

Staying vigilant, marching for life

A throng of young people took important messages home with them from this year's MidWest March for Life in Jefferson City. Page 4



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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

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Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Sixth-graders reminded of their call to become saints



By Jay Nies

It's not always easy to follow the path God has in mind.

But it is always worthwhile.

"Ultimately, vocation is the call to be a saint," Father Paul Clark, vocation direction for the Jefferson City diocese, told an enthusiastic crowd of Catholic sixth-graders from all over the Jefferson City diocese.

It was Sixth Grade Vocations Day, held fully in-person for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The theme for the May 3 event, proclaimed on the front and back of the T-shirts worn by participants, was: "Called to Sainthood ... Be Not Afraid!"

"We are called to become like those in the heavenly kingdom who fought the good fight, achieved that crown of victory that's been promised to us and taken up into the great cloud of witnesses in heaven," Fr. Clark announced.

He noted that answering the call can be scary.

"When we think of what saints do, we might think, 'There's no way I can do that!'" he stated.

He presented a daunting question: "Are we willing to give our lives completely for Jesus? Would we be willing to die for Jesus?"

It's an intimidating question, but again and again, Jesus reminds his followers not to be afraid.

"To be a saint will be the fulfillment of our deepest desire, placed within us by the one who created us," said Fr. Clark. "It will bring us the greatest joy and satisfaction."

He noted that everyone has a calling from God.

Some are called to be husbands, wives and parents in the Sacrament of

Catholic sixth-graders from throughout the Jefferson City diocese wear their T-shirts proclaiming "Be not afraid!" during Mass at Sixth Grade Vocations Day on May 3 in Our Lady of Lourdes Church and Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School in Columbia. Participants learned about Marriage, Priesthood and Consecrated Religious Life and every Christian's call to pursue holiness.

Christopher Hoffmann to be ordained a transitional deacon on June 3 in Cathedral

By Jay Nies

Christopher Hoffmann might have been waiting for a more concrete sign of God's desire for him to be a priest.

What he got was a steadily growing reassurance that this is, in fact, what God desires and has given him specific gifts in order to pursue it.

"There was never a booming voice or lightning bolt," Mr. Hoffmann noted. "Only little nudges encouraging me to just take the next step on the path God has been leading me along."

"I've been open to His will and have listened and trusted more and more as time goes on," he said.

Through the laying-on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight will ordain Mr. Hoffmann a transitional deacon on Saturday, June 3.

The Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St. in Jefferson City.

"This is the first permanent step in the call to priestly Orders," Mr. Hoffmann pointed out. "It will be the start of my

life of ministry.

"I will be an ordinary — that is, usual, proper — minister of Holy Communion, of Baptism, and a proclaimer of the Gospel," he noted.

Life of service

Mr. Hoffmann, a seminarian at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, hopes to be ordained a priest of the Jefferson City diocese in 2024.

He's eager to spend this summer ministering with a pastor and serving the people in preparation for his own priestly ministry.

"While there is nothing we do without God doing so first," he stated, "the fact that God chooses to involve us in his work out of love is something I want to recognize every moment of my life, especially as I enter ordained ministry."

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The CFO is responsible for providing, developing and maintaining financial accountability standards and ethics for all diocesan entities in order to promote respect and trust among parishioners. The CFO directs, manages and supervises the financial operations of the Chancery, in conjunction with the Bishop and the members of the Corporate Board, as well as manages the diocesan assets and advises management in financial operations.

The full job listing can be found at diojeffcity.org/cfo. To apply, email resume to Brent Morton, Vice President, Catholic Recruiter Associates, Brent@CatholicRecruiter.com.

Memorial Day Mass in J.C.

DATE: May 29
TIME: 9 am

A Memorial Day Mass will be offered at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 29, in the Mausoleum Chapel of Resurrection Cemetery, 3015 W. Truman Blvd. in Jefferson City.

Pilgrimage to Laurie

DATE: June 17
TIME: 10 am - 3:15 pm

Felicia Anunoby will be the featured speaker at a pilgrimage on Saturday, June 17, to the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, in Laurie.

It will be from 10 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the Shrine, located on the grounds of St. Patrick Church, 176 Marian Drive, off Highway 5.

The theme will be: "In the End, My Immaculate Heart Will Triumph: Mary's 'Fiat.'"

Participants are asked to make a reservation online at mothersbrine.com.

Correcton

A notice in the May 12 edition of *The Catholic Missourian* included an incorrect time for Christopher Hoffmann's ordination to the Diaconate.

The Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

We apologize for the error.

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

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Bishop Mass in Laurie

DATE: May 29
TIME: 10 am

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight will offer Mass in Laurie at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 29, the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church.

Weather permitting, the Mass will be at the outdoor altar of the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, on the grounds of St. Patrick Church, 176 Marian Way, off Highway 5.

Pray for deceased priests

May 28 — **Msgr. Herman J. Breit**, St. Andrew, Tipton (1977)
June 3 — **Msgr. Francis O'Duignan**, St. Patrick, Jonesburg (1991)
June 5 — **Fr. William J. Drimped**, St. Mary, Glasgow (1961); **Msgr. Francis G. Gillgannon**, Annunciation, California (2004)
June 6 — **Msgr. Bernard S. Groner**, St. Anthony, Rosati (1971)
June 9 — **Fr. Patrick Mel Newman**, Queen of Peace, Ewing (1969); **Fr. Charles D. Pardee**, St. Peter, Jefferson City (2019)
June 10 — **Fr. Daniel S. Larkin**, Sacred Heart, Eldon (1957)

Coordinator, Stewardship/Planned Giving



The Chancery office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking a Coordinator of Stewardship and Planned Giving. This person is responsible for assisting the Director of Stewardship and the Director of Development and Missions in implementing the Bishop's vision of spirituality of stewardship throughout the Diocese of Jefferson City, which covers 38 counties in central and northeastern Missouri.

Responsibilities include: preparing presentation materials and strategic briefings for deans and pastors; planning, coordinating and executing events and activities; providing administrative support for the departments; working closely with the directors as a team partner to recognize donors and convey the impact and importance of the spirituality of stewardship.

Practicing Catholic in good standing and bachelor's degree is preferred. Event planning and management is desired.

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John Knight steps down at Helias Catholic, Ron Vossen to serve as interim president

By Jacob Luecke

Helias Catholic High School President John Knight stepped down from his position on May 15.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight has appointed Ron Vossen, the school's director of alumni relations, to serve as interim president while a search for a new president gets under way.

Mr. Vossen's appointment takes effect July 1.

Mr. Knight had been serving as the school's president since July 2021.

"It has been an honor to be a Helias Catholic Crusader over the past two years," he stated. "This is an exceptional high school and a wonderful community — one that will always remain close to my heart."

"Dedicated leader"

Mr. Vossen, a member of Helias Catholic's Class of 1974, became the school's

alumni relations director last year, following a 43-year career on the faculty.

He said he's honored to have the opportunity to lead the school as interim president.

"I thank Bishop McKnight and the Helias Catholic community for placing their trust in me," he stated.

He pointed out that Helias Catholic is much more than a school.

"It's a second home and a way of life for the students, teachers, staff, families, clergy, alumni and friends who are part of the Crusader family," he said.

Bishop McKnight said Mr. Vossen is "the natural choice" to serve as interim president.

"He is a dedicated leader and has a longstanding commitment to the success of Helias Catholic," the bishop stated.

"I'm confident he can help us make strong progress to-

ward meeting our goals for the school — above all, reflecting the light of Christ in our world," said Bishop McKnight.

Always a Crusader

Mr. Vossen holds a master's degree in secondary school administration from Lincoln University in Jefferson City and a bachelor's degree in industrial arts education from the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Since beginning his career at Helias Catholic in 1979, he has served the school as a teacher, assistant principal, director of campus ministry, Fine Arts/Practical Arts Department chairman, spring musical production manager, and coach.

He was appointed director of alumni relations in the fall of 2022.

He and his wife, Carol, live in Jefferson City and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.

They have children, all of whom have graduated from Helias Catholic, and three grandchildren.

New chapter

Founded in 1956 on the traditions of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and the De La Salle Christian Brothers, Helias Catholic serves about 700 students in grades 9-12 from throughout Central Missouri.

It is one of three Catholic high schools under the direction of the Jefferson City diocese.

Bishop McKnight called Helias Catholic "a treasure of our diocese."

"While we are still in the early stages of our search for a permanent president, we will benefit greatly from the interim leadership of Ron Vossen as we continue to move forward," he said.

Mr. Vossen's interim leadership comes at an important time, as Helias Catholic continues to work toward the final phases of its campus master plan.

The school began a strategic growth planning process



Ron Vossen

Prayers assured

Bishop McKnight said he's looking forward to working alongside the Helias Catholic board to select a new leader "to build on our vision for the future of this beloved school."

He thanked Mr. Knight for his service to the students and families.

"There is a strong tradition of academic excellence in our diocese," the bishop noted. "We are working every day to grow and expand our reach, helping families and the Church to form

our young people to be faithful witnesses of the light of Christ in our world."

Mr. Knight was quick to thank everyone who has helped to move the school forward.

"As I depart, trust that you will be in my prayers as Helias Catholic continues to build a community of saints and scholars for Christ," he said.

Mr. Luecke is director of communications for the Jefferson City diocese.



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

MAY

May 28 Pentecost Sunday Mass, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 7:30 am, Jefferson City

May 29 Mass of the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church and Diocesan Prayer for the Synod, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, 10 am, Laurie

May 30 Mass at Camp Lolek, 11 am, Conway

JUNE

June 3 Ordination of Mr. Christopher Hoffman to the Order of the Diaconate, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 10:30 am, Jefferson City

June 4 Confirmation Mass, Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, 10 am, Jefferson City

June 6 Council of Deans Meeting, 11 am; Presbyteral Council Meeting, 1 pm, Chancery

June 7 Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Board of Directors Meeting, Catholic Charities Center, noon, Jefferson City

June 10 Women's Ministry: Spring into Summer Pilgrimage, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 10 am, Jefferson City; Knights of Columbus Mass, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 5 pm, Jefferson City

June 11 Reverend Donald J. Antweiler's 50th Ordination Anniversary Mass, Immaculate Conception, 1:30 pm, Jefferson City

June 12-16 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Plenary Assembly, Orlando, Florida

in 2019 to strengthen and enhance its Catholic identity, academic excellence and organizational vitality as it works toward the vision of building a community of saints and scholars for Christ.

Recent developments at the school have included expansion of academic space through addition of the Science Center, enhancement of the school's Catholic mission by adding a new chapel, and construction of the Crusader Athletic Complex.

Future goals include completing the campus master plan with a performing arts center and additional facilities.

"I look forward to helping open a new chapter at Helias Catholic that builds on our school's proud traditions and history, knowing our best days are yet to come," said Mr. Vossen.

Bishop McKnight's May prayer intention for our Local Church

For the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Jefferson City; may the reopening of our cathedral strengthen our communion with God and one another in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

Intención del mes de mayo del Obispo McKnight por nuestra Iglesia Local

Por el clero y los fieles de la Diócesis de Jefferson City; que la reapertura de nuestra catedral fortalezca nuestra comunión con Dios y entre nosotros en la Iglesia que es una, santa, católica y apostólica.



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



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Young people flock to MidWest March for Life

Are reminded to stay vigilant and “do something”

By Jay Nies

The torch is gradually being passed to a new generation of pro-life Missourians, the first to experience life in a post-Roe America.

Young people made up a large portion of the marchers and spectators at this year's MidWest March for Life in Jefferson City.

“I was pleasantly surprised to see all of the young people at the March,” said Deacon Samuel H. Lee, a deacon of the St. Louis archdiocese who is director of Campaign Life Missouri, a pro-life lobbying organization.

The April 26 event drew an impressive crowd of pro-life advocates from across Missouri and several neighboring states to the Capitol grounds in Jefferson City.

“The young people are our future, and they have the idealism and drive that we can build a culture of life!” said Deacon Lee.

Featured speakers included Shawn Carney, chief executive officer and president of 40 Days for Life; Lauren Muzyka, chief executive officer and president of Sidewalk Advocates for Life; Sister Dierdre Byrne, a surgeon, retired U.S. Army Medical Corps Colonel, and superior of her community of the Workers of the Sacred

Hearts of Jesus and Mary sisters in Washington, D.C.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight addressed the marchers and led them in prayer.

He noted that even though the Supreme Court last summer overturned the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that had decriminalized abortion-on-demand in all 50 states, “that does not mean there is no longer a need for prophetic voices in our day.”

He said the residue of *Roe* still plagues society, having eroded the culture of life that

once held this country together.

“It is never good, never just, never charitable, never life-giving to treat an innocent human being as something to be discarded and thrown away,” he proclaimed from the steps of the Capitol. “The dignity of our humanity and the fundamental right to life must be recognized above all other rights, no matter what.”

In order to make a compelling case for life, “we must at this moment be willing to make the case for life ourselves, not only in the important decision-making processes that go on in this Capitol building, and in the courthouses across the street, but also in our conversations and in our actions in daily life,” he said.

He called on everyone present to advocate fearlessly, tirelessly for “the weakest among us” — “to give hope and a helpful hand to the young woman tempted or coerced to choose an abortion” and offer helpful direction to any woman facing an unwanted pregnancy.

“We must support the dignity of all human life and never tire of the demands of what it means to be pro-life,” he stated. “The choice for life is not only possible but better for the mother, the father and the child who is already part of our community.”

No time for complacency

Fueled by a shared sense of purpose and the words of the speakers, participants marched through downtown Jefferson



Participants in the 2023 MidWest March for Life begin their journey through the streets of downtown Jefferson City during the April 26 event on the grounds of the Missouri State Capitol.

— Photo by Jay Nies

City, past the Governor's Mansion and the Supreme Court *en route* back to the Capitol.

The weather was clear and mild.

Priests carrying a rugged cross that had been blessed and used for numerous previous pro-life events led the march, with a drumline from the Helias Catholic High School Marching Band in Jefferson City keeping a lively beat.

“Having some noise up toward the front let everyone know that we're here,” stated Helias Catholic junior Jack Callahan. “And it brings out the energy of the people who are marching. It gets them excited.”

He believes now is not the time for complacency in the pro-life movement. If there's anything he's learned from the history classes he's taken, it's that “inaction and indifference allow horrible things to happen,” he said.

“I heard in one of the talks this morning that more than 60 babies have been killed by abortion, just in this country,” he stated. “That's a whole heck of a lot of people.”

“Keep your faith”

Hundreds of young people and their chaperones spread out on the north side of the Capitol Circle after the march for an afternoon student session titled “What's Next for the Post-Roe Generation.”

Several women and men shared their own stories of

losing a child to abortion and struggling to find healing in the aftermath.

One woman spoke of the loneliness and isolation she felt when she found out she was pregnant.

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

She realized the moment she entered the abortion clinic that she didn't belong there. Once in the procedure room, she tried to leave but the clinic staff would not let her.

“Just knowing that a soul that you were supposed to protect has been ripped from you — that's something you never really get over,” she said.

Having reconciled with God, she now stays alert to the needs of young women who are pregnant and in crisis.

She encouraged her audience to do the same.

“Be alert!” she said. “People need you. Maybe the classmate sitting next to you at school, maybe a person in your church — they may be in tough situations, and we can be there for them. We can stand in the gap for them.”

“We can say, ‘I'm here for you. It will be okay for you. You're strong enough and we're

with you and there are resources available to help you,” she stated.

A young man who works for a pro-life organization said it's convenient to believe the lie that abortion doesn't end a human life.

“I participated in the murder of my own child,” he stated. “And nine months later, God intervened in my life in some really big ways, and I surrendered my life to Jesus.”

He pleaded with everyone who had not already done so

to turn their hearts completely over to God and enter into a personal relationship with him.

Another man said he took nearly 20 years to regret the abortion he had helped facilitate when he was in college.

Now married with two children, he finally sought God's healing and forgiveness while on a Rachel's Vineyard retreat.

He implored the young people to take the information they were learning at this year's March and use it to help other people.

“Always keep your faith,” he told them. “Never give up. Stay pro-life. Share it with your friends.”

“Do something!”

Reagan Barklage, national field director for Students For Life of America, pointed out that about half the abortions now taking place in this country are chemically induced.

“Our battle is not yet won,” she said. “You may have thought that we're done fighting abortion and that Missouri is abortion-free, but we're not.”

The only permanent solution, she stated, is to build a culture in which abortion is unthinkable.

Hope Miller, president and founder of Simply Pro Life, said the sheer magnitude of the war against abortion can be very intimidating to a young person.

“But if you take one little step at a time, it becomes a lot

See MARCH, page 13

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Fr. Don Antweiler: 50 years of grace-fueled listening, responding

By Jay Nies

Once while on a sabbatical, Father Donald Antweiler got to spend the night in a tent on the edge of a steep cliff.

The view was breathtaking, but in order to appreciate it, he had to subvert his fear of heights.

"The lesson from that is: in any time of fear, be sure to take the longer view and see what's beautiful right before you," said Fr. Antweiler, a retired priest of the Jefferson City diocese.

"Have the grace to recognize the stars, to see what's out beyond the cliffside and just be awed and full of wonder," he suggested.

Fr. Antweiler is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination.

"Priesthood has been so much fun and so fulfilling!" he said. "I like my job. I like what the Lord has called me to do."

On this rock

Fr. Antweiler, eldest of the four sons of the late Joseph and Evelyn Antweiler, was born in Burbank, California.

"There weren't a lot of jobs there, so Dad got a job with Lockheed Aircraft," Fr. Antweiler noted. "I was baptized in the town of North Hollywood."

The family moved back to the old Antweiler homestead, a 200-acre farm in the Zion community of Cole County, in 1953, and Mr. Antweiler set about cultivating the difficult soil.

Most of the area had been electrified by that time, but not Zion.

"Three Rivers Electric said they wouldn't bring lines out that way unless three households agreed to hook up to it," Fr. Antweiler noted. "Dad had to go around the neighborhood and try to sell two more people to try to get electricity."

The home initially had no indoor plumbing. Heat came from a wood stove. Water came from a cistern until electricity arrived to pump the water up from a well. The party-line telephone had a hand crank to ring the operator.

Horses powered the farm equipment.

"You talk about primitive!" said Fr. Antweiler.

"Yet, we went to St. Peter School in Jefferson City," he

stated. "It was city life by day and total isolation at night. And we were only seven miles from the city."

The family at one time maintained up to 100 head of cattle.

"My Dad worked unbelievably hard to make that farm into something while working three other jobs in town," said Fr. Antweiler.

Each child had assigned chores.

"I remember that KWOS radio played rock 'n roll music for one hour after school," said Fr. Antweiler. "So, I had my little transistor radio hanging on a nail while I was loading up manure."

The boys enjoyed camping on top of a massive rock in the middle of the property.

"We called it the Big Rock," he recalled. "That was a feature our property was known for throughout the neighborhood, going way back."

Holy moments

Joseph Antweiler worked in town every day while Evelyn served as full-time caregiver to two elderly relatives at home.

The father would pile his sons into a red Studebaker each day and drop them off at school just before 7 a.m. on his way to work.

Young Don could see the dome of the State Capitol through his classroom windows, yet he never visited the Corinthian-column-clad edifice until an eighth-grade class trip.

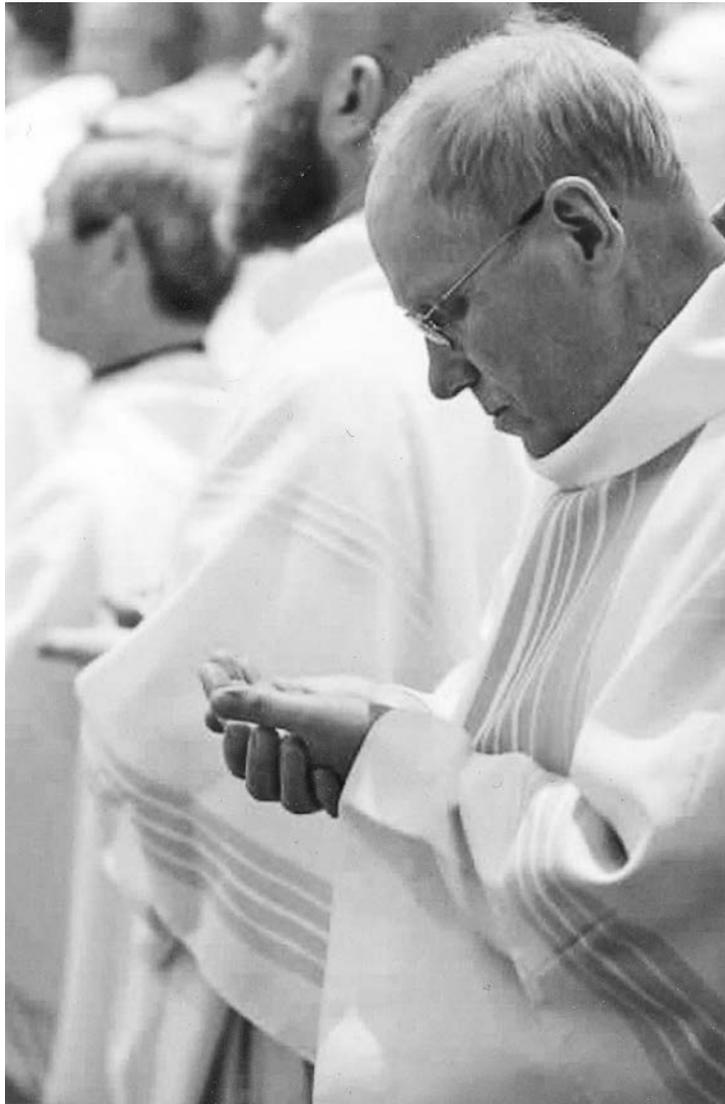
His earliest impression of priests as people were Father Norman Ahrens reclining on a window sill with his foot up on a radiator in St. Peter School; Father John Buchanan praying his Divine Office in one of the pews where the people sat in St. Peter Church; and Father Richard Cronin giving the future priest a Bible.

Fr. Antweiler admired their simplicity and approachability. He wanted to be like them.

"They made it seem possible that a person like me might be able to be a priest," he said.

He remembers breaching the subject with his mother while they were in the car.

She told him, "Your Dad and I will be proud of whatever you do."



Father Donald Antweiler prepares to receive Holy Communion.

— Photo by Dan Bernskoetter

"That gave me the freedom to choose to be a priest," Fr. Antweiler recalled. "They were proud that I felt called to be a priest and continued to follow through with it."

"They were also very proud of all the rest of the kids," he noted.

He wrote to religious orders all over the United States to learn about high school seminaries.

He wound up choosing St. Thomas Seminary in Hannibal, which was the diocese's high school for boys considering the Priesthood.

"Turns out, I'm kind of a homebody," he said.

Fr. Antweiler worked in factories and hotels in Jefferson City over summers throughout

Whenever he worked a late shift, he'd drive home and then recline on the hood of his car, staring up at the sky.

"It's like the Milky Way went right over our farm," he said. "That was always a holy moment for me."

The road to Priesthood

After high school, Fr. Antweiler continued on to Cardinal Glennon College, a seminary in St. Louis.

He once thought about taking some time away to clear his head and listen to his heart.

"But then I realized: Where is there a better place to discern, where you're challenged with questions about your vocation and your relationship with God and ministering to God's people, and about yourself?" he recalled.

After college, he continued on to Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis.

The Second Vatican Council had concluded a few years previously, and seminaries all over the country were figuring out ways to prepare their students for ministry in a new era in the Church.

Fr. Antweiler served a six-month internship as a transitional deacon at Holy Family Parish in Hannibal.

On May 26, 1973, in St. Peter Church in Jefferson City, Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe of Jefferson City, now deceased, ordained him to the Holy Priesthood.

See FR. ANTWEILER, page 17

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Missouri lawmakers send ban on gender reassignment surgery, treatments for minors to governor for signature

By Kate Scanlon
OSV News

Missouri lawmakers passed a bill May 10 banning certain types of medical or surgical gender reassignment procedures for minors who identify as transgender, as well as a measure blocking transgender student athletes from competing on sports teams opposite their biological sex.

The legislation banning some treatments for transgender minors would prohibit certain types of hormonal or surgical gender reassignments including puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones.

The measure regarding transgender student athletes would apply from kindergarten through college at both public and private schools in the state, at the risk of the schools' state funding. Both measures would expire in 2027.

Supporters of prohibitions on medical interventions for minors who identify as transgender say such efforts will prevent them from making irreversible decisions as children they may later come to regret as adults.

Critics of such measures argue that preventing those interventions could cause other harm to minors such as mental health issues.

Jamie Morris, executive di-



The dome of the Missouri State Capitol is reflected in a window of the Missouri Supreme Court building.

— Photo by Jay Nies

rector and general counsel for the Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC), told OSV News May 11 that the group “supports efforts to protect minors from experimental medical treatment for gender dysphoria.”

The MCC is the official public policy agency for Missouri’s four Roman Catholic dioceses.

“We recognize that there is a real need to assist those young individuals who experience a gender identity that is discordant with their biological sex,” Morris said. “However, delaying a child’s natural timing of puberty can lead to irreparable and long-term negative health consequences. We applaud the

General Assembly for addressing the issue this session and for taking steps to protect children from potentially harmful medical interventions.”

Matt Sharp, senior counsel and director of the Center for Legislative Advocacy at Alliance Defending Freedom, told OSV News in a May 11 statement that “denying the truth that we are either male or female causes actual harm to people, especially vulnerable children.”

“Missouri is right to stop the politicization of the health care system by ensuring that children

are protected from life-altering, so-called ‘gender transition’ drugs and procedures,” Sharp said. “Young people deserve to live in a society that doesn’t subject them to risky experiments to which they cannot effectively consent. We commend the Missouri Legislature for taking a stand for children and for truth by passing these vital protections.”

The ACLU of Missouri argued in a statement that state lawmakers were attempting to “erase transness from Missouri.”

“Every person in the state should be alarmed by this weaponization of the government to intimidate people through the denial of basic health care and exclusion from extracurricular activities,” the statement said, adding that the group will “continue to explore all options to fight these bans and to expand the rights of trans Missourians.”

The bills will be considered by Republican Gov. Mike Parson, who previously indicated to local media that he supports the bills.

“We’re not going to walk away from this building” without passing the measures, Parson told reporters in April.

National issue

The issue of gender is be-

coming increasingly controversial, with the subject likely to become a frequent topic of the Republican presidential primary as states either move to restrict or protect such interventions.

In a statement released in March, the U.S. bishops’ doctrine committee said that surgical, chemical or other interventions that aim “to exchange” a person’s “sex characteristics” for those of the opposite sex “are not morally justified.”

While acknowledging that “many people are sincerely looking for ways to respond to real problems and real suffering,” the committee urged “particular care” be taken “to protect children and adolescents, who are still maturing and who are not capable of providing informed consent” for interventions to change their sex characteristics.

Meanwhile, Catholic dioceses are starting to grapple

with pastoral approaches to gender dysphoria, especially for Catholic school students.

In 2022, the Diocese of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, issued guidelines for transgender youth stating that diocesan schools should demonstrate “conformity with the student’s biological sex as determined from conception and manifest at birth and at the time of the student’s enrollment.”

The Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa, issued guidance and policies in January on ministering to people experiencing gender dysphoria. It called for coherence with the Church’s teaching on the inseparability of gender from biological sex while emphasizing pastoral compassion for children and adults wrestling with conflict between their sex and gender.

Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.



DECREE Implementing Facility Naming Policy

In order to provide clear direction and achieve a uniform application of rules concerning the naming of facilities, and after consulting the Council of Deans, the Presbyteral Council, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, and the Superintendent of Schools, I now wish to implement the following norms for the Diocese of Jefferson City.

Therefore, I DECREE that this Facility Naming Policy shall be promulgated by being published on the diocesan website, and that it will take effect one week from today, all things contrary notwithstanding.

I would like to reinforce the fact that these rules and regulations are particular law for the Diocese of Jefferson City and are therefore obligatory for all who reside within our diocese. Pastors and Administrators are obliged to see that the norms of this policy are implemented in their parishes.

*Given at the Chancery in Jefferson City
on the 17th day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2023.*

W. Shawn McKnight
Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, S.T.D.
Bishop of Jefferson City

Benjamin Roodhouse
Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL
Chancellor

NOTE: The full text of the policy can be found online at:
diojeffcity.org

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Deacon tells Knox County grads: 'Make Jesus your foundation'

One of several Catholic messages to the Class of 2023

By Jay Nies

Deacon Kenneth Berry stood at the ornately carved pulpit of St. Joseph Church in Edina, holding up the well-read, battle-tested Bible his mother gave him when he was 10.

"Take your Bible with you, read it and let it be part of the foundation of your life," he told a sizable contingent of the Knox County R-I High School Class of 2023.

"It will give you guidance and help you make the right choices," he said during the school's interfaith Baccalaureate service for the graduating class.

Thirty of the 38 graduating seniors, their families and their ministers attended the interchurch prayer service and convocation.

Local congregations take turns hosting the event each spring. Attendance is optional.

Deacon Berry, who assists the pastor of St. Joseph Parish, St. John Parish in Memphis and St. Aloysius Parish in Baring, said this year's was the largest turnout he'd seen at a Baccalaureate service in his 28 years as a deacon.

It included a procession, four Scripture readings, and two sacred songs led by the Knox County High School Choir.

The graduating seniors were invited to come forward and receive a Bible and a blessing from the minister of their church.

Deacon Berry's message moved from a fairy tale to a parable.

"One little pig built his house out of straw, another built his out of sticks, and another built his out of stone," the deacon recounted.

The moment of reckoning for each came when the Big Bad Wolf came a-huffin' and a-puffin'.

Jesus offers a strikingly similar message in Matthew 7:24-27, the Parable of the Two Foundations.

"Jesus talks about the wise man who builds his house on a solid rock foundation so that when a storm comes, the house will stand firm," Deacon Berry proclaimed.

"But the foolish man builds his house on a foundation of

sand, and when a storm comes, the house gets washed away," he said.

"The takeaway is that you need to build your lives on the solid rock foundation, which is Jesus Christ," he said.

Deacon Berry spoke of the importance of making good choices.

"One big choice can have a profound effect on the rest of your life," he noted.

He talked about how when he was about to be drafted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, his decision to enlist for four years set him on a decisive course.

"If I hadn't done that, I never would have gone to Germany, I never would have met my wife, I never would have become Catholic and I never would have become a deacon," he said.

Conversely, he spoke of two young women he once met who made a bad decision and wound up spending two years in prison.

"The choices you make now, matter," he stated. "Get into a relationship with Jesus, who's your rock-solid foundation, and he will help you make right choices in your life."

Deacon Berry suggested that the rest of the Church pray for the young people to make good choices throughout their lives.

"Pray that they'll use their Bible to help them make those choices," he said. "And if any of them do make bad choices, pray that they'll overcome them and move on with their lives and make good decisions from that point forward."

The deacon pointed out that he and his wife have weathered some serious health crises, along with grief from a daughter's recent passing.

"People ask how we can handle all of that, and I tell them that I can't," he stated. "But with my Jesus, I can, because he's my foundation."

Deacon Berry closed by repeating to the graduating seniors the refrain of a song by Catholic songwriter and youth evangelizer Steve Angrisano:

"Go make a difference! We can make a difference! Go make a difference in the world!"

"We need you," Deacon

Berry told them. "Your family needs you, this country needs you, this community needs you to go and make a difference in the world."

Better angels

Interfaith ministerial alliances throughout the diocese host Baccalaureate services to

well as 'Stan the Man' has."

Only in God

Father William Peckman, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Macon, St. Mary Parish in Shelbina, St. Patrick Parish in Clarence and the Mission of Sacred Heart in Bevier, spoke to the Catho-

"Nonsense!" he told them. "Any pursuit devoid of your faith will be devoid of fulfillment and joy."

"Our ability to negotiate the transitions that come as a matter of life — some of which are joyful as this day is, and those that break our hearts — will be founded on our faith and not on our passions devoid of faith," he stated.

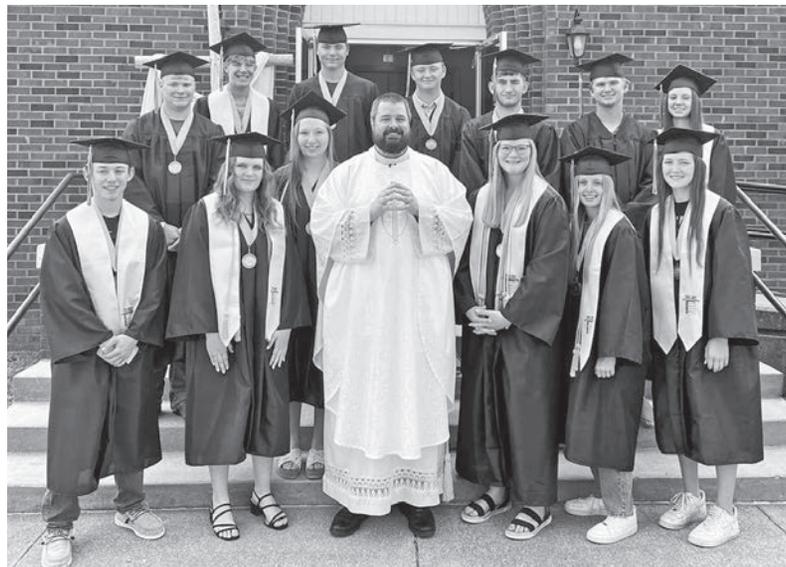
Shrewd investor

Father César Anicama, associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, proclaimed one of the readings in Spanish during the Baccalaureate service at La Monte High School.

It was Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus's Parable of the Talents, in which the master congratulates his stewards who invest what he entrusts them with and present it back to him with increase.

In St. Anthony, Father Christopher Aubuchon, parochial administrator of St. Lawrence Parish in St. Elizabeth and St. Anthony of Padua Parish in St. Anthony, offered a Baccalaureate Mass for graduating seniors in both

See FOUNDATION, page 23



Father Christopher Aubuchon, parochial administrator of St. Lawrence Parish in St. Elizabeth and St. Anthony of Padua Parish in St. Anthony, gathers with parishioners in the Class of 2023 after Mass on May 14 in St. Anthony of Padua Church.

— Photo by Dale-Michele Renkemeyer

pray for and celebrate local graduates. Several pastors and ministers often take part.

Father Michael Coleman, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Centralia and a chaplain at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, preached a message to members of Centralia High School's Class of 2023.

"Each of you has a calling from God to do something only you can do," he told the graduating seniors. "Each of you is uniquely loved and special to Him."

The priest recounted receiving his first baseball glove at age 8.

"I was playing catch with my Dad," he recalled. "I told him I was going to be a great baseball player like Stan Musial, the greatest St. Louis Cardinal ever."

Fr. Coleman's father told him that when Mr. Musial was little, an angel tapped him on the shoulder and said, "Stan, I want you to play baseball for me."

"Someday," Fr. Coleman's dad told him, "an angel will tap you on the shoulder and ask you to do something for him. I hope you can do it as

lic graduates of Macon High School.

He warned that they will be told many times to focus on pursuing their dreams and passions.



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QUESTION CORNER

Reconciling Adam and Eve and evolutionary science

By Jenna Marie Cooper

Q: How do we reconcile the story of Adam and Eve and original sin with evolution? (Schuylerville, N.Y.)



A: Thanks for the question! We can say the creation story in the Book of Genesis — while being true — was not meant as a literal or technical scientific account of how the material world was formed.

Although we often refer to the Bible as one book, it's a library of different books. And while all sacred Scripture is the inspired word of God, the human drafters of the various books within the Bible were writing at different times, for different reasons and in different literary genres. Within the Bible, we have books which are plainly intended as eyewitness historical accounts (e.g., the Gospel of John); along with other works which were obviously meant as symbolic allegories (e.g., Revelation). Likewise, we have works that spell out practical laws (Leviticus) along with sacred poetry (Psalms).

To draw a comparison with secular literature, it would be unreasonable to criticize a cookbook for not having much of a plot, and it would be silly to say that a fantasy novel was “wrong” because it didn't teach you how to do your taxes or fix a leaky faucet. We understand that different kinds of books have different purposes, and that no one kind of book can meet every need. Just so, we could describe the beginning of the Book of Genesis as a sort of “theological history,” because it tells us, in narrative form, some real and important things about the nature of God and his relationship to creation. Namely, from Genesis we know that God created everything out of nothing in an act of pure will; that he considers his creation to be good; that God wished to create humanity in his own image and likeness — meaning that humans have free will — and that the first humans abused this power of free will to turn away from God.

Significantly, from the creation story we learn that God did not actively desire humanity to experience suffering or death, but rather that this fundamental disorder in the universe came about because of a primordial human choice.

Conversely, the creation story in Genesis is not the equivalent of a textbook in geology, physics or biology. The creation story doesn't try to concern itself with details such as the wavelength of the first light created, or where exactly the first plants and animals would fit into our modern biological classification systems. We don't even know exactly how long each of the first seven “days” were in Genesis, since the term “day” in this context is used in a clearly poetic sense — that is, the author of Genesis couldn't have intended to speak of “days” in literal astronomical terms, since the sun itself was only created on the fourth “day,” (Gen. 1:14-19).

Still, it is legitimate for us to be curious and ask questions about how God's process of creation manifested itself concretely in the physical world. That type of scientific inquiry, however, proposes the answers to different kinds of questions than what the Book of Genesis seeks to address — though it is interesting that even Genesis seems to allude to a certain evolutionary process of sorts, with God creating simpler life forms before the more complex ones, and with humanity being the capstone of creation.

As St. John Paul II writes at the very start of his 1998 encyclical letter, “Fides et Ratio”: “Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth.”

Jenna Marie Cooper, who holds a licentiate in canon law, is a consecrated virgin and a canonist whose column appears weekly at OSV News. Send your questions to CatholicQA@osv.com.



Papal Audience May 24, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, we now turn to St. Andrew Kim Taegon, the first native priest of Korea and a martyr for the faith.

At a time of fierce persecution, St. Andrew courageously sought out the scattered members of his flock who, for fear of arrest, were forced to keep their identity secret.

As a young seminarian, Andrew aided missionary priests from abroad, who covertly entered the country to minister to its people.

He endured great hardships for the sake of the Gospel.

Once, amid a long trek through the snow, he fell to the ground exhausted and risked dying of exposure.

Suddenly he heard a voice saying: “Get up and keep walking!” He realized that, in his witness to the Gospel, he was not alone, and that the Lord would never forsake him.

In the end, his perseverance in following Christ and serving his people led to his death as a martyr.

Inspired by the example of St. Andrew Kim Taegon, may we persevere in our baptismal calling to be missionary disciples, sharing the joy of the Gospel with others, trusting in the strength that the Lord unfailingly grants us.

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's audience, especially the groups from England, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Canada and the United States of America. As we prepare to celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost, I invoke upon you and your families a rich outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord bless you all!

CONTEMPLATION

From page 24

Bill intuited that something was lacking in his recovery. He labeled it a deficit in the development of much more real maturity and balance — which is to say, humility in his relations with himself, with his fellows and with God.

He spoke of adolescent urges that so many have for top approval, perfect security and perfect romance — urges quite appropriate to age 17 but which prove to be an impossible way of life when we are at age 47 or 57.

Here is where a daily practice of Step 11 can come to our rescue.

A regular practice of prayer and meditation, just as Step 11 suggests, will bring us into a more conscious contact with God, and hence, with ourselves and our fellows.

It could be said that prayer is speaking to God, and meditation is listening. In this deep prayer, God reveals to us many of our hidden motivations and deepest fears, always inviting us to more healing ... leading to greater depths of serenity and peace.

Father Thomas Keating, a Trappist monk and renowned spiritual master, turned his attention later in his long life to this matter of Step 11.

Fr. Keating spent decades teaching Christians about the treasures of contemplation within their own tradition.

Many people in recovery from addictions

urged him to teach them about prayer and meditation.

After learning about Bill W., Thomas exclaimed, “the poor little lamb could have saved himself a great deal of unnecessary suffering if he had engaged in a daily 11th Step practice.”

Today, there are thousands of folks in many 12-Step programs, who engage a daily discipline of Centering Prayer as their 11th Step.

We read in the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*: “The world's libraries and places of worship are a treasure trove for all seekers.”

In addition, we read in the *AA Big Book*, “it is OK to receive input and guidance from outside sources in this matter of meditation and prayer.”

We are not talking about doctrinal or dogmatic aspects of religion, which sadly, can often divide us.

If you would like to know more, Contemplative Outreach of Central Missouri (COCEMO) is offering a workshop, to teach the simple method of Centering Prayer as an 11th Step.

It will be available via Zoom for individuals in their home, or in person in Columbia and Jefferson City, on Saturday, June 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To register, go to [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search “centering prayer,” visit the COCEMO website at [cocemo.org](https://www.cocemo.org), or call 573-864-1097.

Two tips to learn to criticize like a Christian

By David Mills
OSV News



Some years ago, a priest sent me occasional criticism of something I'd written. He tended to pick at small points.

We'd had dinner a couple of times and were friendly, and I eventually responded that I'd find it easier to hear his criticism if he'd ever offered any comment but criticism. I was hoping for some relief from the sniping but also trying to do him some good, because if he was annoying me, whom he only slightly knew, he was almost certainly annoying other people, as well.

He responded that I was a good writer but he sometimes disagreed with what I said, and he said we should meet for coffee. He stopped correcting me, though he never did say anything supportive. He meant well, but he hadn't thought about

the total effect his messages had on the poor guy at the other end.

Most people don't see one crucial thing about the way they talk about others. If they think about what they're saying (and not enough people do), they think about their speech as discrete acts. They said one thing an hour ago, another thing now, and will say something else later.

That's true especially when someone criticizes them for saying something uncharitable or unkind. They defend the single statement for which they're being criticized.

But the important thing in the way we speak about others isn't the single statement, it's the pattern. It's our practice over time. It's the total effect of our words on those to whom we direct them and to those listening in. They feel every word, especially if they're the target.

Yes, you may be able to justify your hard criticism of things that X says. Maybe he did say something that needs to be slapped down. But you can't so easily justify your

ongoing criticism of X over time, unbroken with any kind of sympathy or praise.

For example, people who attack X will explain that attacking him is the charitable thing to do because he needs to know he's wrong and other people need to be protected from his errors. They may claim that they must say "the hard word," and that no one else cares enough about X, or about the truth, to say it.

Let's say they're right, looking at the single error. But what if, as is so often the case, they only attack what X says and never support him or cheer him on and never defend him when he's being attacked unfairly? Do they really care about him? Or do they just like criticizing and correcting and look for targets?

More to the point, can X genuinely hear what they say? Will he feel like they've knocked him out of the way of a speeding truck or like they've hit him with a bat for fun?

Like most such things, we can see this

more easily when we're the victims than the ones speaking unkindly to others. Think of the people, some of them real friends, whose appearance in your Facebook feed means (and only ever means) you're about to be sniped or picked at. Just once in a while you'd like to see them saying "I liked that" or "Good job."

We can see this more easily when we're the victims, but many of us are also the attackers. We suffer from that "someone's wrong on the internet!" feeling and often know exactly who that someone is. I know that impulse too well — and the joy of charging into battle to smite down the error. It's addictive. As a practiced offender, I have two suggestions for dealing with it.

First, pray for your target before criticizing. "We would all much better mend our ways," wrote St. Thomas More in his *Dialogue Concerning Heresies*, "if we were as ready to pray for one another as we are

See MILLS, page 19

The blessing of reaching out to the elderly

By Sister Constance Veit, ISP



The COVID-19 public health emergency has officially ended and summer promises happier times in the months ahead.

And yet our surgeon general, Dr. Vivek H. Murphy, has just issued an advisory signaling a new public health threat in our country.

The issue is loneliness.

It's actually not a new problem at all, but an invisible epidemic that has been spreading through our society unchecked for many years.

In an essay in the *New York Times* in April, Dr. Murphy asserts, "We need to acknowledge the loneliness and isolation that millions are experiencing and the grave consequences for our mental health, physical health and collective well-being."

Dr. Murphy warns that loneliness is "more than just a bad feeling." It often leads to anxiety and depression — but that is not all.

It is also associated with increased risk of heart disease, dementia and stroke.

Loneliness carries with it a more significant risk of premature death than either smoking or obesity!

Dr. Murphy also noted that social disconnection is linked to reduced performance in the workplace and at school as well as diminished social engagement.

To combat this epidemic of loneliness, Dr. Murphy proposes a three-pronged national framework aimed at rebuilding

social connection and community.

The first point in Dr. Murphy's plan is to strengthen our social infrastructure through programs, structures and policies that support healthy relationships.

The second point is to renegotiate our relationship with technology — we need to learn to put down our devices in order to be more present to each other.

Third, each of us needs to reach out and rebuild relationships in our personal lives.

Although all three elements are important, I'd like to focus on the third point in this framework — our personal relationships — and I suggest that we begin by reaching out to the elders in our families and neighborhoods, many of whom suffer from a lack of meaningful relationships, though they have many gifts to share with others.

Summertime brings with it many opportunities for family-centered events — graduations, weddings, reunions, picnics and vacations — but do we always make the effort we should to include our elders, especially if they have mobility, communication or memory issues?

The summer months can be a dangerous time for seniors, especially those below the poverty line and those who live alone.

Heat waves quickly become deadly for seniors who lack air conditioning as well as those who have chronic conditions that make it difficult for their bodies to acclimate to temperature fluctuations.

For example, rising temperatures can

See SR. CONSTANCE, page 19

REFLECTION

Best-laid plans

By Mark Saucier

It's the season of caps and gowns, big dreams and a beckoning future.

Commencement speakers are advising graduates to go for the gold, dig deep and change the world.

The diploma-ed listen vacantly, their minds occupied with what may lie beyond tomorrow, both inviting and perilous.

One of the best pieces of commencement advice was from Mark Twain: "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you found out why."

Sadly, the latter does not accompany a sheepskin and can be most elusive, especially when we're tempted to impose our own purpose.

I shudder at the prospects these young people face. Sure, the job market is good, and the loving will always find love, but the current state of the world seems inhospitable to hope and purpose.

Our habitat is heating up, seas are rising as coastlines fall and natural events have become unnaturally ferocious.

The war in Ukraine dominates headlines, but we forget there are armed conflicts in Myanmar, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Mali, Mexico and a litany of other countries.

At home, we have had more mass shootings than days this year. Soon there won't be enough thoughts and prayers to go around.

Culture wars have created a spiteful and demeaning scorched-earth environment where the center is muted by the roar of the right and the left.

It's not surprising that there is more loneliness in Gen Z'ers than in any previous generation. Of course, COVID isolation contributed to this, but so did fear and trembling.

And it is going to be hard for them because Gen Z is not only the loneliest generation, but also the least religious. A third of them have no religious affiliation.

This means that they will not have a faith community to support them, to offer a sense of belonging or to provide a ready vehicle for serving the good of the community.

But I shouldn't underestimate them. They are not only the most diverse generation, they strive for diversity.

They care about others and are highly collaborative. They are pragmatic about the big issues, concerned much more with effectively addressing them than the politics involved.

Perhaps we, as well as Gen Z, need to trust the words of Jeremiah: "For surely I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans for your welfare, and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

Encounter

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



Reducing barriers to mental health care for Spanish-speaking families

By Ilsi Palacios with Ashley Wiskirchen

May is Mental Health Awareness Month! As we grow in our understanding of the value of caring for our mental health, we still encounter barriers for many in our service area. Some of these barriers we are familiar with, such as cost or location. Others pose a more nuanced challenge: like cultural understanding for individuals and families and shared native language.

So, native language, affordable cost, seven local parishes: what do these things have in common? Online counseling services through Clínica para la Familia (CliFam)!

Native language access for Spanish-speakers

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri has removed the barriers so that the Spanish-speaking community can receive online counseling services in their native language, at a reduced cost and in seven parishes of our diocese. These services are provided by mental health professionals of Clínica para la Familia in Colombia. Faith, respect and dignity for each individual served are some of the values that Clínica para la Familia and Catholic Charities have in common.

Virtual access to counseling services hosted by local Catholic parishes

The seven Catholic parishes who host Clínica para la Familia programs are: Sacred Heart in Columbia, Annunciation in California, Our Lady of the Lake in Lake Ozark, St. Peter (El Puente Hispanic Ministry) in Jefferson City, St. Peter in Marshall, St. Mary in Milan and St. Vincent de Paul in Sedalia. With generous hearts, the staff and parishioners at each of these parishes have opened their doors to provide this valuable service. With their support, during 2022, 206 sessions were facilitated among the seven parishes. We are very grateful to the diocesan Hispanic Ministry Office, El Puente-Hispanic Ministry, the parish pastors and staff and each of the volunteers who make this project prosper. Their effort and dedication help ensure that each person, married couple and family can flourish within their own community.

These services first became available

during the year 2020, a year that many of us will remember due to the unforeseen events that we experienced because of COVID-19. But it was also a year that left us with many lessons learned, including the value of caring for our mental health.

Many individuals, couples and families have experienced trauma, drastic changes or conflicts in their shared or individual pasts or face critical challenges in the “here and now.” Counseling accompaniment in a safe and private environment at their parish makes a difference. We know the significance of these services, which help individuals and families have healthy relationships and a better quality of life.

I have seen the changes myself in the clients that I’ve helped connect to CliFam. For example, I came into contact with a single mother who lost her job during the pandemic. She was completely desperate and hopeless. But, through case management intervention, prayer and online counseling, she has overcome many obstacles. Today, she is an integral member of her community of faith, working and enjoying motherhood.

This reminds us of the words of Christ throughout the Gospels: “I have come that they may have life and life to the full” (John 10:10). Through access to online counseling services, our communities find comfort and guidance, care and

See ENCOUNTER , page 19

Reduciendo las barreras del cuidado de la salud mental para las familias de habla hispana

Por Ilsi Palacios con Ashley Wiskirchen

Mayo es el mes de la concientización de la salud mental. A medida que vamos creciendo en el entendimiento del cuidado de nuestra salud mental, nos seguimos encontrando con barreras en muchas áreas de servicio. Algunas de estas barreras con las que estamos familiarizados son, el costo o ubicación. Otras poseen un desafío más pronunciado: como entender la cultura hispana y el lenguaje materno que comparten las personas y sus familias.

Por lo tanto, acortar distancias, idioma materno, costo asequible, y 7 parroquias locales, tiene algo en común. ¡Servicios de consejería en línea a través de Clínica para la Familia (CliFam)!

Acceso a servicios en el idioma materno para hispanohablantes

Caridades Católicas del Centro y Norte de Missouri ha removido las barreras para que la comunidad de habla hispana pueda recibir servicios de consejería en línea en su idioma materno, a un costo reducido y en 7 parroquias de nuestra diócesis. Los profesionales en la salud mental pertenecen a Clínica para la Familia en el país de Colombia. Entre los valores de esa institución están, la fe, el respeto y la dignidad que se le debe dar a cada persona, dichos valores también forman parte de la misión de Caridades Católicas.

Acceso virtual de servicios de consejería facilitado por parroquias locales

Las siete parroquias que facilitan el

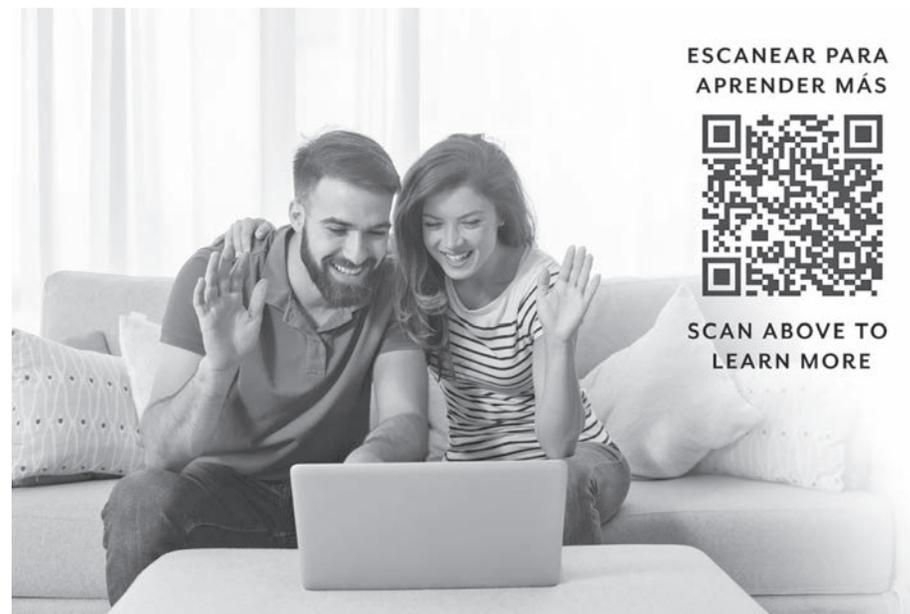
programa de Clínica para la Familia son, Sagrado Corazón en Columbia, Anunciación en California, Nuestra Señora del Lago en Lake of the Ozar, San Pedro (El Puente Hispanic Ministry) en Jefferson City, San Pedro en Marshall, Santa María en Milan y San Vicente de Paúl, Sedalia. Con corazones generosos, el personal y parroquianos en cada una de estas parroquias ha abierto las puertas, a proveer estos servicios de gran valor. Durante el año 2022, fueron facilitadas 206 sesiones entre las 7 parroquias. Estamos muy agradecidos con el Ministerio Hispano, con El Puente, con los pastores al cuidado de cada parroquia, su personal y cada uno de los voluntarios que hacen que este proyecto prospere. Su esfuerzo y dedicación contribuyen a que cada persona, matrimonio y familia pueda florecer dentro de su propia comunidad.

Estos servicios llegaron a estar disponibles durante el año 2020, un año que muchos recordaremos por los imprevistos que vivimos a raíz del Covid-19. Pero también fue un año que nos dejó grandes enseñanzas, entre ellas, está el valor que tiene el cuidado de nuestra salud mental.

Muchas personas, parejas, y familias han vivido traumas, cambios drásticos o conflictos en el pasado o en la actualidad. Y un acompañamiento psicológico en un ambiente seguro y privado en su parroquia marca la diferencia en su manera de relacionarse y tener una mejor calidad de vida.

Yo misma he visto los desafíos a los que se enfrentan algunas personas que he encaminado a los servicios de CliFam. He sido testigo de incontables situaciones, un ejemplo es la de una madre soltera que habiendo perdido su trabajo durante la pandemia se sentía totalmente desesperada y sin salida. Pero a través del acompañamiento de la gestión de casos, la oración y la intervención de la consejería virtual ha podido salir adelante. Hoy se le ve integrada a su comunidad de fe, con otro trabajo, y disfrutando su maternidad.

Esto nos recuerda las palabras de Cristo a través de los evangelios: “Yo he venido para que tengan vida y vida en plenitud” San Juan 10:10. Por medio del acceso a los servicios de consejería en línea, nuestras comunidades encuentran consuelo y guía, cuidado y esperanza.



ESCANEAR PARA
APRENDER MÁS



SCAN ABOVE TO
LEARN MORE

Diaconate formation director answers question: Who is a Deacon?

This is the first in a series of articles about the Permanent Diaconate in the Jefferson City diocese.

By Deacon John Schwartz

One of the Scripture readings at the ordination of a deacon comes from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 6.

It recalls the selection of the first seven deacons of the Church.

The Apostles found themselves engaged in too many roles within the community. As such, it resulted in them “neglecting the Word of God” in order to function in the other roles.

They needed helpers, but not just any helpers. The seven men selected for the role were known to be “deeply spiritual and prudent” disciples.

Deacons are ordained and are part of the clergy of the Church.

Like bishops and priests, deacons experience the sacrament of Holy Orders.

While the bishops and priests share in the Priesthood of Christ, the deacons share in the pastoral service aspect of Christ.

They are “living icons” of Christ, who come not to be served, but to serve.

The word deacon is derived from the Greek word, *diakonia*, which means “service in

the name of another.”

The service of a deacon is lived out on behalf of the bishop (ultimately of Christ) in his ministry to the word, to the Liturgy and to charity.

During the Ordination Mass for a deacon, the bishop will place the Book of the Gospels in the hands of the deacon and say:

“Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.”

This short but powerful instruction captures the fact that the deacon has both a liturgical role and a pastoral role.

At Mass, the deacon proclaims the Gospel and assists at the altar with the chalice of the Precious Blood.

Sacramentally, the deacon is an ordinary minister of Baptism; and, as a member of the clergy and with the delegation of his pastor, he witnesses mar-

riages on behalf of the Church.

In addition, the role of the deacon is one of preaching and teaching. As such, the deacon must have a deep and solid understanding of the teachings and faith of the Church.

By their very nature, deacons are active members of the community within their workplaces, civic and volunteer activities, and roles as husbands and parents.

The unique insight that the deacon brings to the Church allows him to identify problems and opportunities for evangelization.

Working with the pastors of his parish or parishes, the deacon is able to marshal the necessary resources of the Church to address such issues.

Of particular concern for the deacon are the social needs and works of charity of the local Church.

In a Facebook posting in 2022, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight offered further clarification on the role of the deacon:

There is a great need within the Church to continue to foster and grow this ministry.

“In essence the deacon is involved in supporting everyone else in their role of the Church. I see deacons playing an important role in my vision of parishes as centers of mercy and charity. The key is for the deacons to be the catalyst; encouraging and empowering lay people to get involved in Christ-centered service.”

Since reinstatement of the Permanent Diaconate at the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), the U.S. Catholic bishops have recognized the unique role of the permanent deacon and have fostered its growth.

As of May 2022, the annual CARA study estimated that there were 14,586 active deacons ministering in the United States, which is by far the largest number of any country in the world.

In recent years, the diaconate community within the

See DEACONS, page 23



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DIOCESE OF Jefferson City

VOCATIONS

From page 1

Matrimony. Some are called to be religious sisters and brothers. Some are called to be priests.

“That particular calling within our universal call to strive for holiness is the path to heaven God has in mind for each of us,” said Fr. Clark.

“And whatever that path to heaven is for you, know that it is going to be good!” he stated.

Every vocation is an opportunity for people to say, “Yes, Lord, you can have my heart back.”

“It’s making a gift of our heart back to him who gave it to us in the first place, who created us and gave us life — in service to God and to one another,” said Fr. Clark.

“We don’t have to be afraid of it, because it’s going to be amazing,” he said.

All are being sent

Fr. Clark said Sixth Grade Vocation Day is a time to have



Sixth-graders from throughout the diocese take part in Sixth Grade Vocation Day at Our Lady of Lourdes Church and Our Lady of Lourdes Inter-parish School in Columbia. — Photos by Jay Nies

fun, listen, pray and ask God, “What great things do you have in mind for me?”

The sixth-graders attended several impact sessions, each highlighting a vocation in a particular way.

Married couples, a Dominican sister, a Benedictine monk and several priests and seminarians answered questions and talked about what their vocation means to them.

Christian and Kate Basi, members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, talked to a group about marriage.

“Our focus was that love is a choice, not an emotion,” said Mrs. Basi.

They used the passage from 1 Corinthians 13, often proclaimed at weddings, that presents the ideal of pure, selfless love.

Mrs. Basi talked about once having been engaged to an atheist.

A mother who was serving as a chaperone in the group asked her to talk more about that time in her life.

“It gave me an opening to talk to the girls about what a healthy relationship looks like and what it doesn’t look like, the importance of respecting each other’s human dignity, and how dating is a way to

learn what kind of person you are compatible with,” she said.

Father Daniel Merz, pastor of St. Thomas More Newman

More photos will be posted in *The Catholic Missourian’s* online edition, cathmo.com. Select “Photo Galleries” from the “Multimedia” tab on the menu bar.

Center Parish in Columbia, likened going to seminary or entering discernment for a religious community to going on a date: “You’re not yet married, but it is a commitment to get to know the potential spouse.” He noted that wives of former seminarians often tell him that the best preparation for marriage for their husbands was going to the seminary, where they learned how to be a better husband and father.

Sister Suzanne Walker of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, New York, said everyone has a

role to play in continuing Jesus’s work here on earth.

“We are the apostles of today,” she stated. “The responsibility has been passed on to all of us to continue to spread the Good News and help others know and follow Jesus Christ.

“This is to be done through whatever vocation we choose to follow,” she said.

“Toward eternal life”

Brother Placid Dale was talking about the vow of poverty he took upon becoming a professed member of the Benedictine community at Conception Abby in northwestern Missouri.

“I personally don’t have any money,” he pointed.

“So you’re broke?” a sixth-grader fired back.

After the laughter died down, he explained that everything at the monastery is held in common, and all of his needs are provided for.

“But I personally don’t own

See SIXTH GRADE, page 17

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MARCH

From page 4

easier," she said.

It begins with coming to terms with what abortion really is and deciding to do something to make it stop.

"It's not good enough just to say, 'Yeah, I'm against that,'" Ms. Miller insisted. "You have to stand firm and do something about it. You have to take on the responsibility and fight for what's right."

She talked about how St. Teresa of Kolkata helped change the world by consistently doing little things with great love.

"You, too, have the power to change the world, one baby-step at a time," said Ms. Miller.

Hard lessons

A group of students from St. Joseph School in Westphalia discussed what they had learned at the event.

Most were surprised to find out about the growing prevalence of chemical-induced abortions, along with the medical and psychological risks the medications bring.

Helias Catholic juniors Kailey Cracraft, Zach Gerling, Alex Owens and Katie Roling were also startled by things they learned.

"I didn't realize how early

babies develop their senses, how early their heart begins to beat, how early they're able to feel pain," said Alex. "And just how delicate and innocent they are."

All of that helps reinforce that babies in the womb are innocent, living human beings who need people to defend them, he said.

Katie said she never realized how profoundly abortion affects men.

"Listening to those guys talk about it really made me think," she said. "Obviously, the woman has the connection with the baby, but the father often has no say."

The students talked about some of the little things they can do to help throughout the year.

"We can spread the news by posting on social media or talking to our friends or taking it to God in prayer," said Zach.

"Pray the Rosary every day," Kailey suggested. "Praying the Rosary together is a really powerful weapon against the evil that's going on in the world."

They said it's important to know how to help someone who has had an abortion or is

pregnant and believes she has no other choice.

"You have to give them love and support," said Kailey.

"They may already be going through one of the hardest moments in their lives and dealing with things we can't even imagine," said Alex. "They need to know that we're there to support them."

Kailey said it's important to be able to talk to a friend who's considering abortion about alternatives and the assistance available from pregnancy resource centers.

"Little doubt"

Midwest March for Life organizer Kathy Forck, co-director of the Columbia 40 Days for Life Campaign, said this year's message had young people in mind, and they showed up in droves.

"We were so pleased to see so many youths filling the space from schools all over the state," she stated.

Father Anthony Viviano, moderator for pro-life ministry for the Jefferson City diocese, said he was amazed at the fervor and commitment the speakers exhibited.

"Their passion certainly resonated through the crowd,"

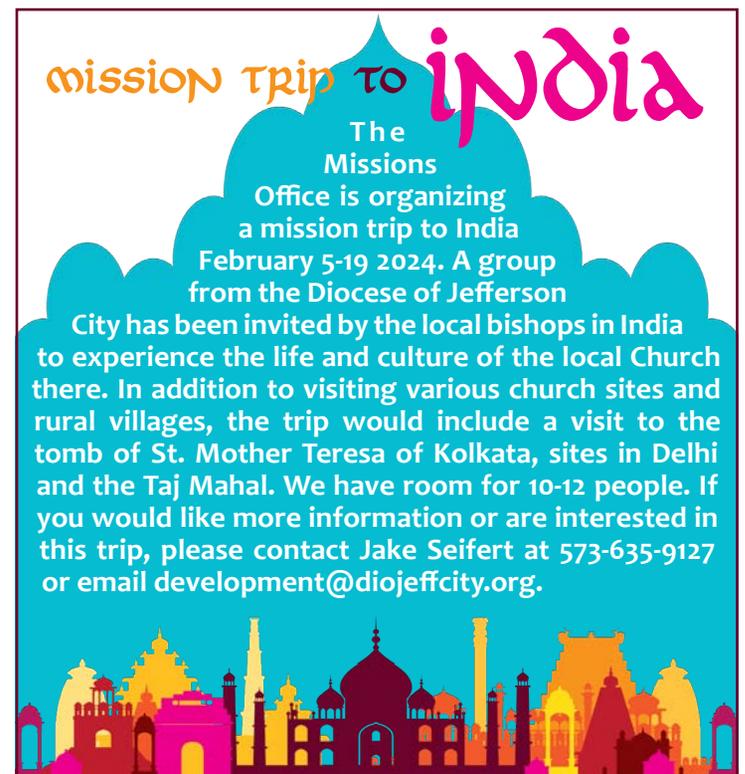
he observed. "It's a good boost, a good lift to see people giving of themselves so fully, so generously, with that level of commitment."

Deacon Lee has been fully invested in the Pro-Life Movement for nearly half a century.

"It's not that us old-timers are discouraged," he stated. "It's just that there's always a question about whether others will take over."

"After seeing all the enthusiastic young people at this year's March, I have little doubt that the younger generation of proliferators will be able to carry on the struggle — and even improve on our efforts," he said.

Contributing to this report was Grace Tamburro, who writes for The Mirror, newspaper of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau.



mission trip to india

The Missions Office is organizing a mission trip to India February 5-19 2024. A group from the Diocese of Jefferson City has been invited by the local bishops in India to experience the life and culture of the local Church there. In addition to visiting various church sites and rural villages, the trip would include a visit to the tomb of St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata, sites in Delhi and the Taj Mahal. We have room for 10-12 people. If you would like more information or are interested in this trip, please contact Jake Seifert at 573-635-9127 or email development@diojeffcity.org.



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HOFFMANN

From page 1

In becoming a deacon, Mr. Hoffmann will make several specific promises, including:

- to humbly serve in charity to assist the priest and to benefit the Christian people,
- to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed,
- to commit to celibacy,
- to be obedient to the bishop and his successors, and
- to pray the Liturgy of the Hours each day for God's people and the whole world.

Mr. Hoffmann noted that the word "deacon" comes from a Greek word meaning "minister on behalf of another."

"I will be living a life of service to God's people as an ordained minister," he said.

Good foundation

Mr. Hoffmann was born and raised in Sedalia, the older of two sons of John and Linda Hoffmann.

He grew up Catholic, went to Mass with his family every Sunday and attended Sacred Heart School from kindergarten through high school.

He played soccer, baseball and some basketball and was active in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

He was an altar server and later an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at Sacred Heart School.

"Service was something that was instilled in my youth and done with many groups in different ways — at church, at school and in the community," he recalled.

He didn't give much thought to Priesthood until he was in college at Iowa State University in Ames.

While studying agricultural engineering and minoring in Spanish, he got to know Father Jon Seda, the Catholic chaplain — a "normal guy" who impressed him by going to sporting events, playing racquetball and laughing out-loud at funny things.

"Since then, I have experienced how priests continue to have hobbies and a sense of humor and don't spend all day just saying Mass, visiting the sick, or praying in the rectory," said Mr. Hoffmann.

He became active in a variety of student organizations around campus, as well as at

the Catholic student center.

Glimpse of heaven

Twice, Mr. Hoffmann got to spend time studying in Brazil.

Being there in 2013 allowed him to attend World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro.

The event drew 3 million people from all over the world to celebrate their Catholic faith with Pope Francis.

It gave Mr. Hoffmann a new perspective on the global nature of the Universal Church.

"My eyes were opened, and being Catholic became more for me than just being 'a kid from Sacred Heart in Sedalia of the Diocese of Jefferson City,' to being part of the Body of Christ, connected to the Church, which globally has the same worship, Mass, Sacraments, love of Christ, and community," Mr. Hoffmann stated.

"Even in a different language or cultural expression, we are all part of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church," he said.

Mr. Hoffmann was studying in the Catholic Student Center one day when the chaplain asked what he was doing that Sunday night.

"There was a group that met to discuss the Priesthood," Mr. Hoffmann recalled, "and there would be pizza."

He remembers thinking, "Well, I am a single Catholic guy ... and there is pizza."

He became a member of the Priesthood discernment group and remained so for a little over three years.

The group discussed sundry articles and chapters from books, went on retreats and even visited a seminary.

"The more I learned, the more I thought that God may be inviting me to be a priest," said Mr. Hoffmann.

"I learned that going to seminary was not saying, 'I am absolutely going to be a priest,' but continuing to ask God if he is calling me," he said.

"And I began realize that several attributes of the Priesthood seemed to match the skills God gave me," he stated.

Parental guidance

Mr. Hoffmann's parents weren't surprised when he de-

ecided to apply for admission to the seminary after graduating from Iowa State in December 2016.

"They've been supportive the whole way," he said. "That has been a huge blessing, since quite a few men in formation do not have the support of their family as they discern God's call in their lives."

He undertook the application process the following spring while working as a drafter at Waterloo Industries and as a bartender at the Sedalia Country Club.

Bishop John R. Gaydos of Jefferson City, now retired, accepted him into formation and enrolled him at Conception Seminary College that fall.

"I came to appreciate the quiet at Conception while I was there for two years of Pre-Theology," Mr. Hoffmann recalled.

After graduating from Conception, he took on a seven-month internship at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia.

It coincided with the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

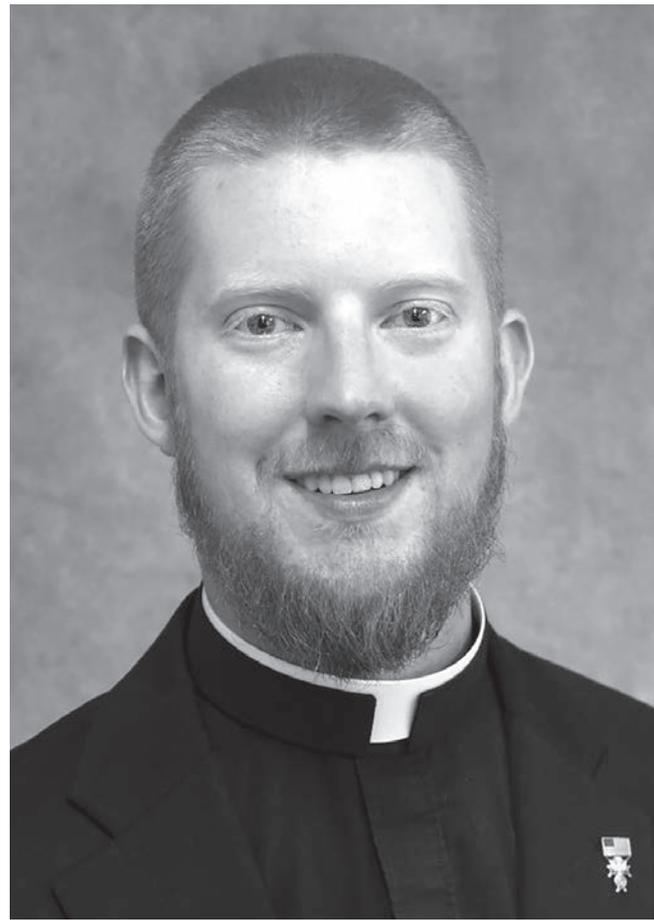
"That experience of 'how do we continue to serve the people of God when we aren't allowed to meet in person?' turned out to be an affirmation of my call," he said.

It required him to draw on an array of talents God had given him to use — "including my technical background, not just the spiritual and theological aspects," he noted.

He resumed his studies at the Josephinum and is on target to graduate next May.

He was surprised to discover how much humility and docility the life of a seminarian requires.

He pointed to the academic, human, pastoral and spiritual aspects of priestly formation.



Christopher Hoffmann

"It's not focused on bolstering that one area you are good at, but in living the proper order of all four areas," he said.

Confident assurance

It's been clear to Mr. Hoffmann for about a year that God is truly calling him to be a priest.

"I entered the seminary mostly at ease with the possibility that God may actually be calling me to stay for the whole journey, culminating in priestly ordination," he said.

"I was fully convinced of God's call by the time I started my third year of theology last fall," he stated.

Being formally accepted into candidacy for the Priesthood — akin to engagement for a dating couple — was a big step.

"Knowing that there are parishioners who live out their daily call strengthens me to more firmly live out my daily 'yes,'" he said.

Down time

Mr. Hoffmann enjoys spending free time outdoors and playing competitive sports.

"There were years I was on the seminary's team for soccer, volleyball, and disc golf teams," he noted.

He enjoys playing weekly pick-up basketball and volleyball games and an occasional soccer match.

From time-to-time, he also goes fishing on the campus lake and takes up bicycling during summer break.

See ORDAIN, page 23



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By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

1. We've heard of Army's Fort Leonard Wood base at St. Robert/Waynesville; perhaps also Whiteman Air Force base at Knob Noster, Mo. But perhaps you haven't ever heard of another ____ base that has left an interesting legacy and is still currently used by the Mo. National Guard — Camp Crowder.
8. "He stood ____, as fragile as a child and as durable as a tree," —*Summer of the Danes*, Ellis Peters.
12. Romantic or erotic love; another name for Cupid.
13. "The very large ____ spread their cloaks on the road..." (Matthew 21:8).
15. Gun org.
16. Among the celebrities that visited Camp Crowder to entertain the thousands of troops were ____ Cary Grant, bandleader Benny Goodman and heavyweight champion Joe Louis who drew 5,000 spectators for an exhibition bout.
18. Camp Crowder provided a medical screening center, 3 dental clinics and several infirmaries throughout its camp. There were special programs for the ____ and injured to help them transition back to civilian life or active duty.
20. The ____ has the oldest written constitution in the world today making it the oldest living republic.
21. "I wanted my whole life long to be a ____ professor — but afterwards I see it was good how it went," —"Last Testament," Pope Benedict XVI.
23. Joshua Tree, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are all in this State (abbr.).
24. In golf, ball holder.
26. To become less intense or widespread.
29. Camp Crowder also be-
32. Marsh; swamp.
33. Letters for Overtime.
34. "Annet came back from feeding the hens...and milking the ____ cow she kept for their own use," — *The Hermit of Eyton Forest*, Ellis Peters.
35. January in Barcelona.
37. Old dog star ____-Tin-Tin.
39. "____ miracles followed wherever (the relics of) St. Winifred passed. Great miracles come more rarely, but Winifred could manifest her power where it was deserved," —*The Heretic's Apprentice*, Ellis Peters.
41. Org. for parents & teachers.
42. Michael, Gabriel and Lucifer.
45. In later years, much of the camp's original property and its thousands of buildings were given to help establish Crowder College, a ____ college for Newton and McDonald counties; today it has 4,000 college credit students and several thousand others in industrial, adult literacy programs and continuing education.
48. The Office of Administration (____) is the managerial arm of Mo. State Government.
49. "Are you ready to go out ____ a limb for Christ? If you do, then, like Zacchaeus, salvation will come to your house," —*Jesus, A Pilgrimage*, James Martin, S.J.
50. How to address a nun.
54. In the card game Spades, a player that has already looked at their cards can bid _____. The bidder then must take no tricks during the hand. If successful, the bidder earns a 100-point bonus.
56. "Today I will pay myself a visit; I do hope that I'm at _____," —Bavarian comedian and maverick Karl Valentin.
58. "A devotee of Truth, whenever he discovers himself to be wrong, must confess it at all costs and ____ for it," —Mahatma Gandhi.
60. "Immediately things like ____ fell from his eyes and he regained his sight," (Acts 9:18).
61. The Mo. National Guard ____ 4,358 parcels of former Camp Crowder land for use as a training site.

DOWN

1. "Woe is ____!" This phrase comes from Job 10:15. (Job is the oldest book in the Bible, early versions dating to 1200 B.C.) Wycliffe's Bible in 1382 was the first to use this phrase in English. It is used in the New King James Bible. Variations are found in many other translations.
2. Savings plans.
3. Camp Crowder was the ____ for contingents of the Women's Army Corps; it provided basic training for thousands of new army recruits and for thousands of Army Signal Corps recruits.
4. Suffix for terror or social.
5. Camp Crowder broke ground in August of 1941 in Newton Co. near Neosho, Mo. on a 43,000-____ site, positioned to be near 2 main RRs, the St. Louis-San Francisco RR and the Kansas City Southern RR.
6. Possible sign letters at a train crossing.
7. Loud wailing cry, in pain or distress.
8. What teachers do.
9. "It rolled round on its back revealing an almost white belly which Ransom kneaded with his toes. His acquaintance with the dragon prospered exceedingly. In the ____, it went to sleep," —*Perelandra*, C.S. Lewis.
10. Several episodes of "The Dick Van Dyke Show" paid homage to Camp Crowder because the show's ____, Carl Reiner, trained there before overseas deployment.
11. A small extent or amount.
14. In the Armed Forces, short for Warrant Officer, the lowest rank of commissioned officer; in the U.S. warrant officers are usually expert in a particular technical field.
17. Sandwich cookie.
19. Grab or capture.
20. "He will show you a large ____ room that is furnished," (Luke 22:12).
22. Camp Crowder boasted an expansive sports ____, fishing lake, hardwood skating rink, bowling alleys and a 60-piece band for the diversion and entertainment of the troops.
25. Abbr. for the 19th book of the Bible.
27. Short for the 16th U.S. President.
28. "____ trip: a journey to nowhere," —Robert Half.
30. "____ is an island;" famous poem by poet, scholar, soldier and Anglian cleric John Donne (572-1631); from his Devotions upon Emergent Occasions (2 wds.).
31. Abbr. for religion or relative.
36. Old broken-down horse.
38. Camp Crowder occasionally flooded and was the inspiration for the late Mort Walker's Camp Swampy in his ____ "Beetle Bailey" comic strip, when he was stationed there in 1943.
39. "Fr. ____" is a 2022 movie based on the true story of Stuart Long, boxer, actor, teacher, museum manager and grocery store clerk on his fascinating journey from agnostic to becoming a Catholic priest serving in the diocese of Helena, Montana.
40. A brand of potato chips.
41. Letters for Prime Minister in parliamentary governments.
43. "After decades away from church, Raquel Welch offered an 'awkward inept prayer' to 'the God of my childhood and, ____ and behold, he was still there,'" —from Terry Mattingly, newspaper columnist focusing on religion.
44. "For he ____ those who take refuge in him..." (Sirach 51:8).
45. I will present the pros and ____ of the issue.
46. Suffix for material or capital.
47. "...Americans underpay their taxes by nearly one-fifth, yet the U.S. is easily within the upper ____ of worldwide compliance rates," Steven D. Levitt.
51. Make lace.
52. Letters on airport airline schedules.
53. King in Lyons.
55. ____ Cathedrale de Notre Dame, in Paris.
56. "It was one of my friend Sherlock's most obvious weaknesses that ____ was impatient with less alert intelligences than his own," —*The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
57. Bone.
59. Periodic Table letters for Neutronium.

ANSWERS on page 19

SIXTH GRADE

From page 12

anything at all," he said.

Brother Placid spoke of living under the monastic Rule of St. Benedict.

He talked about the process of entering monastic life, which involves taking vows to live, work and pray in a com-

munity of monks in one monastery, pursuing constant conversion toward Christ under the authority of their abbot.

He shed light on the rhythm of the day that promotes constant balance between work, prayer, study, fellowship and

rest.

He reiterated that every Christian's first vocation is to help Jesus draw people to himself.

"We're all called to be saints," Brother Placid noted. "We become saints by listen-

ing to God and by journeying toward God in this life.

"God is wanting to give us the tools we need to move toward him," he said, "to move toward eternal life with him."

How does someone figure out his or her specific vocation?

"You start by praying and listening to God," said Brother Placid. "You have to ask God, 'What it is that you're calling me to be?'"

He acknowledged that God's answer to that question can be jarring at first.

"But God knows your heart even better than you do," the brother said. "He tells us not to be afraid, but just to listen, and he will bring you great happiness."

Not that it's always easy.

"It's like anything else," said Brother Placid. "If you ask a married couple if every day is perfect, they'd say no. But they are happy nonetheless."

Everyone's responsibility

Sr. Suzanne spoke of how God sent Jesus to restore his broken relationship with his people.

Jesus appointed a group of friends to help him teach and heal.

People in authority would not accept his teaching and eventually plotted to have him executed.

He died on a cross but rose from the dead three days later, stamping out death and opening the gates of heaven.

He ascended to the Father after 40 days but sent the Holy Spirit to give his followers strength and courage to continue his work on earth.

"And from that time over 2,000 years ago," Sr. Suzanne noted, "people have been getting the Holy Spirit and telling people about Jesus."

It's everyone's responsibility.

"Whether you're a parent, a single person, a sixth-grader, a religious sister, a brother, a priest, a deacon, a bishop — whoever you are, we all have a responsibility to tell others about Jesus," she said.

"You do that by the way you talk, the way you act," she noted.

Sr. Suzanne talked about the many different orders and congregations of religious sisters in the world.

"They all want to help people know God and get closer to him," she said, "but they each have a little different model, a different way of going about it."

She recounted the path she took toward becoming a sister, and how that eventually led her back to Monroe City, her hometown, to teach and serve as principal.

She reminded the sixth-graders to ask God to help them discover and embrace the vocation God has in mind for them.

"We can't do anything if we don't have Jesus in our heart," she noted. "We need to know Jesus and have him by our side."

"He will lead you"

The event, sponsored each year by the diocesan Vocations Office, also included lunch, games in the school gym, and Benediction in church.

"The sixth-graders were awesome, well behaved, and had some great questions," said Father Stephen Jones, diocesan director of stewardship for the diocese.

Sr. Suzanne said she saw many wonderful sixth-graders at the event.

"I hope you listen to God," she told them. "He will tell you, he will lead you."

FR. ANTWEILER

From page 5

Fr. Antweiler offered his Mass of Thanksgiving there the following day.

"I was on such a high!" he recalled.

"Fueled by grace"

If Fr. Antweiler could go back 50 years and tell his newly ordained self just one thing, it would be: "It's gonna' be good. Really good!"

For him, Priesthood means being "an instrument of God's love and power and strength to God's people, in all of kinds of intimate and caring ways — often merely by your presence."

He's grateful for how the Lord has worked through him, using his unique gifts and opportunities to serve people.

"And I'm wonderfully amazed and grateful for how people relate to me," he said.

He's convinced that listening and being fully present are two of the most important skills a human being can learn.

"To put yourself aside for a moment and really listen to someone else, just being focused on them and trying to hear where they're coming from — their feelings, their anguish, their joy.

"And when you're called to be a priest and you answer that call, fueled by grace, people let you do that for them!"

Fr. Antweiler started out as an associate pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia, then at Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Boonville.

As a pastor, he served for five years at Our Lady of Snows Parish in Mary's Home; three years at Visitation Parish in Vienna; nine years at St. Patrick Parish in Rolla; eight years at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in St. Thomas; eight years at Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City and St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek; five years at Immaculate Conception Parish in Loose Creek and St. Louis of France Parish in Bonnots Mill; and seven years at Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City.

He began producing the "Across the Diocese" crossword puzzle, a reader favorite in *The Catholic Missourian*, in 2001. He has created 786 puzzles, and counting.

He retired from full-time ministry on his 75th birthday last year. He lives in the Cathedral of St. Joseph Rectory in Jefferson City.

"Tsunami of prayer"

Last fall, he Fr. Antweiler began his third bout with cancer of the tongue.

He underwent surgery, which involved removing the cancerous part, replacing it with grafted tissue from his arm, and moving an artery from his arm to his neck and mouth.

"It's honestly a miracle that they can do all of that," he marveled.

After recovering from surgery, he underwent aggressive radiation therapy to help keep the cancer from returning.

"The treatment burned 40 percent of my saliva glands," he noted.

For a time, he couldn't offer Mass. He still has some difficulty receiving Holy Communion.

The blisters on his tongue are finally healing.

"I haven't been able to eat anything solid since September," he noted. "I'm transitioning to soft food now."

He's overwhelmed by the experience of being prayed for by so many people.

"I feel like I'm being carried along on a tsunami of prayer that's gotten me to this point," he said.

His doctor has expressed admiration for Fr. Antweiler's positive attitude through all of this.

Fr. Antweiler believes it's an answer to prayer — specifically, a prayer of surrender he's been adding to his prayer regimen for the past several years.

"The way I see it, 'It is what it is,' and God is walking beside me, and you just keep moving on," he said.

The way home

Fr. Antweiler and his brothers still get together once a month and organize regular "brothers and brides" events that include his siblings' wives.

"Family is a great support for me," he said.

So is his priest support group, which started meeting regularly 47 years ago and has gained several members along the way.

"I feel very closely bonded with my brother priests, and I get a lot of strength from that," he said.

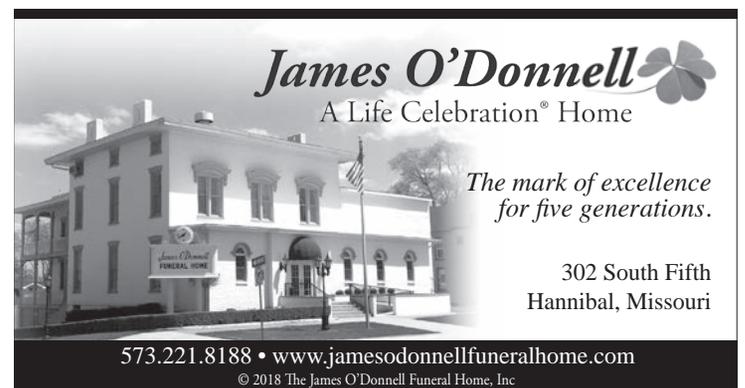
Fr. Antweiler hopes people are grateful to God for the priestly ministry that's been entrusted to him and carried out with God's unfailing assistance.

"I hope I've been a good enough instrument that you can pray in gratitude for the way the Lord has reached out to you through me," he said.

"And pray that I get to know him better," Fr. Antweiler requested. "That's my desire: to be a deep-soul kind of friend, to 'get immersed in that loop of grace,' to borrow a phrase I recently read."

He's noticed that the last line on each of the sisters' tombstones in the Carmelite Cemetery in Jefferson City reads, "Called home."

"I like that," he said. "I want to go on seeing this life as the path home — to love life here while knowing that I'm heading to all the more greatness."



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Need more info about an event or want to see more events?
Visit the diocesan EVENT CALENDAR at diojeffcity.org/events.
Want your event listed?
Fill out the ONLINE FORM at diojeffcity.org/event-listing.

Fundraisers & Social Events

Jun. 2

Freeburg, 5th Annual Freeburg Cruise-in, 5 pm-midnight, Holy Family Church parking lot

Jun. 4

California, Annunciation Parish picnic, 11 am-6 pm; **Frankenstein**, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish picnic, 11 am-6:30 pm; **Krakov**, St. Gertrude Parish picnic, 11 am-6 pm

Jun. 10 & 24

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception Youth NCYC rummage sale, 7-11:30 am, McCarty Street Plaza

Jun. 11

Belle, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am

Jun. 12

Jefferson City, Vitae Foundation's Rackers Family Memorial Pro-Life Golf & Pickleball Tournament, 8 am-4 pm, Jefferson City Country Club, for info or to register visit vitaefoundation.org

Jun. 15-17

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

Jun. 17

Taos, St. Francis Xavier Parish picnic, 3-10 pm

Jun. 22

Holts Summit, Free concert

to benefit Mary's Meals, 6-9 pm, Canterbury Hill Winery, for info or to RSVP email michelle.keller@marysmeals.org

Jun. 25

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

Meetings/ Workshops

Jun. 17

Jefferson City, Pre-Cana Conference for engaged couples, 9 am-4:30 pm, Chancery Office, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/pre-cana-registration

Jun. 24

VIRTUAL, Introduction to Centering Prayer as an 11th-Step Practice, 8:30 am-1 pm, in-person option at Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City or at Community United Methodist Church in Columbia, for info or to register visit cocemo.org

Jun. 30

Jefferson City, Practicum & follow-up workshop on Prepare/Enrich (P/E) Couple Assessment Facilitation, 1-5 pm, Chancery Office

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

junio 3

Jefferson City, Retiro para Preparación de Quinceañera, 9 am-3 pm, San Pedro, para

más información contacte el equipo de quinceañera de su parroquia

junio 9

Varios lugares, Asambleas de Jóvenes, 7-9 pm, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

junio 10

Sedalia, Taller de Cursillo, 9 am-4 pm, Sagrado Corazón, para más información o registrarse contacte a María Gomez al 660-620-3405 o Raul Lopez al 660-287-8920; **Sedalia**, Formación Ministerio de Evangelización Infantil, 8:30 am-noon, San Patricio, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

junio 17

Marshall, Planificación Familiar Natural - Familia de las Américas, 9 am-noon, Parroquia San Pedro, para información sobre instructores y clases contacte a Diácono Enrique o Cristhia Castro al 573-680-3650 o por correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org

junio 18

Jefferson City, Misa y Celebración con Nuestro Obispo, 1-4 pm, Catedral de San José, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 en su celular o en WhatsApp o por

correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org

junio 23-25

Kansas City, KS, Encuentro Regional, Savior Pastoral Center

junio 25

Sedalia, Kermes, 1-3 pm, capilla de san Patricio, para más información contacte a María Gomez al 660-620-3405 o Raul Lopez a 660-287-8920

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Every Friday

Jefferson City, Centering Prayer Group, Immaculate Conception Parish, 11 am-noon

Jun. 3

Columbia, Life in the Spirit seminar, 8 am-4 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish, for info or to register call 573-449-5424 x202 or email paul@comonewman.org

Jun. 10

Jefferson City, Diocesan Women's Ministry "Spring Into Summer" pilgrimage, 10 am-3:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, to register visit diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry

Jun. 17

Jefferson City, Pre-Cana Conference for engaged couples, 8:45 am-4:30 pm, Chancery Office, to register visit diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/pre-cana-registration

Liturgical

May 29

Clear Creek, 12th Annual Memorial Day Prayer Service, 9:30-

10:30 am, St. John's Cemetery; **Jefferson City**, Memorial Day Mass, 9-10 am, Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum Chapel

Jun. 13

Starkenburg, Second Tuesday Mass, 11 am-2 pm, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, for info visit risensavior.diojeffcity.org

May 21

Starkenburg, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows annual Spring Pilgrimage, 10 am-3 pm, for info visit risensavior.diojeffcity.org

Youth & Young Adults

First Wednesdays each month

Jefferson City, Rooted/Connected/Searching in Community young adult group, 5-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info visit icangels.com/youngadults

Third Sundays each month

Jefferson City, Young Adult Mass, 5 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

Jun. 5-9

Conway, Mo., Camp Lolek session 2 for junior high girls, to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek

Jun. 11-13

Conway, Mo., Camp Lolek session 3 for junior high boys, to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek

Jun. 11-17

Ellington, Mo., SSND Summer Service Week at Whole Kids Outreach, for women ages 18-45, for info or to register by May 15 visit ssnd.org/events/summer23

Jun. 15-17

Conway, Mo., Camp Lolek session 4 for junior high girls, to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek

Jun. 27

VIRTUAL, Young Adult Evening Prayer with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, for ages 18+, 7-8 pm, for info or to register visit ssnd.org/events

Jun. 19-24

Conway, Mo., Camp Maccabee for high school young men, to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-maccabee

Jun. 25-30

Conway, Mo., Camp Siena for high school young women, to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-siena

COME ONE, COME ALL
JOIN THE FUN AT
ST. GERTRUDE'S ANNUAL
KRAKOW PICNIC
Sunday, June 4
COMMUNITY OF FUN
STARTING AT 11 AM

BBQ Refreshments
Quilt Drawing & Sales

Brass Band
Reflections Band
Games for Kids & Adults

Petting Zoo
Monkey Bus 1-4
Facepainting

Kickball Tourney — Gather your team!

CHICKEN DINNER
DINE IN & CARRY OUT — LOCATED IN PARISH CENTER
Adult \$15 Kids (6-12) \$7 6 and under FREE
Fried chicken, green beans, noodles, mashed potatoes, slaw, dessert

5TH ANNUAL
Freeburg CRUISE IN
in memory of Derin Holterman

HOLY FAMILY PARISH AND SCHOOL BBQ
HOLY FAMILY CHURCH PARKING LOT FREEBURG, MO
FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2023 5PM-MIDNIGHT

PORK STEAKS, PORK BURGERS, HOTDOGS, AND SIDES
REFRESHMENTS, SOFT SERVE ICE CREAM, KETTLE CORN, &
PRIZE DRAWINGS

FEATURING THE CARSON TUCKER BAND 7:30-10:30 PM



To submit **Baptisms, Birthdays** for ages 90 and older, **Anniversaries** of 10+ years in increments of 5 ONLY (e.g., 15, 25, 45 years, etc.), **Elections, Honors and Appointments**, please go to:

diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence

For marriages and deaths, use the form at diojeffcity.org/parishioner-update/ so that we may update our mailing lists and records.

Anniversaries

Baring, St. Aloysius
Gary & Suzanna Downing, 45 years

Hannibal, Holy Family
Tim & Jean Kane, 55 years
Mack & Carolyn Ellis, 50 years
George & Peggy Walley, 45 years
Warren & Mary Wells, 40 years
Chris & Sara Hooley, 20 years

Jefferson City, St. Peter
Greg & Lisa Rackers, 45 years

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus
Wilfred & Rita Grothoff, 65 years
Gary & Carol Bilyeu, 50 years
Dave & Dianne Reed, 50 years

Elections

Jefferson City, Knights of Columbus
Dan C. Coppin Fourth Degree Assembly 573 — **Joe Schaefer**, faithful navigator; **Father Richard Frank**, faithful friar; **Mike Flanagan**, faithful captain; **Doug Smentkowski**, faithful pilot; **Rich Anderson**, faithful comptroller; **Scott Sellner**, faithful scribe; **Gary Meyer**, faithful purser; **Alan Mengwasser** and **Sam Orr**, sentinels; **Mark Rehagen**, faithful admiral; **Mark Rehagen**, **Vic Rackers** and **Brent Cain**, trustees; **John Richardson** and **Joe Birk**, Honor Guard coordinators

Deaths

Hermann, St. George — **Nancy Tobin**

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Lisa Welch**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Sandra Bennett**

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Tim Henke**

Baptisms

Hermann, St. George — **Evangeline Ray Allison**, daughter of Danny & Nikki Allison; **Luke James Schneider**, son of Kyle & Amber Schneider

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Audrey Schmitz**, daughter of Matthew & Kacie Schmitz

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Alden Chase Sharp**, son of Joseph & Jennifer Sharp

Marshall, St. Peter — **Jhonatan and Michelle Adames**, children of Jhonatan Adames & Glenda Morales; **Priscylla Rivas**, daughter of Juan & Lorena Rivas

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Bentlee Michael Wright**, son of Josh & Shannon Wright

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Keaton Bryce Griep**, son of Kyler Griep & Claire Luebbering

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Brinnley and Walker Sullivan**, children of Justin & Sabrina Sullivan

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Baylee Ann Bruemmer**, daughter of Zachery Bruemmer & Brittany Meyer; **Brock Patrick Haas**, son of Brent & Rachael Haas

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels — **Evelyn Grace Henke**, daughter of Jeff & Stephanie Henke

Birthdays

Eldon, Sacred Heart — **Josephine Bittle**, her 90th on May 29

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Mary Farnen**, her 91st on May 18

MILLS

From page 9

we are to offer one another reproach and rebuke.”

An engaged Hail Mary would do, or an Our Father and Hail Mary if you're really eager to jump on your target. You may find — I often do — that you don't need to criticize. And if you do, you can say what you have to say with sympathy and fellow-feeling in a way that might be heard.

Second, if you still think you need to speak critically to X, and that you need to keep doing it over time, try to say at least one supportive thing for every two or three critical things. Set a ratio and keep track.

The effort to find something supportive to say will help you become more sympathetic and may help you

speaking so X hears you. It may also help you see why X says the things he does and what good thing he's trying to defend or promote.

If you see that, you will (assuming you're right) also see his mistake more clearly, and your criticism will cut more deeply.

And (because you're probably not completely right and you may, in fact, be wrong) you may clarify, deepen and correct your own understanding.

You want to learn to speak to him more as a friend than as a judge, because most people take criticism from friends better than they do judgments from judges.

David Mills writes from Pennsylvania.

SR. CONSTANCE

From page 9

cause renal failure in persons with kidney problems and they exacerbate dehydration from medications like diuretics, which are commonly prescribed to older persons.

Twenty years ago hundreds of seniors died in Paris and other French cities during a summer heat wave, seemingly forgotten by family members who were away on vacation.

French society was criticized for this obvious neglect of the elderly but similar incidents have recently occurred in our country with seniors dying in their own homes due to a lack of air conditioning during periods of extreme heat.

Many U.S. cities have now set up public cooling centers and regulations for air conditioning in public housing.

But the first line of defense for vulnerable seniors should be the attentiveness of family members and kind neighbors.

For many years Pope Francis has been challenging us to live in a greater spirit of solidarity by reaching out to those both near and far, especially those on the peripheries of society.

He often directs our attention to the needs of seniors, condemning neglect of the elderly and calling on us to strengthen bonds between the generations.

The first time he spoke publicly about the elderly was at World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in 2013.

This summer Pope Francis will join young people for World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal.

He has intentionally linked this celebration, whose theme is focused on the Virgin Mary in the Visitation, to the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which falls just a few weeks prior to the events in Lisbon.

As we prepare for these two celebrations this summer, let's stay close to the seniors in our lives, strengthening our emotional and practical bonds with them and remaining attentive to their wellbeing.

We will be blessed as we reach out to them, just as Mary was blessed in her encounter with her elderly cousin Elizabeth.

Sister Constance Veit is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.



Diocese of Jefferson City

ENCOUNTER

From page 10

hope.

Offering mental health services in Spanish has proven to reduce barriers and increase access for Spanish speaking families across the Diocese of Jefferson City.

If you know of a local need for these services in your parish boundaries, you can learn more about Clinica la para familia (CliFam) online at: ccnmo.diojef

jcity.org/clinica-para-la-familia.

This reflection was written by Isi Palacios, Hispanic Services Coordinator for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri.

Isi is based in Sedalia, in a satellite location for Catholic Charities housed by St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

This partnership highlights the beauty of Catholic parishes working closely with

the charitable arm of the Church.

Isi's services are readily available to those who need it in Pettis County and the surrounding areas.

Catholic Charities, in collaboration with the Hispanic Ministry Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City and parishes throughout the diocese, is pleased to offer online counseling services in Spanish from Clinica para la Familia (CliFam).

Crossword puzzle answers

S	N	I	V	L	E	R	S	E	V	A	C	S
E	N	O	L	V	E	M	O	H	I	N		
A	R	E	L	S	I	S				N	O	
V	O		L	A	I	N	U	M	M	O		
S	T	E	G	A	L	J	P	C				
			V	T	V	M	S	N	I	R		
O	R	E	N	E	O	N	O	J	O	E		
G	O	B	N	E	R	O	S	O	R	I	P	
E	J	E	V	A	L	E	E	J	E			
			V	A	T	V	E	R	S	U		
D	E	D	U	W	O	C	T	C	A	V	E	
V	A	N	D	W	C	R	S	O	S	E	R	
J	C	E	R	V	A	R	V	I	L	I		

House of God



Preschool students at St. Mary School in Glasgow present their designs for what their cathedral would like if they built one, in observance of the Rededication Mass of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City on May 5.

— Photo from the St. Mary School Facebook page

Artistic license



Students of St. Mary School in Frankenstein showcase their work from the diocesan regional Sketch Day on April 20 at Immaculate Conception Church in Loose Creek.

— Photo from the St. Mary School, Frankenstein, MO Facebook page

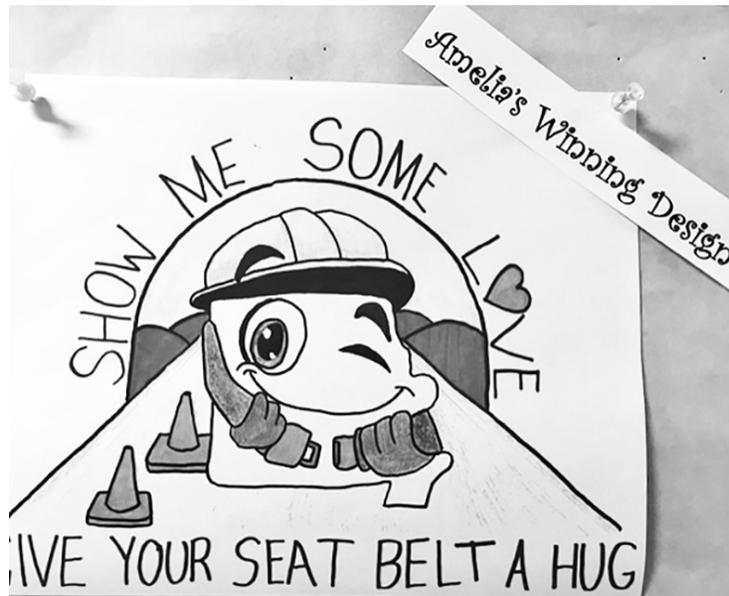
Fowl play



Students of St. Peter School in Marshall hold ducklings that they got to watch hatch in mid-April in science class.

— Photo from the St. Peter School Facebook page

Billboard-worthy



Amelia, who just completed fifth grade at Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City, won the Missouri Department of Transportation's billboard contest for safer roads. She was recognized April 18 at the new I-70 bridge construction site over the Missouri River Bridge in Rocheport. Her artwork will be featured on local billboards.

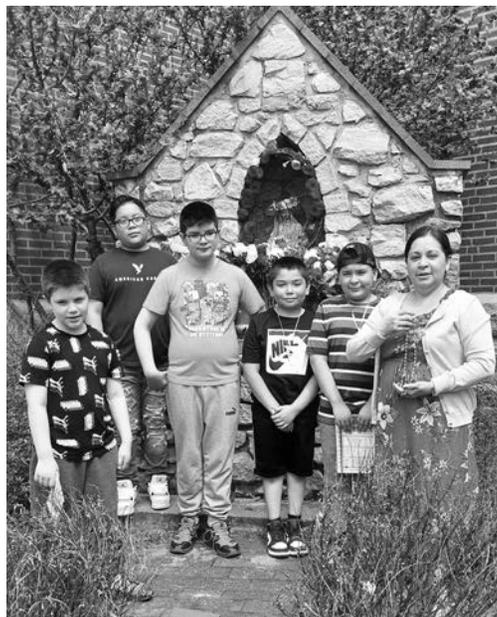
— Photo from the Immaculate Conception Catholic School Facebook page



Friends for life

The Student Council of St. Stanislaus School in Wardsville donates \$706 — half of this year's dress-down-day proceeds — to pro-life causes on May 15.

— Photo from the St. Stanislaus School page



'We crown thee with blossoms today'

PSR students of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County honor the Blessed Mother on May 14, Mother's Day, in Sedalia.

— Photo from the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Parish Facebook page

Bible Accent

The Old Testament also contains a story about the many languages people spoke.

In Genesis 10, we read about Noah's sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, and the families they had after the flood. The descendants of Shem, Ham and Japheth became the nations that branched out all over the earth.

Genesis 11 tells us that at one time, all the people on earth after the flood spoke the same language.

As people migrated eastward, they came upon a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there.

"Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky, and so make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered all over the earth," they said.

God came down to see the city and the tower the people had built.

"If now, while they are one people, all speaking the same language, they have started to do this, nothing will later stop them from doing whatever they presume to do," God said. "Let us then go down there and confuse their language, so that one will not understand what another says."

God scattered the people from the land of Shinar over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.

That is why the city was called Babel, because there God confused the speech of all the world.

The apostles receive the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

One day, the apostles were all together in one place in Jerusalem.

Suddenly, a loud noise like a strong, driving wind came from the sky. The sound filled the entire house where they were staying.

Then, the apostles saw tongues of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.

All of the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, which gave them the power to speak in different languages.

At that time, Jews from many different countries were in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Weeks, which also was called Pentecost. They heard the commotion at the apostles' house and decided to investigate.

A large crowd gathered at the house. The Jews from other countries were shocked that the apostles could speak to them in their native languages.

"Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?" the people in the crowd asked in amazement.

"We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near



Illustration by Linda Rivers

Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God," they said.

"What does this mean?" some in the crowd wanted to know.

"They have had too much new wine," others in the crowd scoffed.

Just then, Peter stood up with the other 11 apostles and spoke in a loud voice.

"These people are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only 9 o'clock in the morning," he said.

Then, in a long speech, he explained everything about Je-

sus' life, death and resurrection.

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit," Peter said. "For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call."

About 3,000 people were baptized that day.

Read more about it... Acts 2

1. What made a sound like a driving wind?

2. What were the apostles able to do after being filled by the Holy Spirit?

St. Ephraem

St. Ephraem was born in Nisibis, Mesopotamia, in 306. He was baptized at 18 and was said to have accompanied his bishop to the Council of Nicaea in 325. He headed the cathedral school in Nisibis until Persians took over the city in 363. He then moved to Edessa and frequently preached in that city. He also wrote many poems, hymns and Bible commentaries. Known to Syrian Christians as "the harp of the Holy Ghost," he died in 373, and we remember him on June 9.



Puzzle

Below is a list of the fruits of the Holy Spirit that the apostle Paul described in Galatians 5:22-23. Arrange the list in the correct order, using the Scripture passage for hints.

generosity
self-control
gentleness

peace
kindness
patience

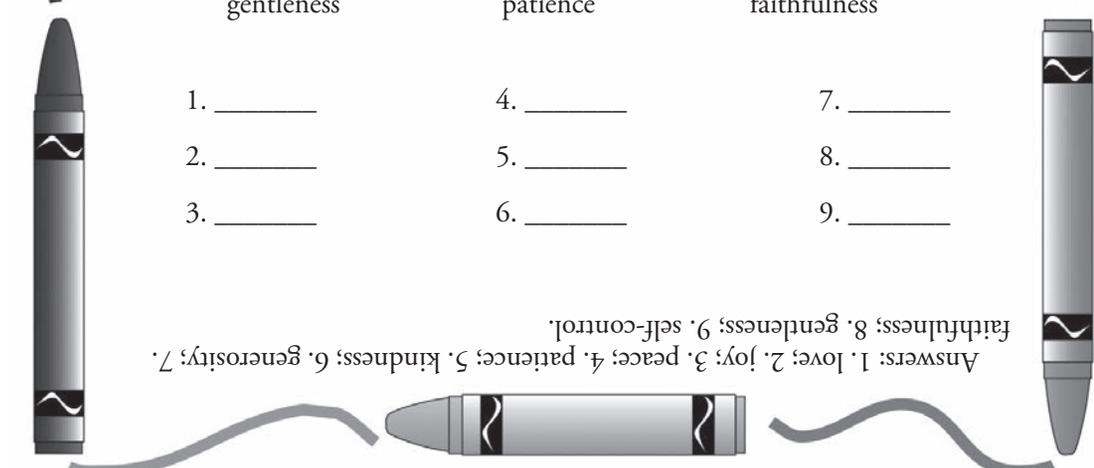
love
joy
faithfulness

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

Answers: 1. love; 2. joy; 3. peace; 4. patience; 5. kindness; 6. generosity; 7. faithfulness; 8. gentleness; 9. self-control.



What prophet did Peter quote at the beginning of his speech?
(Hint: Acts 2:16)

Answer: Joel

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Book makes case for counter-cultural detachment and 'Srodowisko'

Gift and Grit: How Heroic Virtue Can Change Your Life and Relationships, by Andrew and Sarah Swafford, Ascension Publishing 2023, 234 pages

Reviewed by Mike Mastromatteo
OSV News

Andrew Swafford is an associate professor of theology at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

His wife, Sarah, is author of the book *Emotional Virtue: A Guide to Drama-Free Relationships*.

For over 15 years, they have worked as a team in youth ministries, and now they have collaborated on a book together.

Gift and Grit: How Heroic Virtue Can Change Your Life and Relationships effectively combines male and female perspectives on issues important to all Catholics, but especially young Catholic adults.

Much of the content in *Gift and Grit* is taken from a St. Benedictine College student retreat in Florence, Italy, and led by the authors. While there, participants experienced *Srodowisko*, a Polish term for "environment" or "milieu" that

also refers to friendship anchored by a common pursuit of transcendent good.

"It means friendship enhanced and illuminated by the light of faith, walking together with mission and purpose, and supporting one another along the way," the authors explain.

Srodowisko was a practice eagerly taken up by the young Karol Wojtyla (later Pope St. John Paul II) who, with a group of like-minded young people during the Nazi occupation of Poland, would retreat to the hinterland to discuss faith and spirituality.

The "gift" and "grit" referred to in the book's title correspond to the authors' teaching that our lives and very existence are gifts from the Creator, and that grit (or even "supernatural grit") encompasses qualities of courage, patience and determination that — when well honed — can keep us focused on our faith objectives.

The book addresses the epidemic sense of meaninglessness and lack of purpose often voiced by young people, especially in an era of depersonalization and alienation brought on by pervasive social media.

Gift and Grit is refreshingly counter-cultural in its strong suggestion that Catholic Christians seeking meaning in their lives will find it by being open to the sanctifying power of redemptive suffering — the gift all of us are given at one point or another.

"The secret to living a fully meaningful life is to recognize 'gift' at the heart of it all," the authors say.

The Swaffords suggest that in forging our sense that Christ suffers in us and with us helps us glimpse meaning in our human suffering.

"Only then can we begin to realize that God has not forgotten us," they say.

There is an adamant message that being "nice" and socially adept while trying to keep the commandments is not quite enough to lead a Christ-centered life.

The authors base their perspective on Matthew 19:16-22, wherein a wealthy young man asks Christ what one must do to gain the Kingdom of Heaven, and learns from Jesus that all of his many virtues are insufficient as long as he maintains his material attachments.

From this lesson the Swaffords recommend that young Catholic adults seek *Srodowisko* and go "all in" for living a Christ-centered life, which means "you lose the rat race of chasing happiness in things that do not really matter. You get to surrender trying to live

Movie Ratings

 Adults and Adolescents	Big George Foreman (PG-13)
 Adults	Air (R) Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret (PG-13) Fast X (PG-13) Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 (PG-13) Guy Ritchie's The Covenant (R)
 Limited Adult Audience	Beau Is Afraid (R)
 Morally Offensive	Book Club: The Next Chapter (PG-13) Renfield (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

up to people's expectations who often don't really have your best interests at heart."

In addition to warnings that the call to conversion won't be easy, and that it involves certain risks, the book offers stark but compelling advice to younger readers about the importance of chastity and "authentic love" in their search for a husband or wife.

Though targeted at younger readers, *Gift and Grit* makes

a compelling argument to believers of all ages to reconsider how the cultural contradictions of the Catholic faith can reanimate lives, recognize the mysterious benefits of human suffering, and above all add meaning and purpose to our time on earth.

Mike Mastromatteo is a writer, editor and book reviewer from Toronto.

Michigan third grader launches 'Kid's Bible in a Year' podcast

OSV News

Newport, Michigan

When he grows up, third-grader Teddy Howell, a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Newport, and wants to be a podcaster and a priest.

At 9 years old, he already has achieved one of those goals with the recent launch of his podcast: "Kid's Bible In A Year with Teddy."

In each 10-minute episode, released Sundays and Wednesdays, Teddy leads his listeners in prayer and through a series of Bible verses.

Teddy has been given permission by Ascension Press to

use the *Catholic Bible Chronicles* as his reference.

Subscribers can listen to Teddy's podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and other podcast hosting platforms.

If the youngster's podcast sounds familiar, that's because it's inspired by Father Mike Schmitz's chart-topping podcast, "The Bible in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz)."

The priest of the Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota, created the Bible podcast with Scripture scholar Jeff Cavins with the backing of Ascension.

See TEDDY, page 23

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and reflections

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K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

DEACONS

From page 11

United States has seen many changes. Perhaps the greatest change has been the need to find deacons who have the ability to communicate with the immigrant communities that are integrating throughout America.

This also requires attention to cultural nuances of these communities.

Deacons are also asked to help with the administration efforts of the Church at both the diocesan and parish levels.

And while these are all very positive opportunities for deacons, the number of deacons is generally in decline as age attrition takes its toll.

There is a great need within the Church to continue to foster and grow this ministry. Pope

St. John Paul II in his address to deacons of the United States in 1987 reiterated this unique role within the Church:

“This is at the very heart of the diaconate to which you have been called: to be a servant of the mysteries of Christ and, at one and the same time, to be a servant of your brothers and sisters. That these two dimensions are inseparably joined together in one reality shows the important nature of the ministry which is yours by ordination.”

Deacon Schwartz, who assists the pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, is director of deacon formation for the Jefferson City diocese.

FOUNDATION

From page 7

parishes.

He preached his homily on that Sunday's readings, focusing on the work of the Holy Spirit in each person's life. He prayed a graduation prayer composed by Father Joseph

Bordonaro, pastor St. Joseph Parish in Warrington, Pennsylvania.

“Today,” he prayed, “we release our children straight into your tender care. Because we know that's the best place they

could ever be. We thank you in advance for all you have in store, for this day, for this year, for their lives.

“... We ask for you to open doors that need to be opened and close every one that should be shut tight. Allow every gift and treasure you have placed inside their lives to grow, develop and flourish, to bring you glory.”

At the end of Mass, Fr. Aubuchon asked God to bestow a blessing upon the soon-to-be graduates.

TEDDY

From page 22

Teddy's podcast is geared toward other children; Fr. Schmitz's podcast addresses some adult themes not suitable for young children.

“I like to read about the Bible, and I pray,” Teddy said. “If you want to follow me, you can subscribe if you want.”

ORDAIN

From page 15

He and several fellow seminarians take time out each week to share a classic movie.

“I enjoy the ability of good films to draw us in, tell us a story, and give us a new insight or outlook on life, or just make us laugh hysterically in only a couple hours,” he said.

“God knows”

Mr. Hoffmann's favorite Bible passage is Jeremiah 1:5-8, which includes the phrases, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you,” and “to whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. ... for I am with you to deliver you.”

“Any time I have a doubt about what I can and cannot do, I need to be reminded that



God knows and has given me all I need to follow the plan he has for me,” said Mr. Hoffmann.

His favorite prayer is St. Charles de Foucauld's Prayer of Abandonment, which includes:

“Whatever you may do, I thank you. I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me and in all your creatures.”

With thanksgiving

Mr. Hoffmann is particularly grateful to his parents; to Fr. Seda at Iowa State, who invited him to consider the Priesthood; Bishop Gaydos and Bishop McKnight; the priests and staff of the diocesan Vocation Office; and the members of several Knights of Columbus councils in Missouri and Iowa and at each seminary he's attended.

He's thankful for great seminary formation and to live in a place where he can practice his faith openly.

“I'm also thankful that I will be able to serve in the diocese this summer and for all the prayers and support I have received over the years,” he said.

He asked for continued prayers for him to be able to give his “yes” to God every day and to trust that God will give

Daily Readings

Sunday, May 28

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-11
Ps. 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34
1 Cor. 12:3b-7, 12-13
Jn. 20:19-23

Monday, May 29

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
Gn. 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14
Ps. 87:1-2, 3, 5, 6-7
Jn. 19:25-34

Tuesday, May 30

Sir. 35:1-12
Ps. 50:5-6, 7-8, 14, 23
Mk. 10:28-31

Wednesday, May 31

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Zep. 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16
(Ps.) Is. 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6
Lk. 1:39-56

Thursday, Jun 1

St. Justin, Martyr
Sir. 42:15-25
Ps. 33:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Mk. 10:46-52

Friday, Jun 2

Ss. Marcellinus and Peter, martyrs
Sir. 44:1, 9-13
Ps. 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b
Mk. 11:11-26

Saturday, Jun 3

St. Charles Lwanga and companions, martyrs
Sir. 51:12cd-20
Ps. 19:8, 9, 10, 11
Mk. 11:27-33

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for May:

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

Sponsored by

him the strength and awareness to be what he wants, when and where he wants.

Mr. Hoffmann encourages anyone who thinks he might have a priestly calling to contact the diocesan vocation director.

“Seminary is a place where you get to know yourself, God, and his will more and more with the help of the priests and staff of the seminary,” he said.

“Either you find you are called to be a priest and contin-

ue to ordination, or you find out that you are not — and are a young man who knows God and himself well, and will be a great Catholic husband and father.”

Seeking conscious contact with God through Contemplative Prayer

DATE: June 24
TIME: 8:30 am - 1 pm

The following invitation to a workshop on Centering Prayer as an 11th step for people in recovery from addictions is from the moderator of Spiritual Formation for the Diocese of Jefferson City:

By Father Matthew Flatley
Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of women and men who share their experience,

strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.
AA was started in 1935 by Bill W. and Dr. Bob and has helped millions of folks throughout the world to achieve

sobriety through a spiritual program of recovery, as outlined in the 12 steps of AA.

History may very well judge this fellowship to be one of the most significant spiritual movements of the 20th century.

The 11th Step of any 12-Step program suggests prayer and meditation as a way of improving one's conscious contact with God, and discerning God's will in one's own life.

Those in recovery learn they shouldn't be shy on this matter of prayer.

AA teaches there is a direct connection among self-examination, meditation and prayer.

Taken separately, these practices can bring much relief and benefit. But when they are logically related and interwoven, the result is an unshakable foundation for life.

However, later in his life, Bill W. revealed that after years of physical sobriety, he continued to experience ongoing suffering because of a lack of emotional sobriety.

Many people today relate to this, and some even speak of a longing for spiritual sobriety, as well.

See CONTEMPLATION, page 8

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