

## Times that try our souls

Bishop McKnight offers a remedy for the “strident, rancorous discord” that is damaging the Church and society and endangering the salvation of souls.

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# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

October 2, 2020 • Vol. 64 No. 7

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## 5 deacons tapped to intensify marriage ministry



Doves and interlocking wedding bands symbolizing the sacrament of marriage are depicted in a stained-glass window.

— CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

## Opening rally participants in Columbia pray for, count on miracles during 40 Days for Life

By Jay Nies

“Missouri has such a story to tell, and you’re all part of it.”

Kathy Forck spoke to about 60 people wearing face-masks and holding signs and candles on the sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood in Columbia.

It was the opening rally and prayer service for the 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign.

“Your prayers, your sacrifices, your fasting, your wonderful work — it’s making a huge difference,” said Mrs. Forck, co-director of Columbia 40 Days for Life.

“This is hallowed ground that has been blessed and blessed and blessed by you and many priests and pastors that have come here, and God is protecting each and every one of us,” she said.

Now in its 12th year, this local observance of the twice-year-

ly, nationally-observed period of prayer and fasting includes peaceful vigils from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day on the sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood, 711 N. Providence Road.

Abortions are no longer performed at the Columbia location, but women seeking abortions are given referrals there.

“As you know, when we first started praying here 11 years ago, there were approximately 11,000 babies who were aborted in our state,” said Mrs. Forck.

About 800 of the abortions that year took place at the Columbia Planned Parenthood, “the one we are praying so fervently will close,” she said.

The total number of documented abortions in Missouri dropped to fewer than 1,400 in 2019.

See Official Decree on Page 2  
and related article on Page 4

By Jay Nies

The two shall become one flesh, and the Church will help them grow in unity and holiness for the rest of their lives.

Each Catholic family will see itself as both a reflection and an integral part of the Church and her mission.

That is Bishop W. Shawn McKnight’s goal in intensifying ministry to married couples and those who are about to be married.

“The marriage bond is a unique and exclusive relationship between husband and wife for the sanctification of the couple and for the procreation and Christ-centered nurturing of children in a family,” Bishop McKnight stated. “Marital love is at the service of the couple, the children, the community and the world.”

Toward that end, the bishop has appointed five deacons to coordinate and facilitate aspects of marriage ministry throughout the diocese.

For the next three years, they will help parishes promote sacramental marriage as a calling from God, worthy of meaningful preparation and lifelong accompaniment by the entire parish.

Deacon Burdett Wilson of St. Joseph Parish in Salisbury and St. Mary of the Angels Parish in Wien will serve as the diocese’s parish outreach coordinator for marriage preparation.

He and his wife, Joyce, will lead parishes in the training and implementation of a soon-to-be released diocesan policy for ongoing marriage preparation.

Deacon Stephan J. Kliethermes of St. Martin Parish in St. Martins will

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See 40 DAYS, page 21



**MOVING?** If you are moving or changing parishes, please fill out information below. Clip and mail to THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN, 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Or email changes to [dbarnes@diojeffcity.org](mailto:dbarnes@diojeffcity.org). Allow two weeks.

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10/02/20

## Chamois, Morrison Mass

Effective Oct. 3-4, Mass will be celebrated at 6 p.m. on Saturdays in Assumption Church in Morrison and at 8 a.m. on Sundays in Most Pure Heart of Mary Church in Chamois.



## Official Decree of Appointments

*The Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City, makes the following appointments:*

#### Permanent Deacons

**Deacon Jon Bequette**, to Coordinator for Marriage Enrichment for the Diocese and to continue ministries at Holy Spirit Parish, Centralia.

**Deacon James Farnell**, to Coordinator for Marriage Enrichment for the Diocese and to continue ministries at St. Brendan Parish, Mexico.

**Deacon Stephan J. Kliethermes**, to Coordinator for Marriage Preparation for the Diocese and to continue ministries at St. Martin Parish,

## Pray for deceased priests

Oct. 4 — **Msgr. John C. Mahoney**, St. Patrick, Clarence; and St. Michael, Hager's Grove (1991)

Oct. 5 — **Msgr. John P. Flood**, St. Patrick, Jonesburg (1991)

Oct. 10 — **Fr. James R. Fuemmeler**, St. Anthony, Camdenton (2012)

Oct. 14 — **Fr. P. Brendan Lawless**, Immaculate Conception, St. James; and St. Anthony, Rosati (2013)

Oct. 17 — **Fr. Richard L. Kaiser**, St. Thomas Seminary, Hannibal (1970)

St. Martins, and as Coordinator of Pastoral Care, Jefferson City.

**Deacon Robert W. Reinkemeyer**, to Coordinator for Natural Family Planning for the Diocese and to continue ministries at St. Andrew Parish, Tipton, and Annunciation Parish, California.

**Deacon Burdett Wilson**, to Parish Outreach Coordinator for Marriage Preparation for the Diocese and to continue ministries at St. Joseph Parish, Salisbury, and St. Mary of the Angels Parish, Wien.

*These appointments are effective October 1, 2020, and until September 30, 2023.*

#### The Catholic Missourian

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*"A diocesan paper serves as a bond of unity by publishing diocesan happenings and promulgating official regulations and decrees. It also plays a teaching role by reporting notable events of a religious and secular nature, and interpreting them in the light of Christian principles."*

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

**Bishop W. Shawn McKnight**  
Publisher

**Helen Osman**, Dir. of Diocesan Communications  
[hosman@diojeffcity.org](mailto:hosman@diojeffcity.org)

**Jay Nies**, Editor  
[editor@diojeffcity.org](mailto:editor@diojeffcity.org)

**Kelly Martin**, Advertising  
[advertize@diojeffcity.org](mailto:advertize@diojeffcity.org)

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## Administrative Assistant Needed



The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking an Administrative Assistant position in their Jefferson City office at 2207 West Main Street.

The **Moderator of the Curia and Vicar General** are seeking an accomplished Administrative Assistant to support their clerical needs. This individual must have excellent skills with Microsoft Office and the ability to prioritize and switch tasks as needed. This position is also responsible for training others, holds the key position for coordinating maintenance on office equipment and will serve as a back-up administrative assistant to the Bishop as necessary. Professionalism and confidentiality are essential.

Qualified candidates should email a resume to **HRDir@diojeffcity.org**.

# MAKING CONNECTIONS

## Bishop McKnight



### The times that try our souls

By Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

During a historic pandemic, our country faces one of the most contentious presidential election campaigns in recent memory.

Some of our fellow Americans may be wondering if they are living in the apocalypse, with fire, drought, hurricanes, flooding, riots and other stresses added to the mix.

Just where is our country headed?

There is much at stake in the upcoming election. As Catholics, we are obliged to be informed of and to engage in the political process.

Our society benefits when good Catholics run for office, participate in political parties, and fulfill their civic duty to vote.

We each have an important role in creating a society in which every human life is respected and valued and in which the freedom to practice religion is guaranteed.

What I see happening in our nation, unfortunately, is a strident, rancorous dis-

cord that tears not only at the fabric of our society but also at the communion of the Church.

And this disharmony endangers the salvation of souls.

I am more concerned about the aftermath of the upcoming presidential election than I am about the election itself. What kind of people are we becoming because of today's political climate?

As the bishop for this local Church, the Diocese of Jefferson City, I have a particular responsibility to do everything I can to ensure the salvation of souls in my diocese.

For this reason, I strongly encourage every Catholic and anyone of goodwill to read the statement of the U.S. bishops, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship."

As the document explains, the Catholic social teachings we hold dearly have political implications, whether they concern the dignity of human life, marriage and family, racism, the environment or the economy.

For this reason, I have and

will continue to take positions on important ballot measures and issues that touch upon these teachings.

However, the responsibility I carry as a bishop does not mean I tell people for whom they should vote.

Let me explain. The obligation to preserve the authentic teachings of our Catholic faith is not the same thing as making a prudential decision on how these teachings are best applied in the political process.

The Church's responsibility in addressing political and social issues is to assist Catholics in forming their consciences. When we vote for candidates for public office, we are not directly voting for party platforms or issues, we vote for a person. This is an important nuance, which is considered in detail in "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," nos. 17-39.

The individual Catholic voter bears responsibility for connecting the dots between what our faith teaches and which candidates will best serve the common good. For this reason, no bishop, priest, deacon, religious or lay ecclesial minister shall endorse or oppose a candidate in the name of the Church.

It is urgent that each of us enter these remaining weeks before the election with the end in mind — our place in eternity.

In addition to voting in accord with a well-formed conscience, we are all obliged to be faithful to our Lord in how we treat one another, especially during this charged election season.

I therefore encourage the following:

1. Always treat other people according to their dignity as fellow human beings, perhaps especially those who espouse contrary political opinions from us. People can disagree, even fervently, without losing decorum and respect. Unfortunately, the lack

of civility now commonplace only feeds the culture of death and impedes a culture of life. Jesus instructed us to love our enemy and to pray for those who persecute us.

2. Remember frequently the teaching of our Lord: "How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,' when you do not even

goodwill to "form a more perfect union."

We can do none of this if we are not first paying attention to our own souls. As St. Paul wrote, it is impossible for God's Love to be born from idolatry, hatred, rivalry, jealousy, fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, and other selfish behavior (see Galatians 5:19-23).

Instead, St. Paul claims that our souls should bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace,

patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Notice how each of these fruits of the Spirit are a virtue that affects other people. If we take care of the state of our own soul first, we can then relate well with others. But when we fail to live in accord with these perfections, it is an indication that something is wrong in our own soul.

In these trying days, when we are all somewhat fragile and feeling buffeted by the storms of life, those gifts of the Spirit are the best offerings we can bring to our families, our communities and our nation.

May our participation in this year's election be an opportunity for us to act in accord with our Catholic faith and to strengthen a more perfect union among us.

*The full text of "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" can be found online at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).*

**"In these trying days, when we are all somewhat fragile and feeling buffeted by the storms of life, those gifts of the Spirit are the best offerings we can bring to our families, our communities and our nation."**

— Bishop W. Shawn McKnight



## Bishop McKnight's Calendar

*The following appointments are tentative, depending on the pandemic.*

### OCTOBER

- Oct. 3** Deacon inquirers meeting, 11am, Chancery
- Oct. 5** Oct. 8 Diocesan Priests' Institute, Lake Ozark
- Oct. 12** Missouri Bishops & Major Superiors of Religious Congregations meeting, 8:45am, Cardinal Rigali Center, St. Louis
- Oct. 13** Meeting of Deans of the Diocese of Jefferson City, 11am, Chancery; Presbyteral Council meeting, 1pm, Chancery
- Oct. 14** Kenrick-Glennon Formation Committee meeting, 2pm; Kenrick-Glennon Board of Trustees meeting, 3pm, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, St. Louis
- Oct. 15** Knights of the Holy Sepulchre Rosary, 5:30pm, Livestream
- Oct. 18** Confirmation Mass, 2pm, Mary Immaculate Parish, Kirksville
- Oct. 21** Confirmation Mass, 7pm, St. Andrew Parish, Tipton

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

For all citizens in our country, that our participation in the upcoming elections may lead to a world which places a preeminence on the dignity of all human life.

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

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

Por todos los ciudadanos de nuestro país, que nuestra participación en las próximas elecciones pueda conducir a un mundo que ponga preeminencia en la dignidad de toda vida



# Diocesan policy on weddings upholds sacrament's sacredness

By Jay Nies

The people of the Church aren't merely observers but active participants with God, who unites and upholds husband and wife in the Sacrament of Marriage.

Catholic wedding liturgies must reflect and express this larger and more noble reality with clarity and reverence.

The diocese's new uniform policy for the celebration of weddings serves to bolster that clarity throughout the Jefferson City diocese.

"We're trying to move the understanding from this being 'my wedding' or 'my big day' to something that pertains to the whole Church," said Father Daniel Merz, pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center parish in Columbia and chairman of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

"It's about communion: the union of bridegroom with bride, of the couple with the Church, and ultimately, union

with God in heaven."

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight instituted the diocesan-wide policy on weddings in November 2019, in consultation with the diocesan Presbyteral Council, the Liturgical Commission and his cabinet of advisors.

He pointed out that the Church has a sacred duty to ensure that the celebrations of Matrimony — a sacrament of the Church, willed and instituted by Jesus Christ — are loving, joyful, sacred and respectful.

"This policy serves to foster a deeper communion in the celebration of Marriage throughout the diocese, to provide clarity for engaged couples on the ritual boundaries to be observed in their wedding ceremony, and to assist priests and deacons in the counsel they give to engaged couples," Bishop McKnight wrote.

Fr. Merz pointed out that there's always room for legitimate diversity within the communion of believers, "but

unity throughout our diocese must also be safeguarded."

The diocesan policy states a clear preference for weddings to take place within the celebration of Mass.

Weddings are to be held inside a Catholic church or at an outdoor location that has a consecrated, permanent altar, such as the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church in Laurie or the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg.

Only sacred music — as opposed to ballads, popular or country music — are to be played and sung inside the church building.

This includes the prelude, the postlude and all music during the ceremony.

"Music is an essential part of the human experience," said Fr. Merz. "In this way, the Church is saying, 'We hold your marriage in such high esteem, and we want to ensure that all the music clearly



**The mystical marriage of Christ and His bride, the Church, began when He gave His life on the cross.**

— Photo by Jay Nies  
of a window in the Cathedral  
of St. Joseph

a wedding because it was on the cross that Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church," said Fr. Merz. "The Eternal Wedding Feast — the mystical marriage of Christ and the Church, began on the cross."

The crucifix is also a reminder that in entering into marriage, the husband and wife vow to be willing to die for each other so that the other can get to heaven.

The bride, groom and all members of the wedding party are to stand, kneel and be seated with the rest of the congregation throughout the Nuptial Mass, except when they are taking part in the wedding rite proper.

The Mass and Catholic wedding rites are awash with sacred and meaningful symbolism. Any additional symbols, such as unity candles, that are not called for in the marriage rite divert attention from those

expresses that."

The diocesan policy offers several options for the entrance procession, with each setting a proper tone of reverence for the wedding.

It is highly recommended to include a cross-bearer carrying a liturgical crucifix.

"We consider the cross to be such an important part of

See WEDDINGS, page 27



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# The Church does not tell us whom we can and can't vote for

## Here's why

By David Mills

The book claimed “Your Vote Can Endanger Your Salvation.” The writer meant a vote for a pro-choice Democrat. Like, oh, Joe Biden. An influential Catholic writer tweeted more bluntly that “A Christian who knowingly votes for Biden risks going to hell. Good luck. Hell is forever.”

I suspect both of them really meant “well,” but even if they didn’t, many Catholics say it on their own. Priests for Life national director Father Frank Pavone even tweeted that he would hear the confessions of people who voted for a Democrat, “but we are trained that in the absence of repentance, absolution has to be withheld.”

It isn’t true. The Church does not teach this. Just to start, anything you do can endanger your salvation, depending on why you do it. Even voting for a pro-life politician, if you do it to hurt others or to secure your own advantage at a cost to others.

What the Church does teach about voting is a little tricky, though. She teaches and defends eternal truths. But she does so thinking deeply about how to live them in a fallen world. How to do that isn’t always obvious. That’s where the challenge comes in.

Abortion makes the question hard to answer. As Pope St. John Paul II said in “*Evangelium Vitae*,” abortion is a crime, and one “no human law can claim to legitimize.” We can’t support it in any way. Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said in 2002, in a famous doctrinal note about Catholic participation in political life, abortion violates “the essence of the moral law, which concerns the integral good of the human person.” In a message to the American bishops two years later, he said directly that a Catholic can’t vote for a candidate because he supports abortion.



People fill out their ballots at an early voting site in Arlington, Virginia, on Sept. 18.  
— CNS photo/AI Drago, Reuters

But here’s where it gets tricky. The Church recognizes that democratic politics is a matter of imperfect choices between inadequate or even corrupt candidates to achieve limited ends and the best result we can. Politics involves a lot of “ifs” and “what ifs” and “maybes” and best guesses and questions never quite answered.

No candidate in American history has held a completely Catholic set of positions. And even if one did, we’d have to ask whether he really meant it and whether he’d really follow it. In almost every election, especially at the national level, one candidate gives you one thing the Catholic wants and takes away another thing, and his opponent does the same thing in reverse. Voting requires mature reflection and often struggle. It is not something the responsible Catholic does according to a simple formula.

That abortion is completely wrong doesn’t mean a Catholic has to vote for the pro-life candidate (assuming there is one) and against the pro-

choice candidate. Ratzinger explained: “When a Catholic does not share a candidate’s stand in favor of abortion and/or euthanasia, but votes for that candidate for other reasons, it is considered remote material cooperation, which can be permitted in the presence of proportionate reasons.” St. John Paul II had said the same thing in “*Evangelium Vitae*,” speaking of elected officials voting on legislation. The U.S. Catholic bishops said this in their document “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship.”

“Remote material cooperation” means that you help someone do something, but at a distance. “Proportionate reasons” means roughly that you believe the good to be done outweighs the evil that will be done. Because abortion is so completely wrong, that good must be very good indeed. What does this mean for voting?

First, even when one candidate says he is pro-choice and the other says he is pro-life, that fact isn’t dispositive, as the lawyers say. It doesn’t

come close to settling the matter. Your first job as a Catholic voter is to know what the candidates say and what they mean by it, if they mean anything. For example, you may find that the “pro-life” candidate is not really pro-life or that if he is, his policies are not, or if they are, that he won’t push them once elected. Anyone can say he’s pro-life and then not do anything to protect the unborn.

Second, you must consider all the issues. You may find you have a proportionate reason for voting for the pro-choice candidate. Or you may

will save more unborn lives than the pro-life candidate’s; or that the pro-life candidate will do such damage to society, and to human persons, that he loses whatever advantage he has in saving unborn lives by the damage he causes; or that the pro-life candidate will do such damage to our country and our political system that he will destroy the possibility of a pro-life public ethic. Or other reasons.

Catholics don’t vote by formula. We vote with “a well-formed conscience that perceives the proper relationship among moral goods,” as the U.S. bishops said. And that’s hard work, but it’s the work we’re given to do.

*David Mills writes from Pennsylvania. “The Church does not tell us whom we can and can’t vote for, and here’s why,” by David Mills from Our Sunday Visitor, Aug. 24, 2020. Copyright, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing. 1-800-348-2440. www.osv.com. Used by permission. No other use of this material is authorized. To subscribe visit osvnews.com.*

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## Public Rosaries in the Square for Fatima anniversary

Public Rosary in the Square crusades sponsored by members of a national Catholic organization known as America Needs Fatima ([americaneedsfatima.org](http://americaneedsfatima.org)), will include about 20,000 public Rosary rallies across the United States, with an estimated 1 million people praying for our nation, peace, conversions, family and God's guidance. It marks the 103rd anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun that was witnessed by many during Our Lady's 1917 apparitions to children in Fatima, Portugal. The Rosary and other prayers will be offered for the reparation for the sins and offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and for the conversion of the United States. "The Rosary is a powerful weapon against all the evils that beset us, especially against the forces that deny the presence of God and the mystery of our salvation in Jesus Christ," organizers stated. "The Rosary is the most perfect summary of our faith, giving us ample opportunity to reflect on the story of salvation." Participants are encouraged to bring a rosary and a lawn chair and an umbrella if necessary. Following CDC guidelines for social distancing and the wearing of masks is encouraged.

**All events will take place at noon on Saturday, Oct. 10, unless otherwise stated.**

**Boonville** — Hannah Cole Park at the corner of Main and Morgan Streets. (Ss. Peter & Paul Church, 322 Seventh St. in case of rain)

**California** — Proctor Park East Pavilion

**Columbia** — Sunday, Oct. 11, 3 pm, Sacred Heart Church, 105 Waugh St.

**Hannibal** — outside Holy Family School, 1113 Broadway

**Jefferson City** — 9:30 am gathering in the lower

St. Peter Church parking lot, Pro Deo Et Patria (for God and country) Eucharistic procession to State Capitol followed by Benediction and Rosary

**Lake Ozark** — Sunday, Oct. 11, 3 pm, Our Lady of the Lake Church, 2411 Bagnell Dam Blvd.

**Linn** — outside St. George School, 601 E. Main St. (U.S. 50)

**Owensville** — corner of Hwy. 28 and South Cuba St.

**Quincy, Illinois** — east side of St. Francis Solanus School, southwest corner of 18th St. and College Ave.

**Rolla** — outside St. Patrick Church, 17 Saint Patrick Ln., off Bishop Ave. (U.S. 63)

**St. Thomas** — 10 am, St. Thomas the Apostle flower garden, 14814 Route B

**Sedalia** — outside the Sacred Heart Chapel Parish Center, 421 W. Third St.

## Pope Francis releases apostolic letter on Sacred Scripture

By Junno Arocho Esteves  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

In an apostolic letter dedicated to Sacred Scripture, Pope Francis said that even today, Christians can learn new things from the countless translations of the Bible that exist.

The variety of translations of the Bible in the world today "teaches us that the values and positive forms of every culture represent an enrichment for the whole Church," the pope said in his apostolic letter, "Devotion to Sacred Scripture" (*"Scripturae Sacrae affectus"*).

"The different ways by which the word of God is proclaimed, understood and experienced in each new translation enrich Scripture itself since, according to the well-known expression of Gregory the Great, Scripture grows with the reader, taking on new accents and new resonance throughout the centuries," he wrote in the letter released by the Vatican Sept. 30.

Earlier in the day, before concluding his weekly general audience, the pope told pilgrims he had signed the document to coincide with the 16th centenary of St. Jerome's death.

"May the example of this great doctor and father of the Church, who placed the Bible at the center of his life, awaken in us a renewed love for the Sacred Scripture and the desire to live in a personal dialogue with the word of God," he said.

The letter itself said that marking the 16th centenary of St. Jerome's death is "a summons to love what Jerome loved, to rediscover his writings and to let ourselves be touched by his robust spirituality, which can be described in essence as a restless and impassioned desire for a greater knowledge of the God Who chose to reveal Himself."

Catholics today, he said, must heed "the advice that Jerome unceasingly gave to his contemporaries: 'Read the divine Scriptures constantly; never let the sacred volume fall from your hand.'"

In his apostolic letter, the pope delved into the history of St. Jerome's life and his love of Scripture. His "monumental work" of translating the Old Testament from Hebrew, as well as his commentary on the Psalms and St. Paul's letters, are an example for Catholics today, he said.

"As an enterprise carried out within the community and at the service of the community, Jerome's scholarly activity can serve as an example of synodality for us and for our own time," the pope said.

"It can also serve as a model for the Church's various cultural institutions, called to be 'places where knowledge becomes service, for no genuine and integral human development can occur without a body of knowledge that is the fruit of cooperation and leads to greater cooperation,'" he said, quot-

ing a speech he gave in 2019 to the pontifical academies.

St. Jerome's life and work also highlight the need for true witnesses of Christ who can faithfully interpret Scripture which often seems as if it is "sealed," hermetically closed to interpretation."

"Many, even among practicing Christians, say openly that they are not able to read it, not because of illiteracy, but because

they are unprepared for the biblical language, its modes of expression and its ancient cultural traditions," he said. "As a result, the biblical text becomes indecipherable, as if it were written in an unknown alphabet and an esoteric tongue."

The pope said that "the richness of Scripture is neglected or minimized by many because they were not afforded a solid grounding in this area," not

even from their families, who often seem unable "to introduce their children to the word of the Lord in all its beauty and spiritual power."

Nevertheless, the celebration of the 16th centenary of St. Jerome's death, is a reminder of "the extraordinary missionary vitality" throughout the centuries that has led to the Bible's translation in more than 3,000 languages, he said.

## Missouri defends ban on Down Syndrome abortions

From the Missouri Catholic Conference

On Sept. 24, Missouri Solicitor General John Sauer defended the state's law that protects unborn children with Down Syndrome.

"People with Down Syndrome are literally one generation away from complete elimination," Mr. Sauer told the three-judge panel of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. "A radical reduction in the number of the class of people with Down Syndrome would inflict an incalculable loss in our society."

At issue is HB 126, the Missouri Stands for the Unborn Act, passed by the General Assembly in 2019.

The comprehensive pro-life law includes a number of provisions, including bans on

abortions at eight, 14, 18 and 20 weeks gestational age and a ban on abortions based on the race or sex of the unborn child or based on a prenatal diagnosis of Down Syndrome.

Planned Parenthood filed a

lawsuit against the state after the bill was signed into law and a federal judge blocked the gestational age bans and the Down Syndrome abortion ban from going into effect in August 2019.

## Rev. Mr. Derek Hooper shares his call story in homily posted online

During a Sept. 20 homily at St. Joseph Church in Libertyville, Illinois, Rev. Mr. Derek Hooper — a seminarian at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago, who hopes to be ordained a priest of the Jefferson City diocese next year — described his journey from wanting to become an accountant for the Texas Rangers to discerning God's call to the Priesthood later in his life.

He also talked about his brother, who is a priest in the Diocese of Wichita, who has been with him through his discernment.

A podcast recording of the homily can be found online at [podbean.com](http://podbean.com), and search "Dcn. Hooper."



# Everett's term as president/principal of Tolton Catholic begins

By Jay Nies

Dr. Daniel Everett was well aware that something heavy was resting on his shoulders.

"The weight of this medal, I think, is symbolic of the weight of the position of overseeing a Catholic high school," he said during a Sept. 17 prayer service at which Bishop W. Shawn McKnight invested him as president and principal of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia.

The investiture ceremony took place in the St. Augustine Chapel at Tolton Catholic, in the presence of Dr. Erin Vader, diocesan superintendent of Catholic Schools; Father Christopher Cordes, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Columbia and chairman of Tolton Catholic's Board of Trustees; Father Paul Clark, one of the school's chaplains; and several other representatives of the administration, faculty and student body.

The rest of the students and teachers watched via livestream from their classrooms.

Many others, including Dr. Everett's mother in Baltimore, tuned in from afar.

"Dr. Everett, I have entrusted to you the leadership of Fr. Tolton Catholic High School," said Bishop McKnight. "Thank you for accepting our invitation to be of servant leadership at Fr. Tolton and to engage our wider Catholic and local community of Columbia."

Bishop McKnight presented the medal to Dr. Everett and his successors as a symbol of the office of school president.

It was one of three new medals the bishop commissioned, presenting the others to the new presidents of Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City and Sacred Heart High School in Sedalia.

He noted that as president, Dr. Everett will be responsible for making sure timeless, universal Catholic values permeate the culture of the institution "as the faculty and students participate together in the school's mission to blaze a trail."

Toward that end, Dr. Ev-



**LEFT:** Dr. Daniel Everett, president and principal of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, likens the weight of the bronze presidential medal to that of the responsibility of a Catholic high school administrator. — Photo by Jay Nies

**RIGHT:** Dr. Everett, center, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and members of the Tolton Catholic community gather in the school's chapel for Dr. Everett's installation as president. — Photo by Joe Bradley

erett will need to "engage a broader number of people to participate in the school, to form disciples of Jesus Christ," the bishop said.

He pointed out that effective leaders do not try to do all the work alone.

Rather, "a good leader searches out the skill sets and talents that are available to a community, and knows how to facilitate their use in accomplishing the mission," he stated.

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

As illustrated in the Bible and throughout salvation history, "quality leadership looks for and empowers other leaders," he said.

## "Beyond the walls"

Dr. Everett recently moved to central Missouri from the state of California, bringing many years of experience as a Catholic-school educator and administrator.

He said he accepted this role in a new place in response to a calling from God.

He's grateful for the opportunity to serve and for the welcome he has received.

"It's exciting to part of such an awesome community of people," he said, adding that the students have amazed him.

He said he recognizes the seriousness of all that goes into providing an environment for students to grow and to learn, both academically and in their faith.

"I understand learning as a journey," he said. "It's a life-long process."

He acknowledged that there are time-honored procedures and benchmarks for measuring student success.

"But I hope to inspire in the students and all involved in the community a sense of love of learning," he said, "something that goes beyond the walls, beyond the tests, something that you take with you for the rest of your life."

## Counting on help

In prayer, Fr. Cordes extolled God for Tolton Catholic and for Dr. Everett and the gifts he brings to the school.

"We thank You, Lord, for Your work through him to lead and guide our school, with all of those who are part

of this community," Fr. Cordes prayed.

Bishop McKnight blessed Dr. Everett and assured him of his continued prayers.

Dr. Everett said he will continue to rely on God's help, along with that of the bishop, superintendent and the entire Tolton Catholic community.

"I'm excited to walk this path with you and blaze a trail," he said.

*A video of the prayer service can be found on the Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Facebook page:*

[facebook.com/ToltonCatholic/](https://www.facebook.com/ToltonCatholic/)



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## QUESTION CORNER

Sacraments for divorced & remarried?  
Concern for my grandchildren

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service



**Q. A divorced Catholic who has remarried outside the Church cannot receive Holy Communion without an annulment of the first marriage. Can they receive other sacraments — such as the anointing of the sick or a Mass of Christian burial? (City and state withheld)**

**A.** A Catholic who is divorced and remarried without an annulment is surely still a member of the Church. In *"Familiaris Consortio,"* an apostolic exhortation that he wrote in 1981, St. John Paul II highlighted this truth. He said:

"I earnestly call upon pastors and the whole community of the faithful to help the divorced, and with solicitous care to make sure that they do not consider themselves as separated from the Church, for as baptized persons they can, and indeed must, share in her life. They should be encouraged to listen to the word of God, to attend the sacrifice of the Mass, to persevere in prayer ... to bring up their children in the Christian faith, to cultivate the spirit and the practice of penance and thus implore, day by day, God's grace" (No. 84).

Specifically to your question, the person you ask about may receive the anointing of the sick in danger of death and may have a Catholic funeral Mass and be buried in a Catholic cemetery.

**Q. I am the grandmother of two beautiful children — ages 4 and 16 months. My son, the father of these grandchildren, no longer practices his faith and is married to a non-Catholic. When I approached our priest and asked him to baptize our grandchildren, he declined to do so — because my son no longer attends church and was not married in the Catholic Church. When I told the priest that I have the children two days each week and am willing to instruct them in the faith, he said that was not my responsibility, but their parents'. I cannot believe that God would ever turn a child away from our faith, nor deny them the graces from the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism, especially when there is an adult in their lives who is willing to raise them in the faith. Can you help me understand the Church's position on this issue? (Port Royal, Virginia)**

**A.** You are to be commended for your concern for the children's development in the faith. One thing you haven't told me, though, is this: Does your son want his children to be baptized? (Or does he even know that you have asked a priest to do so?)

The Church's *Code of Canon Law* provides that for an infant to be baptized licitly "the parents or at least one of them or the person who legitimately takes their place must consent" (Canon 868).

Now supposing that you are able to get your son to agree, there is still a further issue. That same *Canon* goes on to say that "there must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion." Granted that you have the care of the children two days a week, but where are they on weekends and is your son willing, as the children grow, to take them to Mass?

I suggest that you have a quiet conversation with your son. Tell him of your deep desire that the children be baptized and raised as Catholics and of your willingness to assist with that. If he does not agree, then I think you are best off entrusting the

See DOYLE, page 22

Papal Audience  
September 30, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the series of catecheses that concludes today, we have reflected on the effects of the current pandemic in the light of the Church's social doctrine. Our world needs to be healed not only of the present virus, but also of the "social ills" of inequality, injustice and exclusion that afflict so many of our brothers and sisters in the human family. In the light of Christ's teaching, we have seen the importance of solidarity, subsidiarity and respect for human dignity for the shaping of a society in accord with the values of God's Kingdom, a society that gives priority to its poorest and most vulnerable members, and to the responsible stewardship of the goods of

creation. Just as Jesus brought physical and spiritual healing to the sick, so we too are called to bring the Gospel's healing power to the task of creating a more just, inclusive and participatory society at every level. In this way, by God's grace, we will emerge from the present crisis with renewed hope for the building of a world ever more consistent with our human dignity and lofty vocation.

I cordially greet the English-speaking faithful, especially the new seminarians who have arrived in Rome to begin their years of formation and the deacons of the Pontifical North American College. May the Lord sustain their efforts to be faithful servants of the Gospel. Upon all of you and your families I invoke the joy and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!

Priest clarifies recent Fr. Doyle column  
on original sin and the role of grace

By Father Dylan Schrader

In a recent *"Question Corner"* column (CM 09-18), Father Kenneth Doyle replied to a query about original sin.

The questioner had grown up in a Protestant community without hearing about original sin and, having become Catholic, wanted to know what the Catholic teaching is.

Fr. Doyle stated that "original sin involves no personal guilt on our own part; it simply means that, as a consequence of the fall of our earliest parents, we have been weakened in our ability to resist temptation — we still possess free will, but we are born into the world with an inherited inclination to evil."

The inherited inclination to evil that Fr. Doyle is describing is technically called *concupiscence*. Concupiscence is a consequence of original sin, but it is not the heart of what original sin is. Catholics do not equate original sin and concupiscence, as some of the Protestant reformers did (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 406).

Just as to understand sickness we need a sense of what health means, in order to understand original sin, we have to know about original *justice*.

God created our first parents, Adam and Eve, in a state of supernatural friendship with

Himself. Some things are an essential part of humanity, qualities that we have just from the definition of being human (such as bodies, rational thought, and free will). Adam and Eve had all those things, just as we do, but they also had extra gifts from God. The most important of these was the gift of *sanctifying grace*, which is a share in God's divine nature, a state of holiness going beyond human capacity.

They also had further gifts, such as freedom from pain, perfect restraint and control over their emotions and inclinations, and special knowledge.

God gave Adam and Eve these gratuitous gifts with a condition — so long as they showed God loving obedience, they would keep all these gifts and their descendants would inherit them as well.

So, when Adam sinned, as head of the human race, he lost those extra gifts not only for himself but also for all his descendants (Romans 5:12,19).

Analogously, if a wealthy man loses all his money and property, his children will not be able to inherit it.

The original sin committed by Adam has led to what we call "original sin" in each one of us. Original sin is not

a personal sin. Nor is it merely an inclination or the fact that we are born into a world filled with bad examples.

Original sin is essentially a *lack*. "It is a deprivation of original holiness and justice" (*Catechism*, no. 405).

Human beings conceived after Adam are still created good on the level of nature, but we also start out missing gifts that God wants us to have, gifts that we would have received if Adam had not sinned.

Most of all, we are created lacking sanctifying grace, which is required for entrance into heaven.

The state of original sin that we inherit is called "sin" not because it is a personal sin but because it is a lack of the holiness that God intends for us and because this lack was caused by Adam's personal sin.

This is one reason why Mary's Immaculate Conception is such a special privilege. Mary was *conceived* in a state of sanctifying grace, despite Adam's sin, in view of her unique vocation as Mother of God and the merits of her Son.

Unlike Mary, the rest of us are not conceived or born in a state of sanctifying grace; it has to be given to us in order for us

See ORIGINAL SIN, page 22



# The seasons of Ordinary Times

By Lucia A. Silecchia



The quirky old building that I call home has a temperamental heating and cooling system that cannot both heat and cool at the same time. Thus, every September, when the first crisp fall days roll in, some want to switch it over to heat. Others, like me, want to believe that summer will make a triumphant — albeit temporary — return. So, we want to hold out on the switch to heat for as long as we can.

Ultimately, though, the day comes when fall's arrival becomes too obvious to ignore and the heat comes on. This dance will come again in six months when we debate when and whether a cold winter has loosened its grip and given way to the warmth of spring.

In one sense, this semi-annual debate is nothing more significant than a quest for comfort in the 'tween seasons. In another sense, though, it seems to mirror the tensions and difficulties that come not only when the seasons, predictably, change on the calendar but also when the seasons change, both predictably and unpredictably, in our lives.

Life is full of such seasonal changes

— even for those who do not see their lives as particularly dramatic. Seasons change when the predictability of staying at home gives way to the adventure, or misadventure that is kindergarten. Seasons change when the security of student life is traded for the stress and excitement of the working world. Seasons change when jobs change through the excitement of promotions and new opportunities — or with the abrupt hardship of unemployment.

Seasons change when commitments are made to marriage or religious life or parenting. Seasons change when the parents who cared for their children become those cared for by their children. Seasons change when a phone call from a physician brings the good news longed for or the bad news feared. Seasons change when a mistake made has unpredicted and profound consequences. Seasons change when a grudge is released and an enemy is forgiven with a grace that frees the forgiver as much as the forgiven. Seasons change when a fear is overcome, or when a new fear burdens the heart.

Seasons change when a loved one moves away or when a new friendship is formed. Seasons change when a family home is packed up and sold — and when a new home becomes the backdrop for a lifetime of memories. Seasons change when a parish or a school close

and when a new parish home is found.

Seasons change every time a new member of a family is born, and every time a family member breaths his or her last breath. Seasons change in those moments of profound spiritual comfort and also when those moments give way to seasons of the soul's dark nights.

Seasons change when a virus unknown to the world a short while back wreaks havoc on a fragile world and its most vulnerable people. Seasons change whenever a long held view is found to be wrong, or when the conscience gently — or not — calls into question a past or present prejudice, imprudence or unkindness.

All of these changes of season are hard — even when they are the ones that are also joyful and longed for. Right now, I am eager for a crisp fall and the start of a new season. Indeed, new beginnings seem especially welcome this year. In this spirit, I met a friend this weekend for the first hot cocoa of the season — my annual low-budget welcome to fall. Yet, I am also sorry to see the end of long warm days and the full sunshine that is slipping away as darkness comes earlier each night.

Maybe the tug at the heart that comes

with life's changes of season merely reflects human nature's affinity for the familiar over the unknown. But maybe it is a little bit more. Maybe the changes in seasons remind us how uncertain life is. They remind us how much we do not know the ways in which the future will unfold as much as we yearn to believe that we do. They remind us how leaving behind the familiar demands a leap of faith — or, at least, a tiny step of faith.

Maybe, as with so many other things, these changes of season are a time to, once again, renew our trust in the God who knows that there is "an appointed time for everything" (Ecc. 3:1) that happens in our lives. This is true of the large dramatic changes in seasons — but also in the small, subtle and gradual ones as well. I know that I want what I want when I want. But, maybe there is a wisdom in watching the seasons change with a bit more patience, and trust. May God bless all the changes that come to the seasons of your ordinary times.

*Lucia A. Silecchia is a Professor of Law at the Catholic University of America. Email her at [silecchia@cua.edu](mailto:silecchia@cua.edu).*

## Solitude: Imperative for leadership

By Father Eugene Hemrick  
Catholic News Service



On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being little to not often and 10 being very often, how often do today's prominent decision-makers rely on solitude when making final decisions? Depending on the answer, so goes substantial or substandard leadership.

Ionian philosophers believed in thinking their way to the truth by way of what Albert Einstein called "*Gedankenexperiment*" (thought experiment): to just sit and think. Einstein felt that physics and reality "is nothing more than a refinement of everyday thinking."

Solitude is at the basis of in-depth thinking enabling us to go inside of our self and contact the ultimate me and what I am about. Equally important, it puts us in touch with a conscience that dictates right from wrong. Most important, it requires God's presence inviting His counsel on how to act in the eyes of our Creator.

With greater frequency, decision-makers are consumed by myriad pressing challenges that do not allow for qui-

etly "just sitting there and thinking," consulting their conscience and meditating on God's role in their life's work.

Too often the ability to address the very center of their being is usurped by busyness causing them to become mechanized clogs churning out dull, superficial motion lacking a contemplative edge.

A vital challenge for decision-makers is soul-searching questions that ask, Am I matter of fact about random and often unsubstantiated opinions without employing the best of my discerning powers? Do I sit still long enough to frequently refine my thinking on what I am presently about and called to achieve? Do I consult my conscience to ensure honorable wisdom in problem-solving?

Solitude is often envisioned as being situated in a monastery or some prayerful, contemplative environment. Undoubtedly, this is a desirable atmosphere. Solitude, however, has been the right arm of prudent leaders in non-monastic settings inimical to it. Somehow, they were able to make time to sit, quietly think and conceive of historic solutions.

Presently, leadership faces incredible complexities that threaten well thought out decision-making — a challenging time to cultivate a sharper contemplative edge to cope wisely.

## REFLECTION

### A Father's love

By Mark Saucier

The Bible, like all great literature, has boundless depth. No matter how familiar we are with a Scriptural passage, there is always some new insight that we can find, and often desperately need.

I was reminded of this recently when reading about the baptism of Jesus. Jesus encountered John the Baptist, preaching a change of heart and baptizing in the River Jordan. He convinced the reluctant John to immerse Him as well.

When Jesus emerged from the water, the sky opened and the Spirit of God descended upon Him. Still shaking the water out of His ears, Jesus heard a heavenly voice declare, "This is My beloved Son. My favor rests on Him."

For some reason, I felt compelled to spend time on this. I reread the various accounts in Matthew, Mark and Luke. Comparing them, two things struck me.

First, all three writers place the baptismal story at the very beginning of the public life of Jesus.

Second, none of the accounts indicate that anyone else saw the hovering dove or heard the fatherly attestation. As a matter of fact, in Luke, it happens later when Jesus is at prayer.

While the Church calls it a theophany, a public manifestation of God to humans, it was something intensely personal. It was for His sake, not some theatrical proof of divinity for the benefit of others.

It was foremost an affirmation of abiding love. It was something Jesus had to know if His life was to have meaning, much less accomplish its mission.

Jesus did nothing to deserve this. Maybe He had been a model child, earning straight A's in *yeshiva*. Maybe He was a skilled craftsman or a record-setting striker for the Nazareth Nebels.

But this wasn't about anything He had done or even what He was about to do. It was about affection and acceptance at the core of His relationship to God.

I know that feeling from time to time. It comes only when I let go completely: let go of what I want others to think of me; let go of what I have accomplished or think that I should; let go of all those things that I assume I need, to make me happy.

Through no merit of our own, we are beloved. We belong, we are worthy, we are, as the psalmist says, "wonderfully made."

But the baptizer was right — it does involve change, not for God's love but because of it.



# Good behavior rewarded once again at Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City

By Eddie O'Neill

Good behavior is a way of life for the more than 300 students at Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City.

For the past five years, the teachers and staff have won the Silver Award from the Missouri School-Wide Positive Behavior Support (MO-SWPBS) program.

The program, based on research and objective data, began at the University of Missouri in 1998.

"Close to 10 years ago, our teachers and administration were at a flux, trying to figure out how to monitor behavior in their classrooms," said Principal Heather Schrimpf.

There was no school-wide standard for grades pre-kindergarten through 8.

"Rules and expectations in third grade were different than those in the sixth grade," said Mrs. Schrimpf. "We wanted some basic (behavior) principles for all ages."

They learned about SWPBS and began visiting other local schools to see how it works, day in and day out.

"It is used mainly in public schools," Mrs. Schrimpf noted. "We became the first Catholic school in the state to put it into practice in the 2011-2012 school year."

Nearly a decade later, according to Christi Lewis, Im-

maculate Conception remains the only Catholic school in the state to be using the program.

Mrs. Lewis serves as an improvement consultant for MO-SWPBS. With an office at the University of Missouri in Columbia, she has been working with I.C. School since the program got under way there.

"They continue to do all the right things," she explained. "They do all they can to support teachers, students and staff. They continue to be proactive in making their school a safe space."

"This is a lot of work and they have been fully committed to it," she said.

## HALO effect

The program consists of three tiers of implementation.

Tier One involved teachers and staff at Immaculate Conception going through an intense three years of training.

Stacey Eisterhold is the school's fifth-grade teacher as well as its Tier One coach.

She said Tier One encompasses students who are on the right track and need encouragement to keep going. They are well adjusted and do well in the classroom.

"Close to 85 percent of our student here fall into this category," she stated. "That means



Immaculate Conception School Assistant Principal Lora Boessen, Tier 1 coach and fifth-grade teacher Stacey Eisterhold, Tier 2 coach and first-grade teacher Leah Pickering, and Principal Heather Schrimpf display their fifth consecutive Silver Award from the Missouri School-Wide Positive Behavior Support (MO-SWPBS) program.

— Photo from Immaculate Conception School

we are able to reach them academically, behaviorally and socially without issues."

She explained that the school came up with the acronym HALO to put a unique Catholic twist on the program. HALO stands for: "Have responsibility," "Act safely," "Live Christlike" and "Offer respect."

"This is a school-wide acronym that all the students are familiar with," said Ms. Eisterhold. "Teachers use the same verbiage when dealing with these (HALO) behaviors. We have this acronym posted all over the school so that our students know what is expected of them where they are at."

Mrs. Lewis added that a big part of Tier One is encouraging good behavior and discouraging inappropriate behavior.

One way they do this is through their HALO ticket

system.

"Students earn HALO tickets when a good behavior is seen by a teacher," Mrs. Schrimpf explained. "The hope is that by having us reinforcing these positive behaviors, the students see that there is a reward involved for doing the right thing."

## Addressing needs

Tier Two is led by Leah Pickering, the school's first-grade teacher.

She related that around 10 to 15 percent of Immaculate Conception students fall into this category.

"This level deals with students who are struggling more with behavioral issues, academic needs or social concerns," she said. "We monitor data for these students and come up with a specific, individualized

plan to help these students succeed."

For instance, a teacher might recommend a student go for regular visits to one of the in-school counselors or meet with a tutor to help with a particular subject.

"It looks at the whole picture on how this student is doing," she said.

Finally, Tier Three deals with children who are high-at-risk students.

"This encompasses less than 5 percent of our students," said Mrs. Schrimpf. "These are students who are facing very chronic situations and might need outside therapy. It expands on Tier Two."

She noted that the school had planned on implementing Tier Three this school year. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that is no longer feasible.

They hope to implement it next year.

## Numerous benefits

Has the hard work and long hours of training paid off for the teachers and staff at Immaculate Conception?

"Absolutely!" said Mrs. Schrimpf.


For one thing, it has motivated the school to ramp up its resource and guidance department.

"We now have two full-time resource teachers as opposed to a part-time one that we used to share with another (local) school," she said.

It has helped teachers maintain discipline in their classrooms.

"My office is not a revolving door as it was 10 years ago," she said.

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# Sr. Norma Pimentel is one of magazine's 100 most influential people of 2020

Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

Sister Norma Pimentel, a Missionary of Jesus and executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, has received numerous awards over the years for her work in Texas with migrants along the U.S.-Mexican border, and she can now add a new title to her list: one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people in

the world.

In a Facebook message Sept. 22 about the honor, she gave credit to all those who work with her in the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, "restoring human dignity to those in need. It is a recognition of the generosity of the people of the Rio Grande Valley and from throughout the United States. ... When we see human suffering, we cannot turn our backs, we must respond," she said.



# J.C. native Fr. Meyer notes 50 years as a La Salette priest

By Jay Nies

The Blessed Mother no longer weeps for her Son, Who suffered and died before her eyes but was raised up and now lives forever.

Instead, her tears now flow for so many of her adopted sons and daughters who have turned away from God and from one another.

"She spoke to the children at La Salette about reconciliation, about turning back to God, about realizing the place of Jesus in their lives," said Father Dennis Meyer, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary as a priest of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette.

"Today, perhaps more than ever, there is that need, and Mary continues to call us back to devotion to her Son," he said.

Fr. Meyer, who grew up in Jefferson City and attended the old La Salette high school seminary near Helias Catholic High School, celebrated Mass at this year's Fall Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg.

He did so at the shrine's outdoor altar, which was originally built for the former La Salette Seminary chapel.

"I've never offered Mass on it as a priest before, but it's a very familiar sight to me from early in my formation," he stated.

So are the rolling hills and bluffs of the Missouri River

Valley. Fr. Meyer spent the first six years of his life in Washington, Missouri, and the next 12 in Jefferson City, with time visiting relatives in Westphalia and Freeburg.

"No matter where else you minister or how long you minister in other places, there's just no place like home, and you always feel that," he said.

## Raised in community

"It's very hard for me to imagine being outside the Catholic atmosphere," said Fr. Meyer. "And not just the doctrinal aspect but also the social and communitarian aspects."

His mother grew up in Freeburg, while his father grew up in Washington. Both were small, tight-knit communities.

"So our family life was very, very tight," said Fr. Meyer. "My mom and dad were very much about fostering family life."

That communal Catholic "way of being" helped shape the Meyers' four children — Fr. Meyer and his three sisters.

"In all of those little communities, the Church at that time was the center of commu-



La Salette Father Dennis Meyer elevates the Most Blessed Sacrament during Mass at the Fall Pilgrimage at the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg. With him is Deacon Gerald Korman (left) of Church of the Risen Savior Parish in Rhineland and Monsignor Gregory L. Higley, pastor of St. George Parish in Hermann and of the Rhineland parish. — Photo by Jay Nies

with La Salette priests and hear stories about the seminarians.

He briefly considered joining the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and attending their high school seminary in Carthage.

"But of course, the proximity of the high school in Jef-

nity and even social life," said Fr. Meyer. "I remember hearing how whole towns would gather for baptisms, weddings and funerals."

There were priests and sisters among the relatives on both sides of his family.

He grew up respecting and admiring Monsignor Joseph Vogelweid PA, longtime pastor of St. Peter parish, and the procession of young associate pastors who ministered with him.

"They were really exemplary people," Fr. Meyer recalled. "They are part of what attracted me toward the Priesthood."

After the family moved to Jefferson City, La Salette Father Bill Crane hired Fr. Meyer's mother to work at the newly established La Salette Semi-

nary — first doing laundry for the priests, then as a cook for the priests and seminarians.

This afforded young Dennis many opportunities to interact

See FR. MEYER, page 19



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# Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett recalls Scalia's 'incalculable influence' on her

By Carol Zimmermann  
Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

Justice Antonin Scalia, who died more than four years ago, loomed large in President Donald Trump's Sept. 26 announcement of his Supreme Court nominee, Judge Amy Coney Barrett.

President Trump briefly mentioned the former justice, noting that Barrett had once clerked for him, and he pointed out that Scalia's wife, Maureen, and son Eugene, U.S. secretary of labor, were both in attendance for the White House Rose Garden ceremony.

*The New York Times* reported that President Trump had been impressed with his interview with Barrett just days before the announcement, saying she had been described to him as a "female Antonin Scalia."

In introducing Barrett, he described her as someone with "unyielding loyalty to the Constitution," which echoed how Scalia also had been described for his originalist take on the Constitution, interpreting it through the lens of what the Founding Fathers meant when they wrote it.

President Trump also noted that a "very highly respected law professor at Notre Dame wrote to Justice Scalia with a one-sentence recommendation: 'Amy Coney is the best

student I ever had,'" and Scalia hired her soon afterward.

That professor was John Garvey, current president of The Catholic University of America. In a Sept. 25 column in *The Washington Post*, he said he told Scalia that Coney had been his best student and said the justice was "wise to hire her."

Garvey, who was teaching a First Amendment class at Notre Dame Law School at the time, said Coney had written an answer on a final exam that was "so impressive that I rushed to share it with one of my colleagues. This student, I said, gave a response to my own question much better than the one I had come up with myself."

Barrett, at the White House ceremony, did not immediately bring up Scalia. She said if she were confirmed as a Supreme Court justice, she would be "mindful of who came before me," noting the U.S. flag was still flying at half-staff on federal buildings in memory of Ginsburg.

"Justice Ginsburg began her career at a time when women were not welcome in the legal profession. But she not only broke glass ceilings, she smashed them. For that, she has won the admiration of women across the country and, indeed, all over the world," Barrett said. She then segued to Scalia, whom she called her mentor, by stressing his friendship with Ginsburg.

The two justices "disagreed fiercely in print without rancor in person," she said, adding that she strives to emulate that same pattern.

"I was lucky enough to clerk for Justice Scalia, and given his



Judge Amy Coney Barrett of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, President Donald Trump's nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court, meets with Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, on Capitol Hill in Washington Sept. 29, 2020.

— CNS photo/Demetrius Freeman, Pool via Reuters

incalculable influence on my life, I am very moved to have members of the Scalia family here today," Barrett said, adding that even though that experience was more than 20 years ago, what she learned still resonates.

"His judicial philosophy is mine too: A judge must apply the law as written. Judges are not policymakers, and they must be resolute in setting aside any policy views they might hold," she said.

When Barrett clerked for Scalia in 1998 and 1999, the *Chicago Tribune* said law clerks gave her the nickname "the Conenator" — a play on her maiden name and the Arnold

Schwarzenegger character "The Terminator" — for her ability to destroy "flimsy legal arguments."

On April 7, 2017, Justice Neil Gorsuch filled the seat left vacant by Scalia's death on Feb. 13, 2016. Senate Republican leaders chose not to vote on Judge Merrick Garland, the nominee put forth by President Barack Obama March 16, 2016, in order to wait for a new nominee to be presented after the 2016 presidential election. President Trump nominated Gorsuch Jan. 31, 2017, 11 days after he became president.

Gorsuch, who was raised Catholic, worships in an Epis-

copal church. Barrett, a Catholic mother of seven, has already faced questions directly about her faith and how it could impact her as a judge during 2017 Senate hearings focused on her nomination to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, based in Chicago.

When Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, asked her if she considered herself an "orthodox" Catholic, Barrett said: "If you're asking whether I take my faith seriously and am a faithful Catholic, I am. Although I would stress that my present church affiliation or my religious beliefs would not bear in the discharge of my duties as a judge."

Scalia, a Catholic father of nine children, similarly addressed his faith and his judicial work. "I don't think there's any such thing as a Catholic judge. There are good judges and bad judges," he told the *Catholic Review*, Baltimore's archdiocesan newspaper, in 2010. "The only article of faith that plays any part in my judging is the commandment: 'Thou shalt not lie.'"

He also said it wasn't his job to make policy or law, but to "say only what the law provides."

"My burden is not to show that originalism is perfect, but that it beats the other alternatives," he said in a 2010 lecture.

## Where he received his vocation

Father William Peckman, pastor of Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Boonville and St. Joseph Parish in Fayette, stands at the altar of Sacred Heart Church in Corbin, Kentucky, where he was baptized as an infant, on Sept. 17. "I had not been to that Church since we moved to Missouri in 1977," he stated. "I cannot find words to express the joy I still have to be able to say Mass in the Church where my journey with Jesus started."



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# Messenger

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A quarterly publication by the Missouri Catholic Conference

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Issue III, October 2020

## *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*

The U.S. Bishops have re-issued their document concerning political activity for Catholics: *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. The document includes a new introductory note for 2020, which is printed below. To access the entire document, visit the USCCB website: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf>

*As Catholics, we bring the richness of our faith to the public square. We draw from both faith and reason as we seek to affirm the dignity of the human person and the common good of all. With renewed hope, we, the Catholic Bishops of the United States, are re-issuing Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, our teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics, which provides guidance for all who seek to exercise their rights and duties as citizens.*

*Everyone living in this country is called to participate in public life and contribute to the common good. In Rejoice and Be Glad [Gaudete et exultate], Pope Francis writes:*

*Your identification with Christ and his will involves a commitment to build with him that kingdom of love, justice and universal peace. . . . You cannot grow in holiness without committing yourself, body and soul, to giving your best to this endeavor.*

*The call to holiness, he writes, requires a “firm and passionate” defense of “the innocent unborn.” “Equally sacred,” he further states, are “the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection.”*

*Our approach to contemporary issues is first and foremost rooted in our identity as followers of Christ and as brothers and sisters to all who are made in God’s image. For all Catholics, including those seeking public office, our participation in political parties or other groups to which we may belong should be influenced by our faith, not the other way around.*

*Our 2015 statement, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, sought to help Catholics form their consciences, apply a consistent moral framework to issues facing the nation and world, and shape their choices in elections in the light of Catholic Social Teaching. In choosing to re-issue this statement, we recognize*



*that the thrust of the document and the challenges it addresses remain relevant today.*

*At the same time, some challenges have become even more pronounced. Pope Francis has continued to draw attention to important issues such as migration, xenophobia, racism, abortion, global conflict, and care for creation. In the United States and around the world, many challenges demand our attention.*

*The threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed. At the same time, we cannot dismiss or ignore other serious threats to human life and dignity such as racism, the environmental crisis, poverty and the death penalty.*

*Our efforts to protect the unborn remain as important as ever, for just as the Supreme Court may allow greater latitude for state laws restricting abortion, state legislators have passed statutes not only keeping abortion legal through all nine months of pregnancy but opening the door to infanticide. Additionally,*

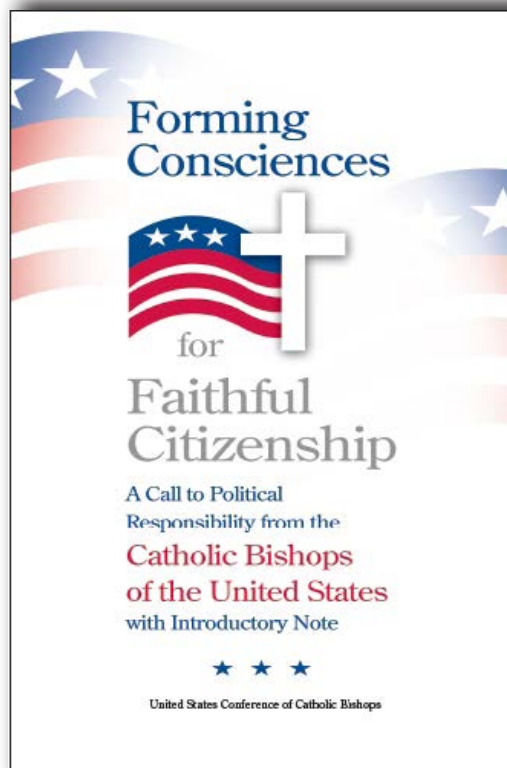


abortion contaminates many other important issues by being inserted into legislation regarding immigration, care for the poor, and health care reform.

At our border, many arriving families endure separation, inhumane treatment, and lack of due process, while those fleeing persecution and violence face heightened barriers to seeking refuge and asylum. Within our borders, Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, and mixed-status and undocumented families face continued fear and anxiety as political solutions fail to materialize. Lawmakers' inability to pass comprehensive immigration reform which acknowledges the family as the basic unit of society has contributed to the deterioration of conditions at the border. As we seek solutions, we must ensure that we receive refugees, asylum seekers, and other migrants in light of the teachings of Christ and the Church while assuring the security of our citizens.

The wound of racism continues to fester; the bishops of the United States drew attention to this important topic in the recent pastoral letter, Open Wide Our Hearts. Religious freedom problems continue to intensify abroad and in the United States have moved beyond the federal to state and local levels. As international conflicts proliferate, addressing poverty and building global peace remain pressing concerns, as does the need to assist persons and families in our own country who continue to struggle to make ends meet. We must work to address gun violence, xenophobia, capital punishment, and other issues that affect human life and dignity. It is also essential to affirm the nature of the human person as male and female, to protect the family based on marriage between a man and a woman, and to uphold the rights of children in that regard. Finally, we must urgently find ways to care better for God's creation, especially those most impacted by climate change—the poor—and protect our common home. We must resist the throw-away culture and seek integral development for all.

With these and other serious challenges facing both the nation and the Church, we are called to walk with those who suffer and to work toward justice and healing.



At all levels of society, we are aware of a great need for leadership that models love for righteousness (Wisdom 1:1) as well as the virtues of justice, prudence, courage and temperance. Our commitment as people of faith to imitate Christ's love and compassion should challenge us to serve as models of civil dialogue, especially in a context where discourse is eroding at all levels of society. Where we live, work, and worship, we strive to understand before seeking to be understood, to treat with respect those with whom we disagree, to dismantle stereotypes, and to build productive conversation in place of vitriol.

Catholics from every walk of life can bring their faith and our consistent moral framework to contribute to important work in our communities, nation, and world on an ongoing basis, not just during election season. In this coming year and beyond, we urge leaders and all Catholics to respond in prayer and action to the call to faithful citizenship. In doing so, we live out the call to holiness and work with Christ as he builds his kingdom of love.

## Voting Absentee in the COVID World

During the abbreviated 2020 legislative session, the Missouri General Assembly changed Missouri's absentee voting laws in order to allow people who have contracted COVID-19 or are in an at-risk category for COVID-19 to vote via absentee ballot for the November 2020 election. They also changed Missouri voting laws to allow persons to vote via mail-in ballot for the November 2020 election. You can find more information here:

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/>



### Absentee Ballots



### Mail-in Ballots

Voters may request an absentee ballot from the election authority in the jurisdiction in which they are registered in person, by mail, by fax, or by e-mail. To qualify for an absentee ballot because of COVID-19, voters must indicate on the form requesting the ballot that they have contracted COVID-19 or are at-risk for contracting or transmitting the virus. Those at-risk include persons 65 years of age or older, those living in a long-term care facility, and persons with chronic lung disease, moderate or severe asthma, a serious heart condition, diabetes, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, liver disease, and persons who are immunocompromised. Election authorities will not require those voting via absentee ballot for reasons related to COVID-19 to have their absentee ballot notarized before submitting it to election authorities. Completed absentee ballots can be submitted to election authorities either in-person or by mail.

Voters may obtain a mail-in ballot either in-person or by mail by requesting one from the election authority of the jurisdiction in which the person is registered. No reason must be given for requesting a mail-in ballot for the November 2020 election, but the request for such a ballot must be received by election authorities by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday October 21, 2020. Unlike absentee ballots, mail-in ballots must be placed in the envelope provided and notarized before being submitted by mail to election authorities in order to be counted. Completed mail-in ballots can only be submitted to election authorities by mail.

## Important Dates for Absentee/Mail-in Ballots

### October 21, 2020 (Wednesday)

Applications submitted by mail for mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by election authorities by 5:00 p.m. this day.

### November 3, 2020 (Tuesday – Election Day 2020)

Completed Mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by election authorities by 7:00 p.m. this day.



# Find Out Where the Candidates Stand

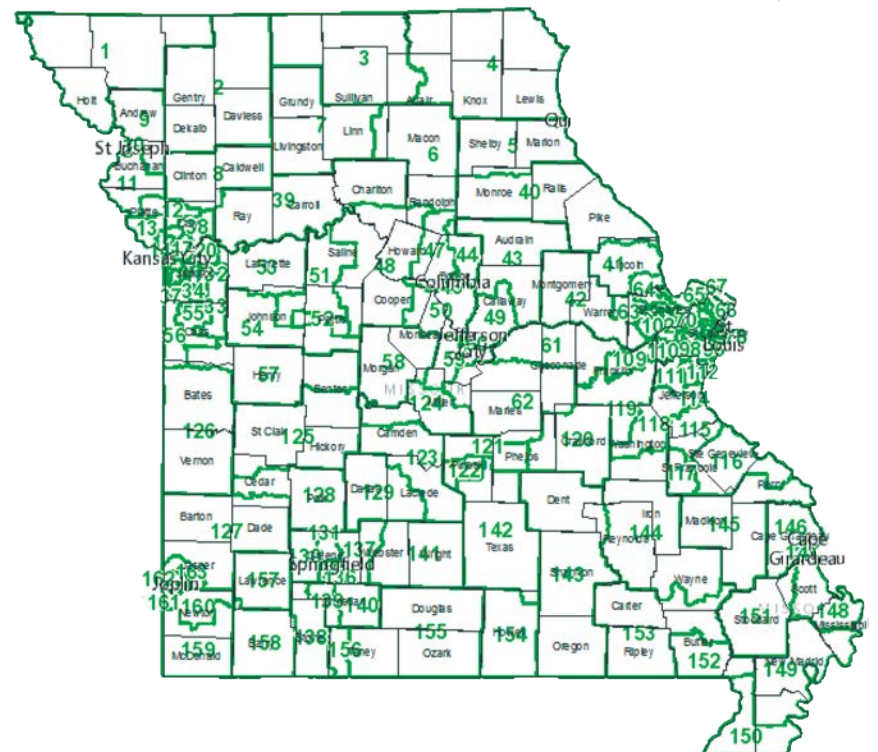
To find out where candidates running for office stand on the issues can seem like a daunting task. But if you have access to the internet, you can find out a lot about a candidate just by reviewing his or her website. If you already know the names of the candidates running in your district, it will be easier for you. To determine who is running for office in your area, you must first know the number of the district in which you live. You can access an interactive map by inputting your home address and reviewing the state and federal districts that correspond to your location on the Missouri Office of Administration website here: <https://ogi.oa.mo.gov/LEGIS/LegislativeDistrict/index.html>

At the federal level, each Missouri citizen is represented by two Senators. Senator Roy Blunt (R) and Senator Josh Hawley (R) represent every Missouri citizen, regardless of their address. Each Missouri citizen is also represented in the U.S. House of Representatives based upon one's address. There are currently eight Congressional districts.

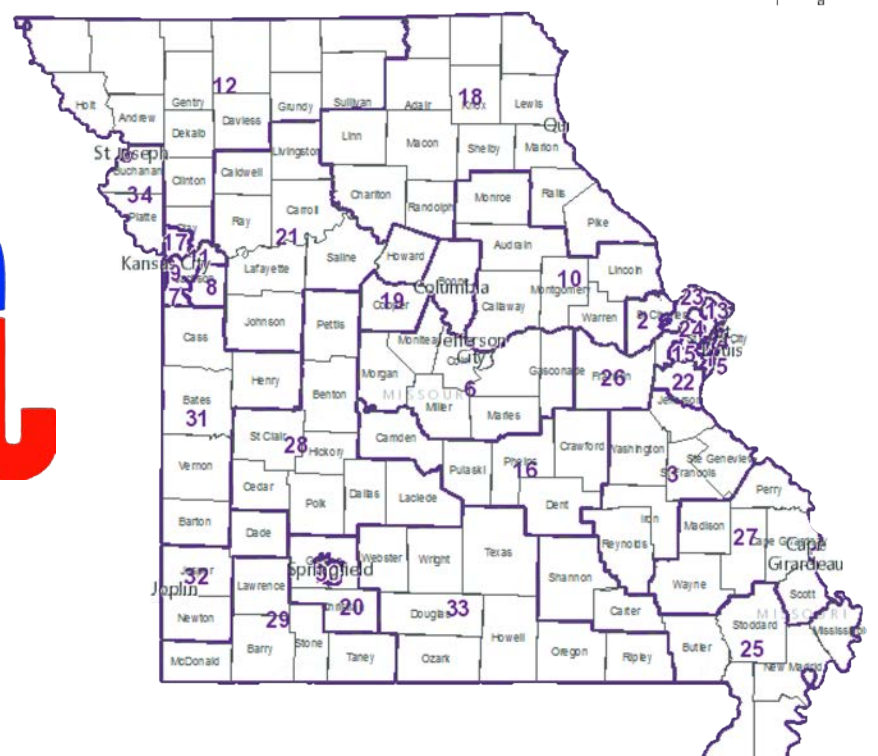
At the state level, each Missouri citizen is represented by both a state senator and a state representative. There are currently 34 state Senate districts and 163 state House districts. First, determine the number of the senate district and house district that corresponds to your address using the interactive map (link above). Then go to the Missouri Secretary of State website to find out the names of the candidates running for that district office. That information is available here: <https://s1.sos.mo.gov/CandidatesOnWeb/>

Once you have found the names of the candidates running for office, you can Google their name to find their website. A good "Google search" might look something like this: "John Smith for Missouri House", or "John Smith for Senate District 8". Most candidates will include information about their position on issues, and some will include the names of groups that endorse them. Many will have videos introducing themselves to voters. Some may even have a Facebook or Twitter page. This will tell you a lot about them and how they would likely vote on issues of concern to you. If you have any trouble finding this information, feel free to contact the MCC. While the MCC does not endorse or oppose candidates, we can help you find your state and federal districts and the candidates running for office in your area if you have trouble finding it yourself. You can call the MCC at (573) 635-7239 or email us at [mocatholic@mocatholic.org](mailto:mocatholic@mocatholic.org).

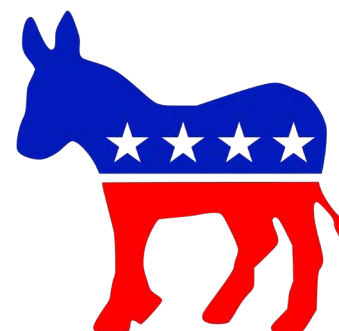
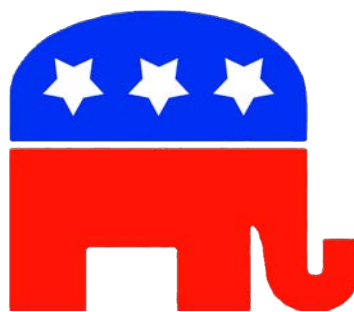
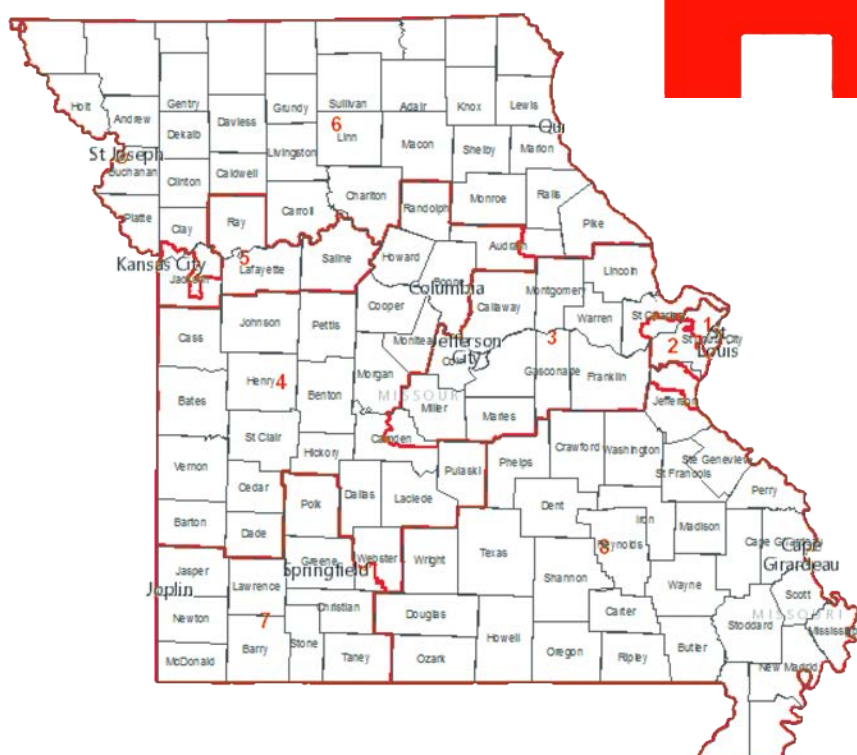
## Mo. House Districts



## Mo. Senate Districts



## U.S. Congressional Districts





## Questions to Ask Candidates

The following are questions to ask candidates to determine their position on issues of importance to voters. These questions address legislation that the Missouri Catholic Conference supports as part of the MCC's public policy priorities:



### Protecting Human Life:

Do you support/oppose continued state appropriations for the Alternatives to Abortion program, which helps women carry their unborn children to term by assisting them during pregnancy and for one year following birth?



### Death Penalty Repeal:

Do you support/oppose a trial judge being required to give a life sentence if the jury cannot unanimously decide on the death penalty in a capital murder case?



### Criminal Justice Reform:

Do you support/oppose parole for non-violent offenders over 65 years of age who have served at least 30 years for their crime and have a good prison record?



### Welcoming the Stranger:

Do you support/oppose providing in-state tuition to undocumented students (Dreamers) who have protected legal status under the federal DACA program?



### Advancing Social and Economic Justice:

Do you support/oppose a state low-income housing tax credit to encourage developers to build affordable housing for low-income workers?



### Religious Liberty:

Do you support/oppose allowing faith-based adoption/foster care providers to operate consistent with their religious convictions by placing children only with opposite-sex couples?



### Education:

Do you support/oppose state tax credits for donations made to scholarship granting organizations that provide tuition assistance for students to attend non-public schools?

## Faithful Citizenship Prayer

Merciful Father,  
Thank you for inviting each of us to join in your work of building the kingdom of love, justice, and peace. Draw us close to you in prayer as we discern your call in our families and communities. Send us forth to encounter all whom you love: those not yet born, those in poverty, those in need of welcome. Inspire us to respond to the call to faithful citizenship, during election season and beyond. Help us to imitate your charity and compassion and to serve as models of loving dialogue. Teach us to treat others with respect, even when we disagree, and seek to share your love and mercy. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

## Thanks to Knights of Columbus



The Missouri Catholic Conference wishes to thank the Missouri Knights of Columbus for their financial support of the MCC Messenger.

Many thanks, MO KOC!



# MOCAN

## Join the Missouri Catholic Advocacy Network! (MOCAN)

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

If you're already a member, encourage your family, friends, and fellow parishioners to join! As MOCAN grows, so does the Catholic voice in Missouri's Capitol. Visit [mocatholic.org](http://mocatholic.org), send us an email at [mocatholic@mocatholic.org](mailto:mocatholic@mocatholic.org), or text MOCAN to 50457 to join.



# MARRIAGE

From page 1

serve as diocesan coordinator for marriage preparation programs.

He and his wife, Helen, will help lead parishes in supporting and/or strengthening the ministry of Pre-Cana and Engaged Encounter teams, and in implementing new initiatives and programs that will expand marriage preparation resources for parishes.

Deacon Robert W. Reinke-meyer of St. Andrew Parish in Tipton and Annunciation Parish in California will serve as diocesan Natural Family Planning coordinator.

He and his wife, Lisa, will help lead parishes in supporting and strengthening the ministry of current Natural Family Planning (NFP) providers in the diocese.

Deacon Jon Bequette of Holy Spirit Parish in Centralia and Deacon James Farnell of St. Brendan Parish in Mexico will serve as diocesan coordinators for marriage enrichment.

Deacon Bequette and his wife, Paula, and Deacon Farnell and his wife, Theresa, will help lead parishes in supporting the ministry of Marriage Encounter for renewing married couples, and Retrouvaille for healing wounded marriages.

The Bequettes and Farnells will also take a leading role in recommending and implementing new initiatives and programs that will expand the Church's resources to support and enrich married couples.

These appointments and became effective Oct. 1.

Each of the deacons will carry out his new role in addition to the responsibilities of his parish assignment.

Deacon Enrique Castro, diocesan director of marriage ministries, and Father Francis Doyle, diocesan moderator of marriage ministries, will assist them.

## "A God commitment"

Deacon and Mrs. Wilson share a passion for helping couples prepare for marriage.

They've been involved in Engaged Encounter for 30 years and have been its diocesan coordinators for about a decade.

Engaged Encounter is a

Catholic renewal weekend for couples who are preparing for marriage.

"We know absolutely for certain that couples who spend a bit of time thinking ahead about what it's going to be like to be married, do better once they are married," said Deacon Wilson.

Married couples also need guidance and support.

"Every married couple has struggles of some sort," he said. "It's part of being married. But it's better when you realize that you're not alone."

No married couple is perfect, but many are successful in working through struggles in a distinctly Catholic manner.

"Whether in good times or hard times, they're still loving each other as Christ told us to love each other," said Deacon Wilson.

"They're doing it based on their belief in God and family and the Church," he said. "The Church is an integral part of how they're living their faith."

He pointed out a major difference between "dating love" and married love.

"Dating love is mostly infatuation," he said. "But married love is when you make a commitment to love the other person, even if you don't like them today."

The husband and the wife remain committed to working through difficulties, no matter what.

"It isn't a feeling like hot or cold," he said. "It's a logical and heart commitment and a God commitment."

## "Stronger marriage"

Deacon and Mrs. Bequette helped with marriage preparation when they were members of Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia.

"Marriage is a sacrament for a reason," said Deacon Bequette. "It's really, really important to be prepared well for it."

He's looking forward to helping parishes discover unmet needs in marriage ministry.

"There are doors that need to be opened that we can't even see yet," he said. "So we will pray and will open doors as



A priest blesses a couple during their wedding ceremony.

— CNS photo/Juan Carlos Ulate, Reuters

they present themselves, and we'll find out how we can do the most good."

He sees a need for parishes to help newly married couples stay connected to their parishes while ministering to other people.

"It's a fact that couples who pray together stay together," he said. "Those are stronger marriages."

## Vocational training

Bishop McKnight appointed Deacon Castro diocesan director of marriage ministries in 2018.

Those ministries include marriage preparation, Natural Family Planning (NFP), and marriage enrichment.

The bishop directed him to contact the people throughout the diocese who carry out these ministries, and find out what kind of help they need.

He worked with Helen Osman and Ashley Wiskirchen in the diocesan Communications Department to promote the various marriage ministries on the diocesan website ([diojeffcity.org](http://diojeffcity.org)) and publicize their events online and in *The Catholic Missourian*.

The bishop also asked Deacon Castro to help formulate a diocesan policy on helping couples prepare for marriage.

Deacon Castro spent about a year consulting with all the priests, deacons, religious and laypeople who are involved in marriage prep throughout the diocese.

"We sent them a survey to find out what they thought the policy should include, what elements and components are

necessary to prepare couples well," said Deacon Castro.

That feedback, along with input from various diocesan advisory groups, led to a policy that the priests of the diocese will review at their annual institute next week.

"Basically, we want to help prepare couples for their vocation, for their life," said Deacon Castro. "We want to provide couples the resources for what God is calling them to be."

The goal is to have laypeople in each parish work with priests and deacons to prepare couples for marriage.

"These lay marriage preparation leaders will receive training in order to know what they're supposed to do," he said.

He emphasized that proper marriage preparation gives a couple many tools for dealing with the challenges they will encounter as husband and wife.

"It doesn't take away any of the problems or difficulties that married couples face," he noted. "It just helps them manage them with God's help."

Deacon Castro said parishes need to provide ongoing follow-up, mentorship and accompaniment for newly married couples.

He said the newly appointed deacons and their wives will be points of contact with people who will carry out these ministries in the parishes.

"Each has a particular role, but they'll all be working together," he said.

For instance, Deacon and Mrs. Reinkemeyer, who are

certified NFP instructors, will help parishes connect engaged and married couples with people who can tell them about NFP and its benefits.

Deacon Bequette and Deacon Farnell and their wives will focus on promoting marriage enhancement programs and helping determine what kind of ministries need to be started or expanded.

For instance, they will make sure pastors have the resources they need to help husbands and wives who are dealing with pornography addiction.

Any marriage resources the diocese provides will be available in English and Spanish.

Most will also be available online.

## "Riches and responsibilities"

At the Priests Institute, Bishop McKnight and the priests of the diocese will discuss a soon-to-be-implemented diocesan policy for ongoing marriage preparation.

"The Church wants to ensure that those entering the life-long commitment of marriage are adequately prepared for the riches and the responsibilities that are intrinsic to it," the bishop stated.

Deacon Castro said marriage ministry will be ongoing and subject to periodic review.

"I'm really excited about this," he said. "It's a different way of seeing and doing things. Instead of having one person in charge of marriage prep, you'll have several people working together."

He asked for prayers for everyone involved in marriage ministry to be able to discern "what God wants from us in this particular time" and to cooperate with His grace.

Deacon Bequette requested prayers "simply to be put in the position to do the most good."

"I'm so thankful for the gift of Holy Orders," he said, referring to the sacrament by which he became a deacon.

"And I frequently say to God, 'You've chosen me for these Holy Orders. Please show me how to use them,'" he said.



## Centering prayer intro, Oct. 17 in Hannibal

Holy Family Parish in Hannibal and St. Joseph Parish in Palmyra will offer an introduction to Centering Prayer,

from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17, in Holy Family Church, 1111 Broadway in Hannibal.

The theme will be "Psalm 46: Be Still and Know that I Am God."

"Centering Prayer is a simple practice that can open us to the intense intimacy and power of Divine Love and lead us to greater inner stability, peace and joy," Father Matthew Flatley, pastor of the parishes, stated.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. with hospitality. Light snacks and drinks will be available.

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[Mike.York@kofc.org](mailto:Mike.York@kofc.org)



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## FR. MEYER

From page 11

City the familiarity I had with it and the fact that Mom worked there all figured into my decision to enter La Salette," he said.

So at age 14, after graduating from St. Peter School, Fr. Meyer forsook a scholarship to Helias Catholic High School and embarked on priestly and religious formation.

His mother soon discerned that the seminary wasn't big enough for both of them.

"Mom was a person who believed once you got to a certain point, you'd be independent," Fr. Meyer recalled. "Priests would come down to the kitchen and tell her stories about my behavior. And she basically told them that I was their problem now!"

### A time of transition

Seminary life stood on the granite pillars of faith and discipline.

"It was a very religious atmosphere," Fr. Meyer recalled. "We had Mass every day — two on Sunday, a Low Mass and a High Mass."

All the seminarians wore cassocks and surplices to Mass.

The young men seldom left the seminary's idyllic property or had contact with people beyond its periphery.

"I think we had one visiting Sunday a month where we could go home until five if your family lived nearby," Fr. Meyer recalled. "And once every month or so, we got to walk into town — usually to Central Dairy for ice cream."

La Salette Father Clarence Wheeler, who later served as a chaplain at the old Missouri State Penitentiary and then at the Discalced Carmelite Monastery in Jefferson City, taught algebra when Fr. Meyer was a senior.

"By that time, there were 13 of us in the class, so it was really like having a personal tutor for all of your classes," said Fr. Meyer.

From there, he moved on to the La Salette junior college in Altamont, New York. He then went to Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, studying philosophy with seminarians from all over the world.

He studied theology at The Catholic University of Ameri-

ca in Washington, D.C.

"We went from years of almost total sequestration to an open campus," he said. "That was a bit of a shock."

The Second Vatican Council had concluded the previous year, and his instructors were



La Salette Father Dennis Meyer.

— Photo by Jay Nies

opening up to the new worldview it presented.

"We got quite an intriguing mix of old theology and new theology," he said. "It was an interesting time."

Each summer, the La Salette seminarians had to meet with the pastor of their home parish.

"And of course, you went with great fear and trepidation," Fr. Meyer recalled. "But at the same time, Msgr. Vogelweid had a great sense of ministry and his enthusiasm quickly put you at ease."

### Called to reconciliation

Fr. Meyer professed vows in 1963, solemnly pledging to spend the rest of his life in poverty, charity and holy obedience, in keeping with the constitutions of the La Salette Missionaries.

On June 6, 1970, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City, Bishop Michael

F. McAuliffe of Jefferson City, now deceased, ordained him to the Holy Priesthood.

The purpose of the La Salette Missionaries is to help reconcile people with God and with one another.

Diocesan priests from Grenoble, France, founded the congregation in 1852 in response to apparitions of the Blessed Mother that had taken place there in 1846.

Many of the people there were poor and uneducated and had become lax in their faith.

Jesus's mother appeared to a group of children who were tending sheep. She moved her hands from her face to reveal that she was crying.

In words the children could understand, she told them how much sorrow she felt for people having fallen out of touch with her Son Jesus.

She wanted them to return to the practice of their faith and the joy that comes with it.

"Make this known to all my people," she told them.

People began making pilgrimages to the site of the apparitions. The priests who ministered there became devoted to spreading her message of returning to God through Jesus.

Eventually setting up a U.S. province, the La Salette Missionaries did mission work in isolated portions of the country, as well as in Argentina, Burma and Madagascar.

Fr. Meyer shared the excitement of the overseas missionaries whenever they returned to talk about their experiences.

"They certainly helped expand my understanding of what it means to be the Church and certainly of what it means to be on mission," he

recalled.

But he never felt called to serve in a foreign mission.

Instead, he spent most of the past 50 years ministering in parishes and helping seminarians discern and prepare for Priesthood.

He started out teaching high school at St. Henry Seminary in Belleville, Illinois, which the La Salette seminarians attended after their Jefferson City seminary closed.

He has always lived with other priests and brothers.

"For me, the religious life and the aspect of close community is an important element to me being a priest," he said.

He served at the La Salette novitiate in Connecticut for a few years, followed by ministering in a parish in Louisiana before moving back into formation work.

He ministered at a suburban parish near Detroit for five years before serving as leader of the congregation's Midwest province.

In those six years, he worked to bridge two distinct generations within the congregation, regularly spending weekends at places throughout the province where La Salette Fathers were serving.

### Restored sense of mission

"When I grew up and went into the community, 'mis-

sion' was almost universally understood as referring to the foreign missions," Fr. Meyer recalled.

"But with the Vatican II understanding of the Church as the People of God comes the realization that we are all on mission together," he said.

Every Catholic has a role, a distinct way of carrying out Christ's mission and building up the People of God.

"Some are called to do this in a more expanded or concentrated way, but we are all called to be a part of the whole mission Church," said Fr. Meyer.

What was once seen as bringing Christ to people who lack His presence is now seen as recognizing His presence within them.

"A good deal of ministry is drawing the story out of people and helping them put it into context," said Fr. Meyer. "That kernel of faith is there, but they don't have a context to fully fit it into."

"Christianity provides that true context."

Priests and religious have an important role to play in that process, but not the only role.

"It's taken several generations to dispel the understanding that the priest has to do everything," he said. It takes time to develop that ecclesiology that everyone is respon-

See LA SALETTE, page 22

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

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By Father Don Antweiler

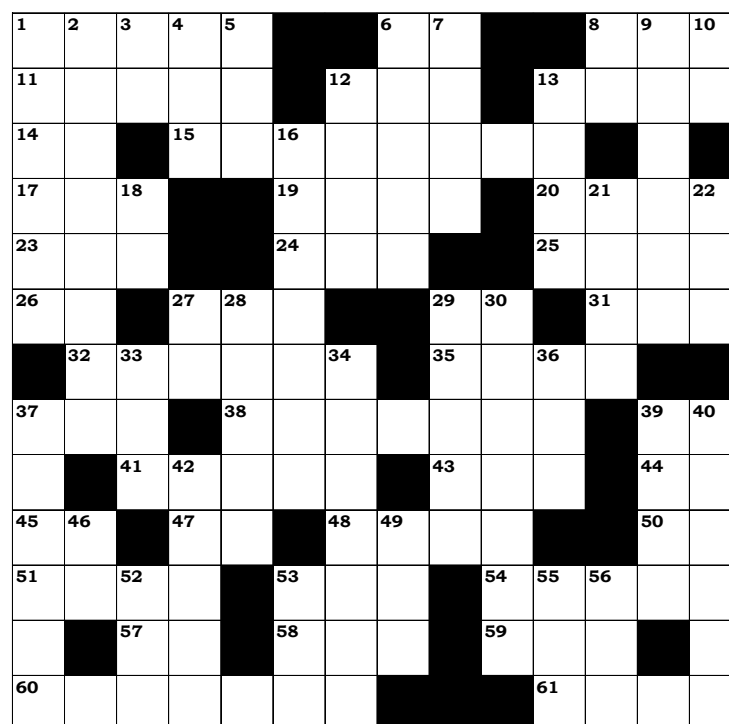
## ACROSS

1. Sometimes called the hugely significant but forgotten Gov. of Mo., Gov. Thomas Fletcher deserves to be rediscovered as the force that led the healing of the huge \_\_\_\_\_ on the land and people of Mo. after the Civil War.
6. Abbr. for gluten-free on dietary charts.
8. Suffix for capital or material.
11. In Mo., "rebels were burning and pillaging;" some Confederate irregulars "cut people's heads off and put them on \_\_\_\_\_," —Stephen Huss, *Rediscovering Thomas C. Fletcher: The Lost Mo. Governor*.
12. "...she stood behind Him at His feet weeping and began to bathe His feet with \_\_\_\_\_ tears," (Luke 7:38).
13. Popular street name in the U.S.
14. I did it \_\_\_\_\_ a whim.
15. List ender word.
17. Letters for Rural Free Delivery, a postal service that began in the late 1800s to rural farm families.
19. I had the \_\_\_\_\_ to kill but just belted him instead.
20. An admirer of A. Lincoln, who in 1860 won a meager 10% of the vote in Mo., Fletcher was the first governor in the nation to \_\_\_\_\_ the Emancipation Proclamation.
23. Letters for tender loving care.
24. British slang for toilet.
25. As a youth, Fletcher witnessed a slave \_\_\_\_\_, which hugely impacted him making him determined not to allow slavery to continue.
26. Juan's yes.
27. What a Cardinal or Royal might swing.
29. "...deliver \_\_\_\_\_ from evil."
31. Kitten's meow.
32. Saguaro or Prickly Pear.
35. "(In the Mass) Christ Himself is set before us as our food. What could be more wonderful than \_\_\_\_\_?" —St. Thomas Aquinas.
37. Abbr. for strict, strong or straight.
38. Concerned about African Am. education, Fletcher was the first President of the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Lincoln Univ.
39. Fletcher's biographer was inspired with Fletcher's personal character by an 1800's newspaper article that described Fletcher "walking hand-\_\_\_\_\_hand with his wife from one park to another."
41. In the 1700s, the town \_\_\_\_\_ was the source of up-to-date news.
43. The Fed. Gov't. has required an Electronic Logging Device (\_\_\_\_\_) on all over-the-road trucks since 2017.
44. Dir. from Salisbury to Kahoka.
45. Time after #27 DOWN.
47. Short for parishes in Loose Creek and Owensville.
48. Hair line?

50. Letters for Common Era, often used instead of #45 ACROSS.
51. Animated character.
53. Medical letters for Interstitial Lung Disease, which causes inflammation & scarring of the lungs.
54. Moses approved of \_\_\_\_\_ and Medad prophesying (Numbers 11:26-27).
57. Country internet letters for Singapore.
58. Grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:22).
59. Mo.'s RR system was rebuilt: "Every single RR \_\_\_\_\_ again after Fletcher was Governor," —Stephen Huss.
60. In education, Fletcher oversaw the addition of 5,000 teachers, 4,000 \_\_\_\_\_ and the creation of the university system.
61. Harry Potter's magic \_\_\_\_\_.

## DOWN

1. Before pro wrestling went from a sport to entertainment, it was dominated by a St. Louisan, Lou Thesz (1916-2002), who many experts rate as the greatest wrestler in history. The son of a Hungarian immigrant, he turned pro at 16, won his first championship at 21, competed in over 6,000 matches, often 5 a week. Completed his last match in Japan at 74 years of age. Is in the Missouri \_\_\_\_\_ Hall of Fame.
2. Mo. was a cauldron of \_\_\_\_\_ 10 years before, during and — which continued for years throughout the State — after the Civil War.
3. "But \_\_\_\_\_ for me and my household, we will serve the Lord," (Joshua 24:15).
4. His address used to be \_\_\_\_\_. #5, Ashland Gravel Rd., Columbia, Mo.
5. Fast flier.
6. He hated me from the \_\_\_\_\_ (2 wds.).
7. Fletcher worked to maintain federal troops in the State and to create a State Militia, which he believed was a key to \_\_\_\_\_ elections in that divided and chaotic time.
8. Home State of the Winnebago (abbr.).
9. "The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made from a \_\_\_\_\_ pearl," (Revelations 21:21).



10. Land of 10,000 lakes (abbr.).
12. Exhausted Mo. elected Fletcher as a war \_\_\_\_\_ though he was unknown to a lot of people.
13. As Fletcher took office in Jan. 2, 1865, railroads & bridges were mostly inoperative. War dead were thrown in \_\_\_\_\_ graves, leaving their loved ones with no closure. 1/3rd of Mo.'s pre-Civil War population had left.
16. Essentially, in 1865 Mo. was bordering on a failed State "in its uncertainty, violence, threats to its citizens, poor economy and devastated \_\_\_\_\_, and this is not an exaggeration," —historian Stephen Huss.
18. Washington, \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Brand of dog food.
22. Fletcher worked to bring the State together while the \_\_\_\_\_ Mo. Legislature wanted to punish Confederate supporters.
27. Time before #45 ACROSS.
28. Upper room?
29. "Blessed are you when they...\_\_\_\_\_ every kind of evil against you falsely because of me," (Matthew 5:11).
30. Fletcher was esp. concerned about the African-Am. population who had difficulties with the basics (i.e., food, \_\_\_\_\_ and other necessities).
33. "About Jesus and the Church, I simply know they're just one thing," —St. Joan of \_\_\_\_\_.
34. Fletcher developed the fi-

- nancial stability of the State by raising property taxes & leveraging federal money. He eliminated Mo.'s debt and created a \_\_\_\_\_.
36. Improvised Explosive Device (\_\_\_\_\_) is a roadside bomb used with lethal effect by terrorists (e.g., in Afghanistan).
37. Famous Mo. artist George Caleb Bingham was appointed Mo. State Treasurer in 1861 and quickly secured the \_\_\_\_\_ treasury in St. Louis as the Civil War began.
39. The \_\_\_\_\_ Empire was centered in Cusco in the Peruvian Andes, which is near one of the Peruvian missions (Capachica) our diocese supported in its earlier years.
40. Fletcher greatly improved agriculture and brought immigrants into the State as workers were desperately \_\_\_\_\_.
42. Beatle drummer \_\_\_\_\_ Starr.
46. "\_\_\_\_\_ you see what I see?" —Christmas carol.
49. "Can any of you by worrying \_\_\_\_\_ a moment to your life-span?" (Luke 12:25).
52. \_\_\_\_\_ Kosh B'Gosh children's clothing brand.
53. \_\_\_\_\_-gotten gains.
55. As a private citizen after leaving elected Office, Fletcher practiced \_\_\_\_\_ before the U.S. Supreme Court, & worked on behalf of veterans and native-Americans.
56. Genetic material.

ANSWERS on page 23



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## 40 DAYS

From page 1

This year, according to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 11 abortions were performed in the state in February, 18 in March, 14 in April and five in May.

"We have always prayed for an abortion-free Missouri," said Mrs. Forck, "and God is blessing us with that just about every day now."

But the work and prayers cannot stop.

It's been a year since the last abortion was performed at Columbia Planned Parenthood, but women still go there, seeking referrals.

"I can't tell you how many people turn away from this place because our people are here on the sidewalk," said Mrs. Forck.

Surrounded by silent prayer from 40 Days for Life participants, sidewalk counselors refer women to My Life Clinic, a full-service pregnancy resource center across the street, as well as the Pregnancy Help Center in Jefferson City, Ray of Hope in Macon and many other resources available in the state.

"In less than six weeks," Mrs. Forck stated, "we know of four women who have come here and could have chosen abortion, but because they went across the street instead, we have reason to believe that their babies are still safe inside the womb."

### Standing firm

Prayers, thanksgiving and personal witness filled the sidewalk during the prayer rally as rush-hour traffic sped by and the sun gradually retreated over the horizon.

Rachel Blackmore of Columbia, and outreach and development director for Churches for Life ([getintolife.org](http://getintolife.org)), assured the crowd that God intends to do amazing things during these 40 days.

"And I pray that we're all utterly amazed when we look back at this time," she said.

She called to mind words and phrases that persist throughout the Bible — "immovable," "endure," "withstand," "steadfast" and "stand firm."

"As we consider the truth that God made man in His own image, and we see that human



About 60 people take part in a kickoff rally and candlelight prayer vigil on the sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood on Sept. 22, to mark the beginning of the Columbia 40 Days of Life fall campaign.

— Photos by Jay Nies

beings are to be loved and protected," she said, "we start to ask ourselves, 'What kind of action can WE take to stand firm in this truth?'"

Taking a public stand can be very difficult, "especially if

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

you're holding a sign and praying for an end to abortion," she said.

But it does make a tremendous difference.

It affects the person doing the praying, the women who are seeking an abortion, the people who work in the building and give referrals, and the community as a whole.

"The reality of abortion is undeniable right here," she said. "Watching something evil take place compels us to pray and speak the truth, and not just on the sidewalk. We pray every day for the evil of abortion to end."

People who drive by and see people praying and holding signs are challenged to think about the life-affirming messages the signs and prayers contain.

"Some respond positively, some respond negatively," said Mrs. Blackmore. "Either way, they see this message and they have to face it."

The sidewalk presence also gives hope to pregnant women in crisis, when they need it the most.

"When we stand firm for life, we are telling women that they are amazing creations of God," she said. "And we can give them hope for their future and hope for their baby's future."

Mrs. Blackmore told of her own experience of finding out she was pregnant a week before her 18th birthday — three weeks before high school graduation.

"I knew I was going to have my baby," she said, "but I didn't know if I would be a good mom."

A neighbor offered a prophetic message.

"She told me that I was going to be a great mom and that my baby was very lucky to have me as her mom," Mrs. Blackmore recalled. "She told me that God had chosen me and crated me to be that baby's mother."

Her son was born that winter and accompanied his mother through her college and graduate studies and related activities.

"Every accomplishment that I have been blessed with has been richer because I did it with him," she said.

She and her husband now have six children.

The people who pray on the sidewalk and those who counsel there help women realize that "we can do so much more than the people in that building would have us believe we can do," she said.

### The victory is God's

Other speakers talked about how participating in 40 Days for Life had helped them pray and encourage people in their own lives who were facing pregnancies in crisis.



It also helped them realize that no one is so far away from God that He cannot reach them.

Mrs. Forck noted that this year's campaign was getting started — as did the first one in 2009 — on Sept. 23, the feast of St. Padre Pio.

"We implore all of the living on earth and in heaven to join us in prayer during these upcoming 40 days," she said.

Looking back on 11 years of 40 Days for Life in Columbia and recalling the people who have been fighting for decades to uphold the sanctity of human life, she called to mind Jesus's Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 6:1-16).

Some of the laborers worked all day, some for a few hours and some for the last hour.

"I'm just praying that the new people joining us in the vineyard represent the last of the workers, who will join us in reaping the harvest that all of us have been sowing for these 11 years," she said.

Longtime 40 Days for Life participant Bonnie Lee called to mind that God's presence in each person is stronger than anything in this world.

"We have no fear," she called out in prayer. "We can be bold. We can be joyful because we have hope to share with men and women who come to this place and to other clinics in the state and in our nation."

"You just ask us to be obedient," she prayed, "and always to remember that You go before us into battle and that You are our victor."

Mrs. Forck led everyone in asking God to change the hearts of people who perform

abortions and earn their living in the abortion industry.

"Lord, have mercy on them and ease their pain," she prayed. "Give them eyes to see and ears to hear the words that You have put in the mouths of those who witness to them."

Longtime 40 Days participant Deacon Tom Whalen of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City offered a prayer of thanksgiving to God for all He has accomplished and all He intends to accomplish through these 40 Days of Life.

"Please watch over each one of us and help us to continue to fight for life," he prayed. "Help us to win this battle forever."

Daily prayer vigils will continue through Nov. 1.

St. Andrew Parish and Knights of Columbus Council 8400 in Holts Summit will sponsor a closing rally and meal on Sunday, Nov. 14.

For information or to volunteer to take part in the daily vigils, contact Kathy Forck at (573) 821-5130, or visit:

[40daysforlife.com/Columbia-2](http://40daysforlife.com/Columbia-2)



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## Fundraisers & Social Events

Oct. 1-31

**VIRTUAL**, St. Mary Home & School Association (Frankenstein) virtual 5K run/walk, register by Sept. 25 at [ourladyof-help.wordpress.com](https://ourladyof-help.wordpress.com)

Oct. 2

**Montgomery City**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, with curbside takeout or limited dine-in seating, 4-7 pm

Oct. 3

**Sedalia**, St. Vincent de Paul Parish dinner auction, 3-6:30 pm, dinner available for pickup, auction livestreamed, for more info visit [one.bidpal.net/bazaar2020/welcome](https://one.bidpal.net/bazaar2020/welcome)

Oct. 4

**Linn**, St. George Parish fall festival, with fried chicken &

German pot roast, drive-thru/carryout dinners, 11 am-7 pm; **Martinsburg**, St. Joseph Parish Oktoberfest, 10 am-7 pm; **Morrison**, Assumption Parish fall dinner, with fried chicken, curbside takeout, 11 am-4 pm; **St. Martins**, St. Martin Parish fall dinner, with fried chicken, drive-thru, noon-5 pm

Oct. 10

**Columbia**, Sacred Heart K of C Council drive-thru fish fry and Tootsie Roll sale, 4-7 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School parking lot

Oct. 11

**Belle**, St. Alexander Parish breakfast fundraiser for local children with special needs, 7-11 am; **Brinktown**, Holy Guardian Angels fall supper, with fried chicken & whole hog sausage, curbside pickup and traditional carryouts, 11 am-5 pm; **Hermann**, St. George Parish fall dinner,

with baked turkey & whole hog sausage, drive-thru or curbside, 11:30 am-3:30 pm; **Wardsville**, St. Stanislaus Parish fall supper, with fried chicken & whole hog sausage drive-thru dinners, 11 am-6 pm

Oct. 13

**Kirkville**, Mary Immaculate School "Give Back" night, 5-9 pm, Bellacino's Pizza & Grinders

Oct. 24

**Jefferson City**, Immaculate Conception Parish Italian night, drive thru dinner and prize drawing, 4-7 pm

## Meetings & Conferences

Oct. 11 & 14

**LIVESTREAMED**, "Signs from God: Miracles and their Meaning," presentation by Tim Francis, 7-8:15 pm, to register visit

[sciencetestsfait.com/jeffcity](https://sciencetestsfait.com/jeffcity)

Oct. 19 & 26

**LIVESTREAMED**, Viewing of "The Chosen" series, 6-8 pm, for info and the link, email [jimkemna@gmail.com](mailto:jimkemna@gmail.com) or call 573-694-3125

## Liturgical

Oct. 4

**Sedalia**, Life Chain, sponsored by Sedalia Chapter of Missouri Right to Life, 2-3 pm, beginning at the north end of the Walmart parking lot

Oct. 10

**Jefferson City**, Pro Deo Et Patria (For God and Country) Eucharistic procession with Benediction and Rosary, gathering at 9:30 am in the St. Peter Parish lower parking lot

Oct. 11

**Westphalia**, Patriotic prayer service, 6-7 pm, St. Joseph Church

## Health & Wellness

Oct. 5

**Rich Fountain**, Blood drive, 2-6 pm, Sacred Heart School cafeteria

Oct. 6

**Loose Creek**, Blood drive, 3-7 pm, Community Center

Oct. 25

**Jefferson City**, Blood drive, 8 am-noon, Immaculate Conception Parish's Kertz Hall

## 2021 pro-life pilgrimage to D.C. cancelled

The Diocese of Jefferson City has made the difficult decision to cancel the annual pilgrimage to the 2021 National March for Life in Washington, D.C.

This decision was made in consult with Father Anthony Viviano, pastoral moderator of Pro-Life Ministries; Kris Hartman, diocesan events coordinator; and Bishop Shawn W. McKnight.

The nature of the event, the travel and accommodations involved, and the fluid nature of the ongoing pandemic all led to this conclusion. "We know how impactful this trip is to the youth and adults in our communities," they stated. "We deeply regret not being able to attend this year, but look forward to the prospect of marching again in 2022."

## 50th annual Crop Hunger Walk in Fulton

**DATE:** October 11  
**TIME:** 1:30 pm

The 50th anniversary of Fulton's annual Crop Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, Oct. 11, beginning at 1:30.

One-quarter of the funds raised will be given to the Callaway County Senior Programs. The rest will go to Catholic Relief Services for the victims of floods, droughts, hurricanes, fires and many other relief projects.

Registration for the Walk will be at 1 p.m. outside Westminster Champ Auditorium.

The 3.5 mile route will conclude at the First Presbyterian Church on Court

Street.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, some of the details for walkers and sponsors have been altered.

Contact Mary Beth Books at 573-254-3455 or 573-826-0591 for information.

## DOYLE

From page 8

children, with prayer, to the Lord. God, after all, created them out of love and cares about their spiritual welfare as much as you do and even more.

And by the way, the fact that your son was not married in the Church does not restrict his right to have his children baptized.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at [askfatherdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:askfatherdoyle@gmail.com) and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.

## LA SALETTE

From page 19

sible for the Body of Christ."

With that understanding comes renewed trust that God is hard at work among His people.

"The Church is so much bigger and more enduring than any of us," said Fr. Meyer. "I think that flavors my whole attitude toward ministry."

### Gratefully looking ahead

Now in semi-retirement, Fr. Meyer lives in community with six other La Salette priests in St. Louis, who celebrate Mass and pray Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer together each day.

They were also offering chaplain services to local convents and filling-in for local priests on weekends until this February.

"The COVID seclusion has cut off a lot of ministerial opportunities," he said. "But we still find things to do."

He looks forward to continuing to offer monthly Masses in the chapel of St. Joseph Bluffs in Jefferson City, as he did for about 10 years before the pandemic hit.

As the eventide of his jubilee year approaches, he hopes people will join him in thanking God for all the people who helped him become and minister as a priest.

"I've always had a lot of wonderful people in my life, especially my parents and family members," he said. "I never could have had these 50 years of Priesthood and 57 years of religious life without them."

He asks for prayers for the ongoing work of the La

Salette Fathers, who are about 1,000-strong throughout the world.

He believes the congregation's international leadership has been wise in establishing new missions in places such as Australia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Haiti and several former Soviet republics.

"Unless you continue to challenge yourself and move forward, you run the risk of getting lost and stagnating," he said.

Fr. Meyer is eternally grateful for all the people who recognized the God-given potential in him, drew it out and gave it context.

"That's what a good missionary does," he said.

## ORIGINAL SIN

From page 8

to get to heaven. This conferral of sanctifying grace normatively occurs through the sacrament of baptism. "Baptism, by imparting the life of Christ's grace, erases original sin and turns a man back towards God, but the consequences for nature, weakened and inclined to evil, persist in man and summon him to spiritual battle" (*Catechism*, no. 405).

So, while baptism takes away original sin (by bestowing the grace that was missing), it does not take away all the effects of original sin, including concupiscence. Those effects have to be overcome under the influence of God's grace throughout one's life.

For a more detailed explanation, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 396-412.

Fr. Schrader is pastor of St. Brendan parish in Mexico and is diocesan moderator for religious education.







## I D.A.R.E. you

D.A.R.E. officers visit the students of St. Francis Xavier School in Taos on Sept. 24. D.A.R.E. is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children from kindergarten through 12th grade how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives.

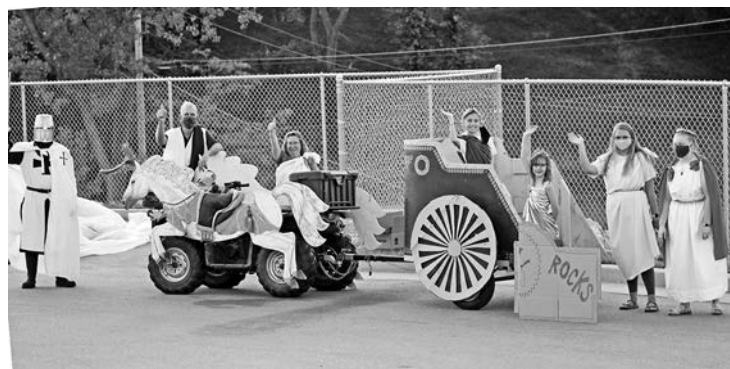
— Photos from the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School - Taos Facebook page



## Come aside and rest awhile



## A parade like no other



Members of Helias Catholic High School's fall sports teams, clubs and Homecoming Court greet passing motorists during a drive-through Homecoming



Parade on the school campus and connecting streets the evening of Thursday, Sept. 24. Coach Victor Bell was this year's grand marshal. More photos from this event can be found in *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition, [cathmo.com](http://cathmo.com). Select "Photo Galleries" from the "Multimedia" tab on the menu bar.

— Photos by Jay Nies

This year's first group of candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation at Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City gather for a social distanced retreat in the I.C. School Gym on Sept. 19. It included prayer, reflection, service, lunch, Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Reconciliation, small-group sharing, and Mass. Students from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, facilitated the day, with help from volunteers from the parish.

— Photo by Phyllis Emmel



# Jesus tells a parable to describe heaven

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic News Service

One day, Jesus and the apostles were in Jerusalem. They went into the Temple area, and Jesus began to teach the people about God.

The chief priests and the elders of the people approached Jesus.

"By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" they demanded to know.

Instead of answering their questions, Jesus began to tell some parables.

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son," Jesus began one of His parables. "He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they



refused to come."

When the wedding guests did not come, the king again sent his servants.

"Tell those invited: 'Behold, I have prepared my banquet,

my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast,'" the king had his men tell the invited guests.

Some of the invited guests ignored the invitation and went away. The rest grabbed the servants, mistreated them

and killed them.

The king was so enraged that he sent his troops to destroy the murderers and burn their city.

"The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whom-ever you find," the king told his remaining servants.

The servants went out into the streets and invited both good and bad people to fill the hall for the wedding feast.

When the king entered the hall to meet his guests, he saw a man who was not dressed in a wedding garment.

The king approached the man and asked how he came in without wearing a wedding garment. But the man was reduced to silence.

"Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness

outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth," the king commanded. Not having a wedding garment was a symbol that the man had not repented.

"Many are invited, but few are chosen," Jesus said about the kingdom of heaven.

**Read more about it...**  
**Matthew 21 & 22**

1. Who approached Jesus as He was teaching?

2. How did the king fill his hall for the wedding feast?

## Essay

Create your own parable to describe the kingdom of heaven.

## Bible Accent

In Matthew 25, Jesus told another parable about a wedding feast to explain the kingdom of heaven.

At the beginning of the chapter, He told the parable of 10 virgins, five of whom were wise and five foolish.

All 10 had brought oil-filled lamps, but only the wise ones brought extra oil.

The bridegroom was long delayed, and all of the women fell asleep with their lamps burning.

At midnight, there was a cry: "Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!"

All 10 virgins got up and

trimmed their lamps.

"Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out," the foolish virgins said to the wise ones, who refused.

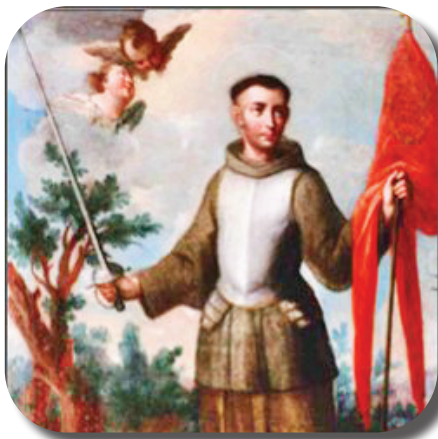
The foolish virgins went to buy oil, while those who were ready went into the feast with the bridegroom.

"Lord, Lord, open the door for us!" the foolish virgins cried when they returned and found the door to the feast locked.

"Amen, I say to you, I do not know you," he replied.

"Therefore, stay awake," Jesus urged, "for you know neither the day nor the hour."

## Saint Spotlight



St. John of Capistrano was born in Italy in 1386. He studied law and married a woman from an important family in Perugia, Italy, and in 1412 became the city's governor. He was imprisoned during a civil war. During that time, he had a vision of St. Francis. He experienced a spiritual conversion, was dispensed from his marriage vows, joined the Friars Minor in 1416 and was ordained in 1420. John became a great preacher. He also worked to reform his order and served as the friars' vicar general. In 1456, he led a wing of the Christian army in a successful battle against the Turks, who had besieged Belgrade. He died in 1456, and we remember him Oct. 23.

## Puzzle

Using the hints provided, fill in the blanks in Jesus' quotations about heaven.



1. "In My Father's house there are many \_\_\_\_\_ places." (John 14:2)
2. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 7:21)
3. "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be Your name, Your \_\_\_\_\_ come." (Luke 11:2)
4. "Heaven and \_\_\_\_\_ will pass away, but My words will not pass away." (Mark 13:31)



Answers: 1. dwelling; 2. enter; 3. king-  
dom; 4. earth.



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## Book of rural Missouri churches highlights generations of faith

*"I love this house of yours, O Lord, the place where Your glory dwells."*  
— Psalm 26:8

By Jay Nies

That old rugged cross still clings to St. Mary Church in Adair, a full 45 years after the last regular Sunday Mass was celebrated there.

The same cross also clings to the cover of *Faith of Our Fathers: The Churches of Missouri*, written by Holts Summit author and poet Linda Kerns, with help from the staff of *Rural Missouri* magazine and hundreds of its readers.

"All aspects of Missouri's churches are covered in a 180-page book that celebrates the great faith of the state's citizens," stated *Rural Missouri*

editor Jim McCarty, a member of St. Francis Xavier parish in Taos and self-proclaimed "life-long Fr. Helias fan."

The book, commissioned in 2007 by Missouri's rural electric cooperatives and now available at a discounted price, is a visually striking survey of the places where heaven and earth converge under steeples and other sermons-in-stone dotting the state's great agrarian expanses.

Filled with color photos, the hardcover book presents a mosaic of faith traditions, cultures and centuries, beginning with the earliest Christians to set foot in present-day Missouri: French and Spanish Catholics.

Ms. Kerns, a Baptist whose childhood in a small town in

Tennessee brought her into contact with a few Catholics and an occasional Christmas Mass in their simple, unadorned church, said she was "blown away" the first time she went into St. Joseph Church in Springfield, Missouri.

"I had never seen anything so ornate in all my life!" she said. "I just stood there, trying to take it all in. It was amazing."

Similarly, the first time she drove through Westphalia and beheld St. Joseph Church on the highest hill, "it just took my breath away," she said.

She was pleasantly startled during a trip to Starkenburg to discover outdoor Stations of the Cross at the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows — which is featured prominently in the book.

She enjoyed learning the story about the Shrine of St. Joseph in St. Louis, where the still-resplendent, 50-foot-tall Altar of Answered Prayers was the congregation's response to God's deliverance from 1868's deadly cholera epidemic.

She found it interesting that the earthly remains of a former pastor of St. Joachim Parish in Old Mines are buried under the church floor. That church, according to the book's second chapter, dates from 1830, making it the oldest Catholic church still standing west of the Mississippi River.

Among the "People of Faith" highlighted in Chapter

## Movie Ratings



Adults and Adolescents

Fatima (PG-13)  
The Personal History of David Copperfield (PG)  
The Secret Garden (PG)



Adults

Bill & Ted Face the Music (PG-13)  
Chemical Hearts (R)  
Made in Italy (R)  
Mulan (PG-13)  
Tenet (PG-13)  
The 24th (not rated)  
Words on Bathroom Walls (PG-13)



Limited Adult Audience

Antebellum (R)  
The Devil All the Time (R)  
Get Duked! (R)  
Infidel (R)



Morally Offensive

The Broken Hearts Gallery (PG-13)  
The New Mutants (PG-13)

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

4 of the book are Jesuit Father Ferdinand Helias, known as the Apostle of Central Missouri; and Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, the Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

Chapter 5, "The Works Thy Hands Have Made," focuses on outdoor spiritual environments such as the Starkenburg shrine; the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church in Laurie; the Black Madonna Shrine and Grotto in Eureka; the Lady of St. Joseph Shrine and Schnurbusch Karst Window in Apple Creek; and the site of Father John J. Hogan's Irish Wilderness settlement in southern Missouri.

Chapter 6, "Offerings," highlights various goings-on at Missouri churches, including Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church in Taos and historical St. Patrick Church in Laurie.

The book also includes Jefferson City's current and previous cathedrals, Conception Abbey in Conception, the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, and other Catholic churches and sites in Cedron, Freeburg, Loose Creek, Frankenstein, Salem, Sedalia, Rich

Fountain, Spring Fork, St. Patrick, Leopold, Edina, Neier, Ursaline, New Hamburg, Bonnots Mill, Osage Bend, Glasgow, Steelville, St. Thomas, Ste. Genevieve and Vienna.

And these represent only one of many faith traditions featured in the book.

While sifting through the source material, Ms. Kerns was pleased to encounter the richness of faith that continues to be a major part of rural Missouri.

"As a Christian, it was really refreshing and motivating for me to see that there are still so many people who hold so strongly to their faith," she said.

She also couldn't overlook the heavy family ties that seem to go hand-in-hand with church membership.

"A lot of the information people sent in included personal family history," she noted. "I think it's interesting to see how much faith and family have to do with Missouri as a whole."

Mr. McCarty's great-grandfather, Patrick McCarty, came to Missouri from Ireland and

See B00K, page 27



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## BOOK

From page 26

settled his family on a Mississippi River island near Ste. Genevieve. Mr. McCarty recently went to Mass in St. Joseph Church in Prairie du Rocher, Ill., where his great-grandfather had been a parishioner.

"While waiting for Mass to begin," he recalled, "I was thinking about my ancestors going to church there, and how Patrick brought the faith with him from Ireland, and how that faith had been passed down to my grandfather, my father, me, and my three children. I got goose bumps when the opening hymn was 'Faith of Our Fathers.'"

"So that, of course, had to be the title of the book."

The beginning of each chapter includes re-

ligious poetry by Ms. Kerns, most of it written especially for the book.

"It was something I really felt needed to be part of the book to show my faith and my relationship with God," she said. "These have always been at my very core."

"The architecture of so many of these churches amazes me," she said. "I think about things like: What does it take to build a dome and have it look like a dome, and have it be stable and secure?"

*Faith of our Fathers: The Churches of Missouri can be ordered online at [ruralmissouri.coop/merchandise.php](http://ruralmissouri.coop/merchandise.php) or by calling (573) 659-3423. The cost is \$25 plus shipping.*

## WEDDINGS

From page 4

essential symbols and therefore should be reserved for the reception or some other occasion.

Nonetheless, Fr. Merz assured, "all of this leaves plenty of opportunity for the bride and groom and their families to bring their personalities and interests into the wedding ceremony — such as attire and decorations, the choice of scriptural readings, selections of sacred music, and more."

### In union with the whole Church

The policy points out that weddings may take place during regular Sunday Mass or Saturday Vigil Mass.

This option works best when the bride and groom belong to and are very involved in the same parish.

"That's kind of a beautiful thing to do, because the whole parish is there supporting you," said Fr. Merz.

He emphasized that marriage is about communion between the bride and the groom, "but in a bigger way, it's about their communion with the Church and ultimately with Christ."

"So we want to start off on the right foot here, and having your wedding ceremony reflect the unity and communion of the Church," he said.

This is all the more important in light of the lack of value much of secular society currently places on marriage, let alone a Christian understanding of marriage.

"In a sense, by drawing attention to the dignity of marriage and the importance of the rituals surrounding it, the Church is saying, 'Marriage IS

worthwhile, it IS important, it DOES have dignity and meaning, and it is VERY relevant for our society," said Fr. Merz.

Helping couples enter marriage with the right intentions and mindset is an important step in building up strong families, he stated.

He said priests consider it an honor and privilege to help engaged couples prepare not just for their wedding but for marriage.

"There is real joy for the priest when a young couple sits down with you and talks about how they met and got engaged, and what it all means to them; it's a beautiful part of priestly ministry," he said.

In fact, one of the reasons Fr. Merz wanted to become a priest in the first place was to be able to share in the intimate, sacramental moments of people's lives.

"Marriage is one of those beautiful moments," he said. "And from a theological perspective, this is the sacrament of where we're all going!"

He pointed out that offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is one of the defining acts of ordained Priestly ministry.

"And the Eucharist is the foretaste of the heavenly wedding banquet," he noted.

Parish priests spend a lot of time ministering to and counseling married couples of all ages, trying to help and strengthen their marriages.

"I find it significant that in the Gospel, St. John the Baptist, who was celibate and from a priestly family, gave his life defending marriage," Fr. Merz

added.

### "A sacred rite"

Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos, now retired, worked with the Presbyteral Council to update the diocesan recommendations for weddings after a revised Order of Celebrating Matrimony was promulgated in 2015.

Bishop McKnight worked with the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and Presbyteral Council last year to update the document.

He also raised it to the level of diocesan policy.

"It is essential to remember that Matrimony is a Sacrament of the Church, a sacred rite and a public good, not a secular celebration or a private agreement between two parties," Bishop McKnight stated in the preamble to the policy.

He wrote that the policy "should be read and understood in light of the Church's desire to be faithful to Christ, faithful to the Church's Sacrament, and welcoming of the joyous love of engaged couples."

It should also be interpreted in conformity to the Church's Order of Celebrating Matrimony and the Code of Canon Law.

### "The best foundation"

The policy also addresses situations such as marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic; and participation in a Latin Rite Catholic wedding by members of an Eastern Rite Catholic Church.

This fall, Bishop McKnight plans to finalize a common program for preparing couples for marriages.

## Daily Readings

### Sunday, Oct 4

TWENTY-SEVENTH  
SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

Is. 5:1-7  
Ps. 80:9, 12-16, 19-20  
Phil. 4:6-9  
Mt. 21:33-43

### Monday, Oct 5

*Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos,  
Priest (USA)*  
Gal. 1:6-12  
Ps. 111:1b-2, 7-8, 9, 10C  
Lk. 10:25-37

### Tuesday, Oct 6

*St. Bruno, priest; Blessed  
Marie Rose Durocher,  
virgin (USA)*  
Gal. 1:13-24  
Ps. 139:1b-3, 13-14abc-15  
Lk. 10:38-42

### Wednesday, Oct 7

Our Lady of the Rosary  
Gal. 2:1-2, 7-14  
Ps. 117:1bc, 2  
Lk. 11:1-4

### Thursday, Oct 8

Gal. 3:1-5  
(Ps.) Lk. 1:69-75  
Lk. 11:5-13

### Friday, Oct 9

*St. Denis, bishop, and  
companions, martyrs; St.  
John Leonardi, priest*  
Gal. 3:7-14  
Ps. 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6  
Lk. 11:15-26

### Saturday, Oct 10

Gal. 3:22-29  
Ps. 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7  
Lk. 11:27-28

### Sunday, Oct 11

TWENTY-EIGHTH  
SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

Is. 25:6-10a  
Ps. 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6  
Phil. 4:12-14, 19-20  
Mt. 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

### Monday, Oct 12

Gal. 4:22-24, 26-27, 31—5:1  
Ps. 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a, 6-7  
Lk. 11:29-32

### Tuesday, Oct 13

Gal. 5:1-6  
Ps. 119:41, 43-45, 47-48  
Lk. 11:37-41

### Wednesday, Oct 14

*St. Callistus I, pope and  
martyr*  
Gal. 5:18-25  
Ps. 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6  
Lk. 11:42-46

### Thursday, Oct 15

*St. Teresa of Jesus, virgin and  
doctor of the Church*  
Eph. 1:1-10  
Ps. 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6  
Lk. 11:47-54

### Friday, Oct 16

*St. Hedwig, religious; St.  
Margaret Mary Alacoque,  
virgin*  
Eph. 1:11-14  
Ps. 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13  
Lk. 12:1-7

### Saturday, Oct 17

*St. Ignatius of Antioch,  
bishop and martyr*  
Eph. 1:15-23  
Ps. 8:2-3ab, 4-5, 6-7  
Lk. 12:8-12

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

We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

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Priests of the diocese will discuss and learn more about the program during their annual institute in October.

"I'm very excited about this," said Fr. Merz. "Once again, this is the Church saying that marriage is important enough that

we want to make sure our couples are receiving the best foundation for marriage and family life that we can give them."

The Diocesan Policy for the Celebration of Weddings can be found online at [diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/](http://diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/).



# Eucharistic Celebration of Divine Mercy, in J.C. cathedral

**DATE:** October 17  
**TIME:** noon - 3:30 pm

Father Anthony Viviano and Catholic singer, songwriter

and presenter Donna Cori will lead an afternoon of spiritual refreshment on Saturday, Oct. 17, in Jefferson City.

The event, known as a Eucharistic Celebration of Divine Mercy, will be held from noon to 3:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St.

Fr. Viviano, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia and St. Anthony of Padua parish in Folk, will lead a Eucharistic and Marian procession on the Cathedral grounds, followed by Benediction.

Fr. Viviano will proclaim passages from Jesus's messages of mercy, justice and hell from

the Diary of St. Faustina.

Donna Cori will complement the program and praying of the Rosary with songs of praise to Jesus and His Blessed Mother.

She will conclude by singing the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

The event is sponsored by the Marian Association.

## Drive-thru CHICKEN DINNER

St. Andrew Knights of Columbus  
Sunday, November 1  
11 am - 5 pm

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mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans,  
slaw, biscuit and peach cobbler - \$12

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## Tim Francis to livestream two-part presentation on miracles

**DATE:** October 11 and 14  
**TIME:** 7 - 8:15 pm

A "reverted" Catholic and renowned investigator of Eucharistic miracles will share his story along with compelling video footage during a two-part livestreamed presentation on Sunday and Wednesday, Oct. 11 and 14.

Tim Francis, founder of You Shall Believe Ministries ([youshallbelieve.com](http://youshallbelieve.com)), will give a live presentation titled, "Signs from God: Miracles and Their Meaning," from 7 to 8:15 p.m. both evenings.

The event is cosponsored by St. Peter and Immaculate Conception parishes in Jefferson City and Incarnate Word

Parish in Chesterfield.

Mr. Francis will offer commentary to stunning film clips, including:

- a statue of Christ weeping human tears and bleeding human blood;

- multiple Holy Communion hosts that turned into human heart tissue during Mass; and

- a woman being filmed and tested before, during and after Stigmata.

He will also address the meaning of suffering, remaining Catholic, Sacramental Confession and other topics.

The second presentation will build on what's presented in the first.

Mr. Francis has conducted more than 500 parish missions conveying the meaning of the miracles and a better understanding about Jesus being truly present in the Eucharist.

His quest for truth and verifiable scientific evidence of claims of Eucharistic miracles led him back to being Catholic after bottoming out with drug addiction and becoming active in another Christian faith community.

A limited number of viewers can be accommodated for each presentation.

To reserve a space, visit [ScienceTestsFaith.com/JeffCity](http://ScienceTestsFaith.com/JeffCity) and click on the registration link.

## St. George Parish Fall Dinner

11:30 am to 3:30 pm

Sunday, October 11

DRIVE-THRU SERVICE  
Call to order 573-486-2564  
or email [parishdinner@sgs-hermann.com](mailto:parishdinner@sgs-hermann.com)  
Curbside orders also available

Baked Turkey & Whole Hog Sausage  
with mashed potatoes & gravy, bread & rice  
dressing, sauerkraut, green beans, slaw and  
choice of fruit crisp or carrot cake

Adults \$12 • Kids 6-12 \$5 • 5 & under FREE



\*Turkey Club\*

Knights of Columbus of Sacred Heart Parish

DRIVE THRU

4 to 7 pm

Saturday, October 10

at Fr. Tolton High School

COLUMBIA

\$12/dinner — includes a generous portion of  
fish, green beans, slaw and our famous chips  
with orders of more than one dinner

fish fry

St. George Parish  
LINN, MO.

## Fall Festival

SUN, OCT 4

Serving from 11 am to 7 pm

DRIVE-THRU AND  
CARRYOUT ONLY

Golden Fried Chicken and  
German Pot Roast  
\$12 per meal

Refreshments available

Quilt Auction - 4 pm

Quilts on display from 11 am or  
can be viewed at  
[facebook.com/stgeorgeparishlinn](https://facebook.com/stgeorgeparishlinn)  
Bring a lawn chair for the auction!

HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS PARISH

## FALL Dinner

BRINKTOWN

Sunday, October 11

Curbside pickup or  
traditional carryouts

Fresh Whole Hog Sausage  
& Fried Chicken Dinner

with mashed potatoes & gravy, green  
beans, sweet potatoes, sauerkraut &  
coleslaw - Served from 11 am to 5 pm - \$12 per plate

Limited outdoor seating

Quilts sold online on our Facebook page  
"Guardian Angels Parish Quilt Auction"  
Refreshments - Prizes - Kettlecorn

Find us online

