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968), Thich Naht Hahn (1926-2022), a Vietnam peace activist and Buddhist lecturer who recently died; and John Lewis (1940-2020), civil rights activist and U.S. Congressman until his death.

Merton's life was about a search for inner peace and peace in the world. We're still trying to figure out how to create a more peaceful world; we're still trying to figure out how to

bring civil rights and voting rights to everyone.

Merton's legacy continues.

While writing this review, I casually mentioned this book to a priest friend and that he might be interested in it. He immediately told me that reading both Merton and Thich Naht Hahn had a profound effect on him and his life.

Again, if you're interested in Merton, this is a must-read. It's a moving read that will engage you and make you think about the issues that concerned Merton and that continue to concern us.

*Dr. Martin, a member of Mary Immaculate Parish in Kirksville, is a professor emeritus at Truman State University.*

## Daily Readings

### Sunday, Jun 12

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY  
Prv. 8:22-31  
Ps 8:4-9  
Rom. 5:1-5  
Jn. 16:12-15

### Monday, Jun 13

St. Anthony of Padua, priest and doctor of the Church  
1 Kgs. 21:1-16  
Ps. 5:2-3ab, 4b-7  
Mt. 5:38-42

### Tuesday, Jun 14

1 Kgs. 21:17-29  
Ps. 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 11, 16  
Mt. 5:43-48

### Wednesday, Jun 15

2 Kgs. 2:1, 6-14  
Ps. 31:20, 21, 24  
Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18

### Thursday, Jun 16

Sir. 48:1-14  
Ps. 97:1-7  
Mt. 6:7-15

### Friday, Jun 17

2 Kgs. 11:1-4, 9-18, 20  
Ps. 132:11-14, 17-18  
Mt. 6:19-23

### Saturday, Jun 18

2 Chr. 24:17-25  
Ps. 89:4-5, 29-34  
Mt. 6:24-34

### The Holy Father's prayer intentions for June:

We pray for Christian families around the world; may they embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives

### Sunday, Jun 19

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (Corpus Christi)  
Gn. 14:18-20  
Ps. 110:1-4  
1 Cor. 11:23-26  
Lk. 9:11b-17

### Monday, Jun 20

2 Kgs. 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18  
Ps. 60:3, 4-5, 12-13  
Mt. 7:1-5

### Tuesday, Jun 21

St. Aloysius Gonzaga, religious  
2 Kgs. 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36  
Ps. 48:2-4, 10-11  
Mt. 7:6, 12-14

### Wednesday, Jun 22

St. Paulinus of Nola, bishop; Ss. John Fisher, bishop, and Thomas More, martyrs  
2 Kgs. 22:8-13; 23:1-3  
Ps. 119:33-37, 40  
Mt. 7:15-20

### Thursday, Jun 23

THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST  
Is. 49:1-6  
Ps. 139:1b-3, 13-15  
Acts 13:22-26  
Lk. 1:57-66, 80

### Friday, Jun 24

THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS  
Ez. 34:11-16  
Ps. 23:1-6  
Rom. 5:5b-11  
Lk. 15:3-7

### Saturday, Jun 25

Lam. 2:2, 10-14, 18-19  
Ps. 74:1b-2, 3-7, 20-21  
Lk. 2:41-51

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# Cursillo: learning to stay focused on prayer, action and study

By Father Joseph Corel

The Holy Spirit is the One Who calls us to action.

When we choose to pray, we are saying “yes” to the Holy Spirit Who prompted

us to pray.

When we do a work of

charity, we are responding to the Holy Spirit Who calls us

to that action.

When we reach out to another or do something to improve our lives that is truly good for us and others, we are responding to the Holy Spirit Who is calling us to the action.

There is a method given to the Church that helps us stay focused on our prayer, action and study.

This is the Cursillo method.

The Cursillo method begins by being asked to make a weekend. The weekend consists of a retreat setting where we learn a method through short courses on how to keep our faith integrated with the rest of our daily living.

The weekends begin on a Thursday and end on Sunday.

Once the weekend is complete, the Cursillo experience continues. It continues through small-group reunions.

Within the small group reunion, we ask four questions with others in our group:

1. Where have I seen Christ this week?
2. What am I doing for prayer?
3. What am I studying for spiritual growth?
4. What am I doing for an evangelization plan? How was my plan for last week?

Then regularly the small groups get together for an Ultreya, which means “Onward.”

At the Ultreya, we are inspired by others’ faith stories from the past week or month.

The Holy Spirit is calling us to grow in our faith and stay close to Him. And, at the same time, the Holy Spirit has given us this great experience of the Cursillo method here in our diocese.

Cursillo weekends will be held on July 14-17 for men and Aug. 4-7 for women at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia.

Weekends will be held on March 2-5, 2023, for men and on March 16-19, 2023, for women at St. Anthony Church in Camdenton.

[diojeffcity.org/cursillo](http://diojeffcity.org/cursillo)

*Fr. Corel is a pastor in solidum of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County.*

## CATHOLIC FAITH WRITER AND SPEAKER SHALINI BLUBAUGH

Event for High School & College Students

Wednesday, August 3rd

6:30 PM with reception afterward

Hear how Shalini, a long-time writer for “Blessed is She,” had a re-version back to her Catholic faith in college. Come for an inspirational night that will transform your faith and ground you in spirit before school starts this Fall.

Women’s Event

Thursday, August 4th

6:30 PM with reception afterward

A long-time writer and law school graduate, Shalini has happily left all things law behind to pursue her passion in bringing people closer to Christ. Come for an inspirational night in communion with other women who want to grow in their faith!

FREE WILL OFFERING

For more information, contact Molly Cody at 573-645-7510 or [mary.e.molly@hotmail.com](mailto:mary.e.molly@hotmail.com)

ST. GEORGE CHURCH  
HERMANN, MISSOURI



Featured on The Unraveled, Catholic Conversation and Parenting Smarts podcasts; contributor and speaker at Unraveled Imago Dei Retreats; writer of several devotionals and faith studies for Catholic ministry.

[www.herfitlife7.com](http://www.herfitlife7.com)

[@herfitlife7](https://www.instagram.com/herfitlife7)

# Thank you!

For everyone who came to my 60th anniversary and celebrated with me, and for all the gifts given.

In particular, thanks to the parishioners from St. Louis of France in Bonnots Mill for all their help... their pastor **Fr. Tony Rinaldo**...the **musicians**... the **Cursillo group** in Northeast Mo...the **REC program**...**The Catholic Missourian** and **Jay Nies**...and the **Unterrified Democrat**.

A special thanks to **Yvonne Hoerschgen** for keeping it all organized.

It was a wonderful time...God bless you all!

See you on my 70th, or whatever!

- Fr. George Kramer

## ST. GEORGE PARISH RUMMAGE SALE

Thursday & Friday, JUNE 23-24 (7 am-7 pm)

Saturday, JUNE 25 (7 am-4 pm)

Sunday, JUNE 26 (7 am-noon)

HERMANN

St. George School Gym

## Annual St. George Parish PICNIC Saturday, June 26

German Pot Roast &  
Golden Fried Chicken

Served from 11 am to 6 pm

\$13 per ticket

Drive-through and carry-out  
with limited indoor & outdoor seating

Handmade Quilt Auction (5 pm)

view quilts at [www.facebook.com/stgeorgeparishlinn](http://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeparishlinn)

Games/Prizes

Sandwiches

Refreshments

Ice Cream

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## mission trip TO india

The Missions

Office is looking at organizing a mission trip to India in February or March 2024. A group from the

Diocese of Jefferson City has been invited by the local bishops in India to experience the life and culture of the local Church there. In addition to visiting various church sites and rural villages, the trip would include a visit to the tomb of St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata, sites in Delhi and the Taj Mahal. We have room for 10-12 people. If you would like more information or are interested in this trip, please contact Jake Seifert at 573-635-9127 or email [development@diojeffcity.org](mailto:development@diojeffcity.org).

