

L.A. Aux. Bishop Bahhuth has ties to Rolla, Mo.

Auxiliary Bishop Albert Bahhuth believes God was silently at work while he was in Missouri.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

February 2, 2024 • Vol. 67 No. 16

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Bishop honors our Catholic educators



Says Catholic schools are “treasures of the diocese”

By Jay Nies

The hard-working teachers and staff members of the Diocese of Jefferson City’s Catholic Schools got a welcome surprise for Catholic Schools Week.

Each of them received a bonus — more specifically, a gesture of gratitude.

“In appreciation of your extraordinary efforts, I am happy to announce that our educators and staff will once again receive bonuses for Catholic Schools Week,” Bishop W. Shawn McKnight stated in a video sent to the diocese’s 37 Catholic grade schools, three Catholic high schools and one Catholic early childhood development center.

He emphasized that this special gift is possible only due to the generous stewardship of our Catholic faithful.

“I hope you recognize this as a sign of how much our entire community values your role in fostering the faith and forming the hearts and minds of our youth as disciples of Christ,” he said.

Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States.

This year, it is being observed Jan. 28 through Feb. 3.

The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2024 is “Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community.”

Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members.

Through these events, schools focus

Members of the contemporary choir of St. Peter School in Jefferson City lead the singing at the Saturday evening Vigil Mass in St. Andrew Church in Holts Summit Jan. 27, as Catholic Schools Week got under way. This year’s theme is “Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community.”

— Photo by Jay Nies

Celebrating the World Day of Consecrated Life

See related story, Page 12

By Jay Nies

Six years ago, the late Redemptorist Father Richard Bover invited Sister Karen Thein of the School Sisters of Notre Dame to “be a presence” in three small communities in Crawford County.

“That is the ministry ... being a presence,” said Sr. Karen, a pastoral minister for Holy Cross Parish in Cuba, St. Francis Caracciolo Parish in Bourbon and St. Michael Parish in Steelville.

“It is being present in times of joy, and walking with people in times of pain and struggles,” she said.

Sr. Karen is one of 19 religious sisters now serving the Jefferson City diocese or residing within it.

These include: Discalced Carmelite Nuns (OCD), School

Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word (CCVI), and Sisters of the Third Order of St. Dominic (OP).

They are part of an impressive heritage of hundreds of sisters, brothers and religious priests representing dozens of orders and congregations, who have served in these 38 counties, beginning in the mid-1800s.

The Church honors and prays for these women and men each year on the World Day of Consecrate Life, which will be observed in parishes in this diocese on Sunday, Feb. 4.

“I have found that wherever I have served, I have been served,” said Sr. Karen. “There is a mutual giving and receiving. It is falling in love with the people who come into my life. No matter where I have been, I knew that was where

See CONSECRATED, page 21

See TREASURES, page 27

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02/02/24

Catholics Returning Home, Tuesdays in Camdenton

St. Anthony Parish in Camdenton will host a six-week program called Catholics Returning Home, to assist people as they consider a return to the Catholic Church.

The group will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays for six weeks beginning Feb. 13, in the Education Center at St. Anthony Parish, 1874 North

Business Route 5.

The gatherings are designed to appeal to Catholics who have strayed from the practice of their faith, in the hope that they will return to the Sacraments.

Meetings are friendly and informal, with no pressure.

For further information, call Tracy at 573-480-6886.

Jefferson City area Saturday Mass times

These new Saturday Vigil Mass times take effect the weekend of Feb. 3-4 in the Jefferson City area:

- 4 p.m. — Cathedral of St. Joseph
- 4:30 p.m. — St. Peter Church
- 5 p.m. — Immaculate Conception Church
- 5:30 p.m. — St. Martin Church, St. Martins

Diaconate information meeting

DATE: February 24
TIME: 9:30 am - noon

The Jefferson City diocese will hold an informational session on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at St. Pius X Parish, 209 S. Williams St. in Moberly.

Men who feel called to the Diaconate and their wives, or those who simply want to learn more are encouraged to come and find

out about the life and ministry of permanent deacons, the application process and details concerning the formation requirements for becoming a deacon.

For details, visit: diojeffcity.org/event/information-session-on-the-permanent-diaconate-2/

Contact Deacon John Schwartz at jschwartz@diojeffcity.org or by phone at 573-635-9127 for information.

Amid cold and snow, March for Life pledges solidarity with moms, children

By Peter Jesserer Smith
OSV News

Against gray skies and falling snow, thousands of people flocked Jan. 19 to the nation's capital for the national March for Life, gathering them under the theme "With every woman, for every child," showing their resolve amid the piercing cold to make abortion eventually "unthinkable" in the U.S.

"If not us, then who? If not now, then when?" Miguel Ángel Leyva, 21, a Catholic and third-year college student from Detroit, told OSV News.

The March for Life began in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which once legalized abortion nationwide, and gathers pro-life advocates from across the U.S. This year's march — its second year since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe* in 2022 — took place as winter weather put much of the U.S. in a deep freeze, snarling transportation and canceling flights.

While the crowds appeared smaller than in years past, this year's march showed a movement eager to up its game to

help American society embrace a culture that affirms and supports the dignity of all human life, and not just for the unborn.

Levy said the presence of so many people amid the punishing weather conditions "shows there are many who are willing to serve God and stand up for what is right."

Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life Education and Defense Fund, and others emphasized during the March for Life Rally that not only was the national march there to stay, but pro-life marches would be multiplying throughout all 50 states in the coming years.

"We will keep marching every year at the national level, as well as in our states, until

our nation's laws reflect the basic truth that all human life is created equal and is worthy of protection," Mancini told the thousands gathered on the National Mall.

Speaker after speaker at the march rally emphasized its theme of making abortion "unthinkable," in particular by emphasizing the culture-changing and life-saving work of pregnancy resource centers and related efforts.

Aisha Taylor, author of "Navigating the Impossible: A Survival Guide for Single Moms," took to the rally stage and reminded the crowd, "It was people like you who helped people like me to choose life for my unborn twins."

Pray for deceased priests

Feb. 7 — **Msgr. Joseph H. Winkelmann**, Sacred Heart, Rich Fountain (1960)

Feb. 10 — **Msgr. Paul U. Kertz**, Immaculate Conception, Jefferson City (1960); **Fr. William F. Harris**, St. Boniface, Brunswick (1974)

Feb. 14 — **Fr. Bernard H. Luebbering**, St. Mary, Shelbina (1972)

Director of Youth Ministry

St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia, Mo. is seeking to fill the position of Director of Youth Ministry. To see a full job description, go to <https://www.comonewman.org/job-openings/>

Principal Opening — Loose Creek

Immaculate Conception School in Loose Creek, Mo. is currently accepting applications for a principal for the 2024-2025 school year. We are a Catholic elementary school, serving kindergarten through 8th grade, with a current enrollment of approximately 104 children. This position will involve day-to-day interactions with parents and students in an ongoing effort to provide our community with a strong Catholic faith and a healthy and challenging academic environment. The principal reports directly to the pastor, and should lead an exemplary Catholic life in addition to continuing educational and professional growth. A job description and application can be found on the diocesan web page at diojeffcity.org/school-office. Questions can be directed to Dr. Erin Vader, Superintendent of Catholic Schools at evader@diojeffcity.org.

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and local Church

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For locations, to RSVP,
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diojeffcity.org/27FebruaryRSVP



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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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Pontifical College Josephinum to present Good Shepherd Award to Bishop McKnight

Bishop says seminary helped form him in the ideals of Vatican II

By Jay Nies

Much of what a student learns in school comes from observing his instructors inside and outside the classroom.

That's how it was for Bishop W. Shawn McKnight at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, where he prepared for Priesthood in the years leading up to his Ordination.

"Just to see how the priests on the faculty collaborated and worked as a team with the religious and the laity," he recalled, "those are things that have an impact on you that you may not be aware of at the time, and only by looking back do you see their importance."

"Much as it is with our own parents — we don't always appreciate the discipline, the fostering of the home environment, and how significant those things are until later in life," he stated.

The Josephinum's administration recently announced that it will honor Bishop McKnight with its 2024 Good Shepherd Award.

This is one of the two highest honors bestowed each year by the Josephinum, where Bishop McKnight also served on the faculty and administra-

tion and currently helps lead as a member of the board of trustees.

The award will be presented at the seminary's Good Shepherd Dinner on April 15 in Columbus.

Father Steven P. Beseau, rector and president of the Josephinum, has known Bishop McKnight for over 25 years and believes the honors are well deserved.

"Bishop McKnight has demonstrated, through his own formation and his own passion for the ministry that he's exhibited over the decades, a real love for the people, a real love for God, and the conviction that holiness is the ultimate goal for everyone — to be a saint," said Fr. Beseau.

"Bishop McKnight exhibits that in his daily work, in his demeanor, in the decisions he makes, in his attitude and in the many ways he supports us now as a member of our board and as a sending bishop," the rector stated.

The Jefferson City diocese now has three seminarians in formation at the Josephinum, preceded through the years by an impressive number of priests who were ordained for this diocese.

Bishop McKnight holds a Master of Arts degree and a Master of Divinity degree from the Josephinum and a Doctorate of Sacred Theology from



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight ceremonially presents a chalice to seminarian Christopher Hoffmann, a seminarian for the Jefferson City diocese, while instituting him as an acolyte in the chapel of the Pontifical College Josephinum on Dec. 8, 2021.

— Photo from The Pontifical College Josephinum Facebook page

the Pontifical Athenaeum of St. Anselm in Rome, writing on the permanent diaconate.

He was ordained for the Diocese of Wichita, Kansas, in 1994 after graduating from the Josephinum.

Following completion of his doctorate in Rome, he returned to the Josephinum to serve in various teaching, formation and administrative capacities.

As director of liturgy there in the early 2000s, he worked with Catholic architectural consultant Bill Heyer on plans to restore the seminary's historical main chapel.

"The work didn't actually take place until years later," Mr. Heyer noted in 2022, "but a lot of his vision was incorporated into that project, and it turned out very well."

Bishop McKnight then served as executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations from 2010-15.

Upon completion of his term, he ministered as a pastor in Wichita until his episcopal ordination and installation as Bishop of Jefferson City in February 2018.

The people who selected him for the Good Shepherd Award noted that he has main-

tained throughout his Priesthood and into his Episcopacy solid ties to the Josephinum, most recently by accepting an invitation to join its Board of Trustees.

"He brings insight and perspective to our national identity and to the continued efforts of the Josephinum Diaconate Institute," said Fr. Beseau. "We are grateful for his strong commitment to our mission, which he exhibits most visibly by entrusting seminarians of Jefferson City to us for their formation."

Vatican II, through and through

Bishop McKnight noted that he had grown up as a member of St. Francis of Assisi

Parish in Wichita. The long-time pastor there was Monsignor Thomas McGread, whose insights into drawing laypeople into full participation in the life of the Church helped him come to be known as the father of Catholic stewardship.

What Bishop McKnight then found as a seminarian at the Josephinum was a solid understanding of the diocesan priest as primarily a servant of those in the common Priesthood — namely, all who are Baptized into the Church.

"And so, we had laypeople not only involved in our formation at the pastoral sites where we served and on the faculty but even in the governance of the seminary," Bishop McKnight noted.

Lay men and women served then and now on the Josephinum's board of trustees.

"That was very much ingrained in us, along with the understanding of the full, active participation of the whole assembly — not just the priest — in the liturgical act" — namely, the Mass, said Bishop McKnight.

Priests, religious sisters and brothers and laypeople collaborated well in forming the seminarians, he stated.

His coursework and discernment found him immersed in the documents and the teachings of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), during which the world's bishops and the magisterium sought to restore the early Church's understanding of full participation

See JOSEPHINUM, page 17



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

FEBRUARY

- Feb 2-4** Pontifical College Josephinum Nunciature Visit, Washington, DC
- Feb 4** World Day for Consecrated Life Prayer Service, St. Alphonsus Liguori Chapel, 2:30 pm, Chancery
- Feb 11** Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Parish, Cuba, St. Francis Caracciolo Parish, Bourbon, and St. Michael Parish, Steelville, 10 am, Holy Cross Church, Cuba
- Feb 13** Council of Deans Meeting, 11 am; Presbyteral Council Meeting, 1 pm, Chancery
- Feb 14** Priests' Personnel Board Meeting, 1:30 pm, Chancery
- Feb 18** Rite of Election, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 3 pm, Jefferson City
- Feb 20** Pontifical College Josephinum Board of Trustee Meeting, Columbus, OH

Bishop McKnight's February prayer intention for our Local Church

For the depressed and those suffering from mental illness; may the active compassion of the Church bring healing and consolation to those who are tempted to despair.



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

Por los deprimidos y los que padecen enfermedades mentales. Que la compasión activa de la Iglesia traiga sanación y consuelo a quienes están tentados a la desesperación.

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

Spiritual oasis: Year of Prayer a needed rest stop on journey to jubilee

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

With little fanfare, Pope Francis officially opened the Year of Prayer after Mass for the Church's celebration of Sunday of the Word of God.

"Today we begin the Year of Prayer; that is, a year dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in personal life, in the life of the church and in the world," he said, after praying the Angelus with visitors in St. Peter's Square Jan. 21.

The pope called for the special year last February to help

prepare Catholics worldwide for the Holy Year, which begins with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica Dec. 24.

Preparing for the jubilee is not just about the huge construction projects underway throughout Rome to help welcome and facilitate the flow of an estimated 35 million pilgrims expected for the Holy Year 2025.

The year 2024 also should be about rebuilding and renewing spiritual pathways and practices so that the spiritual significance of the jubilee can "emerge more clearly, some-



An informational booklet and a calendar about the Holy Year are seen in this photo during a news conference detailing the Year of Prayer preceding the jubilee at the Vatican Jan. 23.

— CNS photo/Lola Gomez

Speaking at a news conference Jan. 23 about the Year of Prayer, the archbishop said 2024 is about preparing the groundwork so the jubilee "spiritually enriches the life of the church and of the entire people of God, becoming a concrete sign of hope."

The jubilee must be "prepared for and lived in individual communities with that spirit of expectation which is typical of Christian hope," he said, unveiling several resources the dicastery is providing to help bishops, dioceses, parishes, families and religious communities rediscover the value of and need for daily prayer.

Unlike other years designated by the pope, "this is not a year marked with particular initiatives," Archbishop Fisichella said. Rather it is a time to get back to basics: to discover how to pray and how to educate people in prayer "so that prayer can be effective and fruitful."

"It will not be a year which hinders initiatives of the local churches; rather it should be seen as a period in which every planned initiative is supported

thing which goes far beyond the necessary and urgent forms of structural organization," said Archbishop Rino Fisichella,

pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization's section for new evangelization, which is coordinating the Holy Year.

Please consider making a gift to your local parish or school in your will as a way of expressing your gratitude to God for all the blessings you have received from Him.



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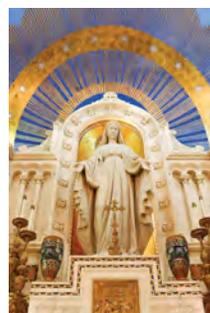
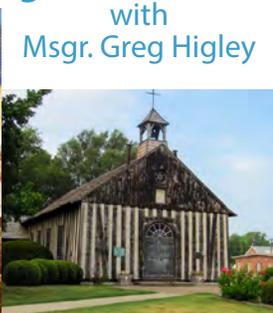
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Committed volunteers kept Sedalia warming shelter going for 254 hours straight

Teams of “truly loving, caring, committed individuals who have big hearts”

By Jay Nies

January’s bone-chilling cold snap stretched the resources of Sedalia’s all-volunteer warming shelter to the limit.

But they held.

“It’s amazing what a community can do when they have to,” said JoAnn Martin, a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County.

“But boy, is everybody tired!” she said.

The shelter was open for 254 continuous hours — a record for the four-year-old organization, which provides a warm place to sleep for people who have nowhere else to go when temperatures get dangerously low.

Groups of volunteers from churches and other local organizations staff the shelter, housed in the fellowship hall in the lower level of St. Vincent de Paul Parish’s St. Patrick Chapel.

“A minimum of two volunteers is required for each of those hours,” Mrs. Martin noted.

Additional volunteers pick up meals, transport people to where they can take showers, haul laundry, and cook meals for guests on weekends when the soup kitchen that serves meals during the week is closed.

“We figure there was a minimum of 600 community volunteer hours to keep that shelter open during that time,” said Mrs. Martin.

Twelve teams — including two from St. Vincent de Paul Parish — took turns keeping the shelter running.

“It was truly an ecumenical community event,” Mrs. Martin observed.

Teams represented local Methodist, Baptist, Christian and nondenominational congregations, along with a “Friends Team,” composed of members of other, smaller congregations.

There was also a United Way team and a Katy Trail Community Health team.

“Together, they are an amazing group of truly loving, car-

ing, committed individuals who have big hearts and care for their fellow people,” said Mrs. Martin.

“Not all of them are church-goers, but all have a caring heart,” she said.

A \$5,000 Charity and Mercy Grant from Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri paid for coffee, hot cocoa and hot biscuits for breakfast on weekdays and the hot meals provided on weekends.

The grant also helped pay for other necessities for the shelter, including new pillow covers.

“We’re so very, very grateful for that grant,” said Mrs. Martin. “It really made the shelter. You can’t fathom how much coffee people down there can drink when it’s that cold outside!”

All volunteers for the shelter must be 18 years or older.

Since the shelter is located on Catholic Church property, all volunteers agreed to a criminal background check and to follow the other safe environment protocols for the diocese.

“Make it happen”

Deacon Turf Martin, who assists the pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, noted that two or three people stayed at the shelter the first few nights it was open.

That quickly grew to 24 people staying overnight as cold temperatures became more brutal.

“Each would come in, and we’d assign them a cot,” said Deacon Martin. “We gave them sheets for the cots and blankets and a pillow and said, ‘Find your space wherever you can.’”

“We eventually ran out of cots and had to borrow some from the Pettis County Health Department,” he said.

Tables and folding partitions throughout the hall provided a modicum of privacy to each guest.

Volunteers received baseline

training for handling mental health emergencies involving guests of the shelter.

“We’ve had very little trouble as far as that’s concerned,” Deacon Martin noted.

Volunteers were concerned when one of the shelter’s regular guests did not come around during the deep freeze.

“It turned out to be good news,” said Mrs. Martin. “A very articulate gentleman had connected one of our regulars with an attorney, who helped him secure SSI and therefore secure a home.

“So, he didn’t have to come to the warming shelter because he now had an apartment of his own,” she said.

Representatives of the local federally-qualified health center also visited the shelter and helped people enroll in Medicaid.

The shelter operates in collaboration with the local food pantry, soup kitchen, thrift store and Open Door, the city’s interfaith multi-service outreach to people in need.

Precious Blood Father Mark Miller, former pastor of the Pettis County parish, helped establish Open Door many years ago.

The *Sedalia Democrat* newspaper reported that Bothwell Regional Health Center in Sedalia donated gently used blankets to the shelter and that there was even an offer to wash the bedding when needed.



For the past four years, the undercroft of the St. Patrick Chapel of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County has been home to the Sedalia Warming Shelter, staffed by volunteers from the parish and other Sedalia congregations.

“When we go 24 hours, it’s all hands on deck,” said Deacon Martin. “We help each other if any teams are short.”

“We have a nice camaraderie with the leadership team and working with Open Door,” he added.

He pointed out that St. Patrick Chapel is the only church in the city with a hall that is completely separate from the public worship area, making it logistically the best choice available among the participating churches.

Sedalia city ordinance prohibits sheltering anyone without a special use permit, which has many restrictions, Mrs. Martin added.

The city does not interfere with church ministries, “so, it’s up to the churches,” she said.

The deacon said Father Joseph Corel took a personal interest in the warming shelter shortly after arriving as pastor in 2019.

See SHELTER, page 16

James O’Donnell 

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L.A. auxiliary bishop's road to Priesthood wove through Rolla

Bishop Albert Bahhuth studied chemical engineering at what is now the Missouri University of Science and Technology

By Jay Nies

Albert knelt down before the Blessed Sacrament and emptied his heart.

"Why would you do this to me? What are you thinking? I've worked so hard, and I'm finally getting close to you. And here I am, not able to find a job in my field."

A clear thought, not his own, broke through the silence.

"Do you believe that I love you?"

"Yes!" Albert answered right away.

"Do you believe that I have a better future for you?"

The young man could not respond. Not yet.

"I was feeling low, angry at God and hopeless," he recently recalled in an interview with *The Catholic Missourian*. "I thought 'What kind of future can God have for me that would be better than being a chemical engineer?'"

Years later, Bishop Albert M. Bahhuth, an immigrant from Lebanon and graduate of what is now the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, was appointed auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

"I couldn't see God's plan back then," said Bishop Bahhuth. "Nonetheless, he al-

ways makes crooked lines straight."

Mysterious journey

Bishop Bahhuth had little faith to speak of when he arrived in the United States to study chemical engineering at what was then the University of Missouri-Rolla in 1976.

Baptized into the Melkite Rite of the Catholic Church, he had grown up in Beirut, Lebanon, and attended a Catholic school until receiving his First Holy Communion in second grade.

"My family wasn't really practicing their faith," he noted. "They were more kind of cultural Catholics — make all your Sacraments and get married in the Church."

He spoke Arabic at home. Catholic elementary schools in Lebanon mostly taught French at that time. Their Protestant counterparts taught English.

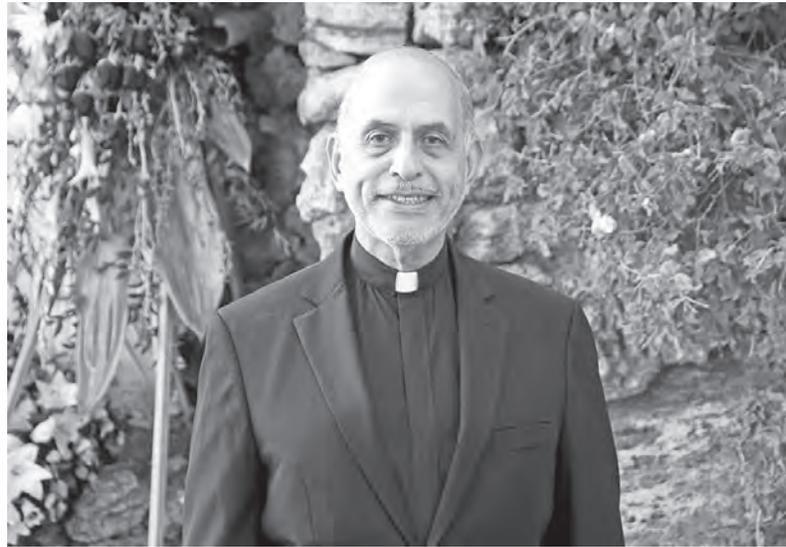
Bishop Bahhuth's parents thought it would be better for him to learn English, so they enrolled him in a Protestant school.

"After that, I didn't go to Mass for 20 years," he said.

He developed an interest in science and chose to focus on math in high school.

"I always liked math and science but not physics, so I didn't want to be a structural engineer," he stated.

"I enjoyed chemistry, but I knew I didn't want to be a doctor," he said. "The other option was to be a chemical engineer."



Pope Francis named Bishop Albert M. Bahhuth, pictured in a July 15, 2023, photo, as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles July 18, 2023.

— OSV News photo/Pablo Kay, courtesy Angelus News

The universities in Lebanon didn't offer degrees in chemical engineering at that time, so Bishop Bahhuth majored in chemistry while looking to complete his studies overseas.

Then, his homeland erupted into a civil war. The capital city was divided into two zones. Bishop Bahhuth's family lived in East Beirut, the American University was in West Beirut.

"It was not easy to cross over from one side to the other," he said. "And sometimes, the university had to close altogether."

He resolved to complete his studies in the United States.

International mail out of Lebanon was erratic due to the war, and the future bishop's applications weren't reaching their destinations.

A neighbor had a friend who taught at the university in Rolla and wound up personally delivering the future bishop's application when she went to visit him.

"That's how I ended up going to Rolla," Bishop Bahhuth recalled.

Having never traveled out of his homeland before, he flew to New York, then to St. Louis, then by a very small aircraft to Rolla.

Life in the United States

was different from what he imagined, having grown up in a city of about a million people.

"When you hear about the United States overseas, you hear about places like New York, Los Angeles and Chicago," he said. "Rolla was a small town, especially back then. It was a shock!"

"But as it turned out, it made it easier for me to adjust and acclimate," he said.

He wasn't practicing his faith but did turn to God in prayer, mostly in times of difficulty.

He felt welcome and comfortable and made some great friends.

Chemistry was never difficult for him, and he enjoyed it.

"People were friendly and I did well in school," he recalled. "I think all of that helped prepare me later on to say 'yes' to God when he called me to be a priest."

"That's how I see God working in mysterious ways," he said. "I think all of that made a big difference."

Right at home

After Bishop Bahhuth finished his undergraduate degree at Rolla, one of his professors offered him a fellowship to pursue a master's degree and doctorate there.

That professor wound up becoming the dean of the chemical engineering department at the University of Mississippi and invited the future bishop to continue his studies there.

"So, it was like pieces of a

puzzle, how one thing connects to another," said Bishop Bahhuth.

He enjoyed his nearly five years at "Old Miss."

One of his friends came up with a plan that changed his life.

"She said, 'Here's what we're gonna' do on Sunday: Why don't we dress up, go to church and go to brunch?'"

There was a Catholic church nearby, so that's where they went.

"God is always working through events," said Bishop Bahhuth. "We don't always recognize it, but looking back, you can see how God has been leading you one step at a time."

The novelty of the Sunday outings wore off for his friends in a few weeks, but Bishop Bahhuth continued occasionally going to Mass by himself.

"I was baptized in the Melkite Rite, where the Mass is very similar to the Orthodox Liturgy," he recalled. "The Catholic church in Oxford, Mississippi, did not have a lot in common with that."

"But somehow, I felt at home — like I'd been going to church every Sunday," he said. "Maybe it was just God's grace preparing the soil for later."

By then, most of his family had moved from Lebanon to California to get away from the civil war.

He was visiting some of them in the San Francisco Bay area when a traveling missionary came and began disparaging Catholic doctrine.

"I remember being frustrated to hear people saying that my Church was all wrong, and I didn't have the first idea how to respond," he said. "I resolved never to be put in that situation again."

Back in Mississippi, he set out to learn everything he could about Church teaching and history, so he'd be able to give a good defense in the future.

"That also led to my going back to Mass every Sunday and even getting involved in some ministries," he said.

To the margins

Bishop Bahhuth completed

See BP. BAHHUTH, page 19

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Palmyra deacon honored as Chamber's Educator of the Year

By Jay Nies

Tim Wellman was taking geometry at Palmyra R-1 High School when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and schools abruptly switched to remote learning.

Mr. Wellman detested geometric proofs, especially learning over Zoom how to do them.

"Yet, somehow, despite my deep hatred for the concept, I learned to get good at them, be quick with and actually LIKE them," said Mr. Wellman, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Palmyra.

He didn't just wake up one day with that appreciation.

Rather, "I had a fantastic teacher who, despite having to teach to an empty classroom over a computer screen, put in the effort every single day to try and help us learn," he said.

"That's what I believe makes for the perfect example of what an educator should be within a school setting."

Mr. Wellman's teacher was Deacon Luke Mahsman, whom the Palmyra Chamber of Commerce recently honored with its Educator of the Year award.

Deacon Mahsman has been a teacher and FFA advisor at Palmyra High School for 21 years.

Ordained a permanent deacon in 2019, he also assists the pastor of St. Joseph Parish in his hometown.

"To educate someone does not mean to simply lecture in the classroom," Mr. Wellman stated in his remarks at the Chamber's award banquet on Jan. 11.

"Rather, it requires a certain set of character traits, qualities and attributes that are evident in all arenas of one's life," he noted.

Mr. Wellman commented on Deacon Mahsman's teaching acumen in the classroom, at church and at home.

Deacon Mahsman holds bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural education from the University of Missouri, as well as a master of theological studies from Ave Maria University in Florida.

He and his family live and work on a farm, raising row crops and beef cattle.

In his longtime role as an

agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, Deacon Mahsman "trained more contest teams to qualify for state than nearly any other advisor has trained," said Mr. Wellman.

Of the more than 50 FFA teams he coached that went on to state competition, 14 took home top-three placement, eight won state, and of the seven that were able to compete nationally, all placed seventh or higher.

"In fact, two of them, including the one that I was a part of, got second in the nation," Mr. Wellman noted.

He said this level of success couldn't have been achieved without Deacon Mahsman's talent, knowledge and commitment.

"This is someone who dedicated significant portions of time to teaching teenagers complex math about economic topics we barely understood, and he did it well enough to beat out almost every other state in the nation multiple times," said Mr. Wellman.

He also spoke of the spiritual guidance Deacon Mahsman had given him on his journey back to full participation in the Catholic faith.

"As a child and up through most of my teens, religion was all but absent from my life," said Mr. Wellman. "For much of that time, I was a Christmas and Easter Mass kind of guy — and eventually, even that was sparse."

But right after his sophomore year in high school, Mr. Wellman felt driven to reconnect with his faith.

"I still don't know what made me do so, but I couldn't be more thankful that it happened," he said.

Deacon Mahsman agreed to give Mr. Wellman instructions to help him prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

For the next year, Mr. Wellman woke up at 8 a.m. every Sunday, drove himself to the parish hall and spent an hour and 15 minutes with Deacon Mahsman, "learning about Jesus, the Sacraments, and the Catholic Church."

"As time went on, he taught me a lot about religion," said Mr. Wellman, "but I contend that he taught me even more about myself — about who



Elina Reed, the 2023 Miss Marion County, presents to Deacon Luke Mahsman, left, the Palmyra Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Educator of the Year award on Jan. 11. With them is Tim Wellman, a former student of Deacon Mahsman, who introduced him at the award ceremony.

— Photo by Susan Berti

I was and my place in the world."

Now, Mr. Wellman never fails to observe a Sunday or holyday of obligation.

"I owe that revival of my faith in a very large part to this individual," Mr. Wellman said of his former teacher.

Deacon Mahsman also makes himself available to talk whenever Mr. Wellman has a question about his faith or

Church teaching.

"To say that I'm indebted to this man for teaching me God's lessons is an understatement, and I do my best to pay it back every day in the way I approach the world," Mr. Wellman said.

Regarding Deacon Mahsman's and his wife, Christie's, role as the primary educators of their own children, Mr. Wellman sought testimony from the oldest three of their

nine.

He asked them, "What's the greatest lesson your father has ever taught you?"

"He taught me the difference between right and wrong," one of them stated. "He's a great moral compass and I would trust that whatever he tells me is correct."

Another responded: "Dad taught the importance of being dependable, even when he has a lot going on, if he says he'll do something, he keeps his word, and he's shown me the value of being someone people can rely on."

Another stated: "I've learned from him that when you work for the people you care about, you should enjoy even the difficult or frustrating parts that can arise."

For Deacon Mahsman, teaching is a calling from God.

He stated prior to his ordination in 2019 that he hoped to teach, by word and deed, "those things that help us draw closer to God and live joy-filled lives as faithful Catholics."

"There is a great joy that comes with living a life in Christ and his Church," he said.

Love is the only path to Christian unity, pope says

Rome

Catholic News Service

Divided Christians will draw closer to one another only by loving God and loving their neighbors, serving one another and not pointing fingers in blame for past faults, Pope Francis said.

Closing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with an evening prayer service Jan. 25 at Rome's Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, Pope Francis was joined by Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury and, at the end of the service, the two commissioned pairs of Anglican and Catholic bishops from 27 countries to "bear witness together to the hope that does not deceive and to the unity for which our Savior prayed."

In his homily, Pope Francis reflected on the theme for the 2024 celebration of the week of

prayer: "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself" from Luke 10:27.

"Only a love that becomes gratuitous service, only the love that Jesus taught and embodied, will bring separated Christians closer to one another," he said.

"Only that love, which does not appeal to the past in order to remain aloof or to point a finger, only that love which in God's name puts our brothers and sisters before the ironclad defense of our own religious structures, will unite us."

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QUESTION CORNER

Church teaching on Protestant communion and the Real Presence?

By Jenna Marie Cooper
OSV News

Q: What is the Church currently teaching about the Real Presence in other denominations? I thought that at one time we recognized both the Lutherans and the Anglicans as having the Real Presence. Does that still hold true? Others?



A: For context, let us recall that the Catholic teaching on the “real presence” in the Eucharist means that we believe that the bread and wine offered at Mass literally become the body and blood of Christ when the priest prays the prayer of consecration.

This doctrine has been a part of the Catholic faith since the time of the Church’s foundation. For example, as we read in St. John’s Gospel, Jesus himself states: “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. ... For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink,” (John 6:53, 55).

Later, in the Middle Ages, scholastic theologians such as St. Thomas Aquinas were able to describe this teaching in more technical philosophical terms. Specifically, “transubstantiation” is our word for what happens when the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ at Mass — namely, the “substance” (basically, the essential nature, identity or “being” of a thing) changes, even while the “accidents” (i.e., the physical, observable qualities) of the bread and wine remain.

During the Protestant Reformation and afterward, the vast majority of Protestant denominations distanced themselves from characteristically Catholic sacramental theology. Most of these denominations rejected the idea of the Real Presence in the Eucharist; that is, if they had any practice similar to Holy Communion, this was understood as a purely symbolic means of recalling the Last Supper. Naturally, the Catholic Church is not going to see the Real Presence in situations where the denomination in question does not.

A few notable exceptions to this are, as you note, some Anglicans and Lutherans. Historically, the Church of England was established on the more organizational and political premise that the king or queen of England should also be considered the head of the church in England, as opposed to specific theological differences. So although Anglicanism now has many branches (such as the Episcopal Church in the United States) that might believe different things today, at least initially the Anglicans did not specifically reject the doctrine of the Real Presence. Similarly, while Martin Luther did not teach the Catholic understanding of transubstantiation, he did believe in the similar idea of “consubstantiation,” where the “substance” of Christ’s body and blood coexists with the “substance” of mere bread and wine after the consecration.

But today the Catholic Church does not recognize any Protestant denomination as having the Real Presence in the Eucharist. The reason for this is that, even in Protestant denominations that call their clergy “priests,” we do not believe that these clergy were ordained through apostolic succession. That is, we as Catholics believe that all our bishops — and the priests whom they ordain as their co-ministers — were ordained by bishops who were in turn ordained by other bishops in an unbroken chain reaching back to the first bishops, the apostles, who were consecrated in their vocation by Jesus personally. Jesus gave the apostles the power to consecrate the Eucharist, a power which the apostles then handed down to their successors, and a power which cannot be obtained in any

See QUESTION, page 22

Papal Audience January 31, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our catechesis on the virtues and vices, we now consider “wrath,” the uncontrolled anger that may well begin with brooding over offenses received, but ends up being self-destructive and damaging to our relationships

with others, leading ultimately to violence and even war. Jesus teaches us to forgive those who sin against us, while St. Paul urges us never to let the sun set on our anger. Yet there is an appropriate kind of anger, which consists in righteous indignation before evil and injustice. As with all the passions, so too with anger: it is up to us, with the sustaining grace of the Holy Spirit, to govern and direct our emotions in order to serve God’s kingdom of reconciliation, justice and peace.

I greet all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s audience, especially those coming from the United States of America. Upon all of you, and upon your families, I invoke the joy and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!



Frozen in time

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 1529 in Columbia and its ladies auxiliary brave icy weather on Jan. 22 to help Father Christopher Cordes move from the Our Lady of Lourdes Rectory for his new assignment at St. Andrew Parish in Holts Summit. Helpers included: Father Simon Kanyike, Doug Callahan, Ed Portell, Scott Thrasher, Burton Schau, Brian McKeage, Tim Vargesko, Larry and Wendy Winkelman and Duane Evers.

— Photos by Tim Vargesko



Coming to better-know my grandmother through her ‘medieval’ parish

By Sean McLaughlin
OSV News



Since learning to drive, I had passed Our Lady of Hope Church innumerable times. In a sense, though, I was driven by it, before then.

It was my grandmother's parish.

The church sits on a hill overlooking Philadelphia's main north-south thoroughfare, its distinctive tower soaring above the low-roofed homes, a good distance from the downtown canyons of skyscrapers and visible for blocks in any direction.

Tracing its roots to 1909, the church — whose cornerstone was laid in 1928, after years of planning and fundraising — was, in its heyday, one of the area's most prominent, receiving an architectural award in 1930 for its design, which was

based on England's medieval Durham Cathedral.

Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, the future Pope Pius XII, had once graced Our Lady of Hope's sanctuary; Ven. Fulton Sheen had preached there during a visit to the city.

Despite its legacy, though, the church had never sparked my curiosity. The family connections were all well and good — my grandparents married there, and they had my father baptized there — yet I'd never cared to know anything further. I had certainly never considered what might be inside.

That changed a few years ago when I made a list of historic churches in the area that I wanted to visit, including Our Lady of Hope. In the spring, two friends and I — all fathers of young children — decided to visit three churches on Good Friday morning, in a kind of mini-version of St. Philip Neri's "Seven Churches Pilgrimage" practice. I put my grandmother's parish first on the itinerary.

A volunteer who was mowing the lawn led us to the baptistry, which, as with older churches, stood in a dedicated space — in this case, between the rectory and the church. Our eyes were drawn to the font at the center of the octagonal room, lit by a single hanging lamp and a few simple stained-glass windows. The intricately carved stone incorporated text, images and gold mosaic tiles; everything about the space conveyed the gravity of the sacrament of baptism.

We continued from the baptistry into the nave which was almost completely dark; the church would not open until later that afternoon. The overcast sky shed very little light through the tall, and narrow stained-glass windows.

I could barely see. But smelling the damp stone I could suddenly feel the volume of air above; I could sense the magnitude of the church interior. As the lights flickered on, our mouths dropped and our necks craned to take in the mag-

nificence before us.

We spent just half an hour wandering around through the church, praying silently and pointing out various details to one another, but it felt much longer. The profound beauty of the space was overwhelming — nearly every inch within glorified God in stone, statuary, and stained glass.

It was only the soft sound of the subway rushing underneath that reminded us of the time, and that we had two more churches to see. We retraced our steps through the baptistry and into the rectory to thank our guide and got to chat with the choir director and the pastor, who shared some of the parish's history with us.

My grandmother did more to hand on the faith to me than virtually anyone else in my life. After all these years of just passing by, I'd finally entered the sacred

See MCLAUGHLIN, page 23

St. Augustine, Florida: The Catholic Plymouth Rock

By Dr. R. Jared Staudt



Florida, that land fancied by Ponce de Leon as a bouquet of Paschal flowers, stands at the beginning of the Catholic story of the United States. My last column spoke about the pilgrim nature of human life, and now I find myself on pilgrimage again, back in this florid land where I hunkered down for my doctoral studies. Fortunately, I'm not moving again, but I have finally arrived as a pilgrim to the oldest city in the United States, St. Augustine, visiting the shrine of Our Lady of La Leche.

The Church herself walks as a pilgrim through history, awaiting the return of her King as she enters new territory and declines in others. The story of America is bound up with the spread of Christianity, and its two continents now contain almost half of the world's Catholics. When we tell the story of the United States, however, Catholics often look in from the outside. 1565 should stand out to us as the founding of the U.S.'s first enduring city, but in school we rather hear the narration of a failed plantation in Jamestown, set down in 1607 (even though a Jesuit mission already existed in the area), or of severe Puritans landing on a rock in Massachusetts in 1620.

Plymouth Rock has become a national myth, of Puritans setting out for religious freedom (but only their own) and surviving through the miraculous intervention of an English-speaking stranger, Squanto,

who was rescued out of English slavery by the Spanish Franciscans. In giving thanks for God's blessing on their new beginning, they imitated what the Spanish had done in 1565 in celebrating the true Thanksgiving of the Eucharist, followed by a feast with the Timucua Indians.

Even if the 13 colonies gobbled up the Catholic lands surrounding them, in God's providence the continental U.S. has been sanctified by the blood of saints. From St. Augustine, a network of 38 missions spun out across the Southeast, temporarily reaching up to the Chesapeake and to Santa Elena, just south of Charleston. As the British pushed back against them, both Spaniards and Native converts died for the faith, including the layman Servant of God Antonio Inija from the Apalachee mission of San Luis de Talimali, whose name has been placed at the head of the Florida martyrs. Catholic martyrs stretch across the nation, from the Jesuit North American martyrs in New York to the Franciscans of New Mexico.

When Pedro Menéndez de Avilés came ashore to found St. Augustine on September 8, 1565, he claimed the land "in the name of God," providing the name for the mission that arose there: Nombre de Dios. Despite the competing colonial powers' grasp for North America, God had his own plans. The conquistadors were caught up in a plan greater than their lust for gold, as we see in Our Lady of Guadalupe's intervention to the native saint, Juan Diego, leading to the great spiritual conquest of the continent in the

See STAUDT, page 23

REFLECTION

Getting in the Way

By Mark Saucier

"I gave them the Beatitudes, and all they do is quote Leviticus..."

I can see Jesus saying this, sighing and sadly shaking his head.

Leviticus, of course, is part of the Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures, which Christians refer to as the Old Testament.

Data-driven scholars tell us that the Torah contains 613 commandments, the basis of all Jewish law.

The quote references our tendency to cherry-pick verses from those 613 commandments condemning certain behaviors of others we particularly abhor — all the while personally failing to live up to the one commandment of love found in the Beatitudes.

The early followers of Jesus were not known as Christians, but followers of the Way.

It's interesting that Jewish law is also known as *halakha*. A literal translation might be "the way to behave" or better yet, "the way of walking."

In this sense, *halakha* was not a collection of precepts that could be taken individually, but a complete worldview that had to be lived.

All those behaviors, from sexual mores to proscriptions of mistreating foreigners, bearing a grudge, or working on the Sabbath, were what it meant to be a follower of Yahweh.

With law a considerable part of the first five books, it is easy to think that this "way" was simply formulaic — all you had to do to be a good Israelite was to follow the law.

But from the very beginning of Genesis, the Scriptures tell us that this must be internalized and affirmed.

In the third chapter, after Adam and Eve have their history-altering fruit snack, God says to them, "Where are you?"

Adam confesses that they were hiding, ashamed of their newly discovered nakedness, but who plays hide and seek with an all-knowing God?

In the very next chapter, a jealous and furious Cain kills his brother Abel.

Again, a God who obviously knows what has happened, asks Cain where Abel is.

Still angry, but now fearful as well, Cain replies, "Am I my brother's keeper?" It was rhetorical.

These two questions, one asked by God and one by Cain, and neither really answered, hover over all Jewish Scripture, and the New Testament, as well.

Over and over again, regardless of age, I must confront these questions.

Where am I in relation to my God, my purpose, my truest self?

Am I my brother's, my sister's keeper? And how do I live that answer with each new passing day?

Encounter

Parish Ambassadors and Parish Engagement

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



By Ashley Wiskirchen

“How can we help them?”

I hear this question often as I participate in parish engagement work at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri.

I heard it during each one of the Parish Engagement and Charity Events (PEACE) we hosted last fall, and it’s usually the very first question I get in any Q&A portion of Parish Ambassador formation calls.

I even hear it after Mass when I’m headed down to enjoy coffee and donuts at my own parish:

“How can we help them?”

“Them” — our neighbors in need.

We know the need across the 38-counties we serve is very high.

Community members down the street and across the state are struggling under financial strain, in need of mental health support, searching for fresh and nutritional food they can afford to fill their refrigerators and pantries.

“We” — the people of many parishes who are answering Bishop McKnight’s call to grow our ability to become beacons of hope for their communities as Centers of Charity and Mercy.

Answering this call to serve their neighbors is nothing new for many parishes.

Yet, the need persists — ministries need more support and more hands to keep help flowing.

In light of this, I often ask myself, how can we — Catholic Charities, the charitable arm of our diocese and the non-profit created to provide social services — help them — the faithful who find themselves wholly dedicated to alleviating

the suffering of their neighbors through Works of Charity and Mercy?

“Catholics are a people of ‘and,’” shared Paul Crnkovich, Director of Adult Faith Formation at the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia. “So when we talk about formation and service, we echo what scripture tells us: Word and Deed.”

“The work of the Gospel is both proclaiming it, and then doing it,” he concluded.

Prior to Paul’s role at the Newman Center, he served as the Director of Parish Engagement at Catholic Charities Fort Worth — a Catholic Charities agency situated among nearly 4 million people.

“I loved the work of parish relations when I was with Catholic Charities of Fort Worth,” he shared, “the mission-focus of faith formation and service are personal passions of mine that I carried to the role I have now at the Catholic Newman Center.”

With Paul’s help, our agency provided formation on foundational teachings of the Church to over 80 attendees of last fall’s PEACE events.

At the core, our work to support parish social ministries is simple, but profound: how can we equip the faithful to continue or increase works of charity and mercy where they are, with what they have?

We have three ideas for you to reflect on today.

Renew practices of prayer

“Prayer is the relationship with the one who can actually make things happen — Jesus,” shared Paul. “When you understand the purpose of your existence, to be with God forever, your ministry flows from Jesus and frees you to be the light of



Paul Crnkovich addresses attendees of the Parish Engagement and Charity Event (PEACE) hosted at St. George Parish in Linn, in Fall of 2023.

his life to those you serve.”

While it’s tempting to shift from “being” to “doing” in any ministry, rooting yourself in personal prayer is truly the only way to let the love of Christ work in and through you.

If you feel burdened, burnt out, or distressed by the work before you — take a figurative step back and ask yourself, “where is God in this?”

Revisit and renew your practices of prayer often.

Attend Mass, pray the Rosary, frequent the sacraments and pray with your family and fellow ministers.

That could sound like a trite platitude — but the power of prayer in your ministry for others can never be overstated.

Through prayer, your spirit can be rejuvenated, freed and confident in your ability to share the joy of the Gospel.

Know and carry out the Works of Mercy

“The parishes offer an interesting intersect for Catholic Charities agencies — they are both the place of worship, and have one foot firmly planted in their local community — priming them to serve,” continued Paul.

He continued, “The Works of Mercy are the specific ‘how’ in which we live out the Gospel of Matthew in chapter 25, including both physical and spiritual needs.”

Reflect at the individual level, within your family, in a particular parish ministry and the parish as whole — how are we

meeting these needs?

The physical needs which may be more evident and tangible, but also the spiritual needs of prayer, counsel and comforting others.

Not sure where to start?

One of the most practical ways to do this with Catholic Charities is to send your Parish Ambassador or another parishioner to events like PEACE or formation opportunities and welcome them to come back into the parish to share their experiences, reigniting the desire to meet those needs within your community.

Live a life of stewardship

“Living a life of stewardship walks hand-in-hand with carrying out the Works of Charity and Mercy,” Paul reflected.

When we live as good stewards of our time, talents and resources, we can more easily and more deeply live a life of service and generosity.

Support your own parish’s ability to serve as a Center of Charity and Mercy by getting actively involved in parish life.

Sign up for your parish’s social commission, benevolence committee or outreach ministry.

Offer to be the parishioner who applies for a Charity and Mercy Grant from Catholic Charities to start up a new ministry or grow an existing one.

Take the opportunity to learn more about Catholic Charities so that you can confidently refer folks who need

help to our agency where we can accompany them with case management, educational classes, advocacy and accountability.

Of course, we have a variety of practical ways to get “plugged in” to Catholic Charities any time.

From signing up for our eNewsletters, to downloading this month’s Menu of Engagement — from registering for our Catholic Social Teaching webinars kicking off in May to signing up for a volunteer opportunity in one of our offices.

You can find links to these opportunities online, or give us a call anytime at 573-635-7719 to learn more.

I would love to help you get plugged in to the work of Catholic Charities; and I would love to know that this week’s *Encounter* at Catholic Charities was the little spark you needed to say “yes” to the next opportunity you have to serve those in need in your own neighborhood, through your own parish.

Ashley Wiskirchen is the Sr. Director of Communications at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri. With a desire to see parish communications and ministries thrive, Ashley helps to oversee the Parish Ambassador program, a project outlined by Bishop McKnight’s three-year diocesan pastoral plan. To learn more about becoming a Parish Ambassador, visit ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/parish-ambassadors.

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More ‘nuanced nones’ challenge parishes to become more outward facing, says evangelization expert

By Gina Christian
OSV News

A new study offers a more nuanced take on the nation’s religiously unaffiliated, and the findings show that Catholic parishes need to become more “outward facing” to reach those beyond the pews, an evangelization expert said.

“This is the managing of the journey out of Christendom,” Sherry Anne Weddell, cofounder and executive director of the Colorado-based Catherine of Siena Institute, told OSV News. “And what we’re struggling with is, what does it mean now to function missionally outside of Christendom? That’s the transition.”

“Religious ‘Nones’ in America: Who They Are and What They Believe,” released Jan. 24 by Pew Research Center, found

that about 28% of U.S. adults are religiously unaffiliated.

Of that group, which has been dubbed the “nones,” 63% described their religion as “nothing in particular,” with 17% saying they were atheist and 20% saying they were agnostic.

Weddell, author of the 2012 book “Forming Intentional Disciples” and a consultant for hundreds of parishes worldwide, said the study was “really fascinating” and “fits everything else” she is seeing in the field regarding “nones.”

“It’s not a surprise, but it’s wonderful to have it all documented in this way,” she said.

The Pew data reveals a more complex view of “nones,” exploring their views of God, religion, morality, science and spirituality.

Broadly, researchers found that most “nones” believe in the God of the Bible (13%) or another higher power (56%), but few attend religious services regularly: 90% said they “seldom” or “never” do.

Pew researchers noted that “nones” are “not uniformly anti-religious,” allowing that religion can do either equal amounts of harm and good (41%) or more good than harm (14%), although most “nones” maintain that religion does more harm than good (43%).

The “nones” — a roughly even mix of women (47%) and men (51%) — are a younger population, according to Pew, with 69% under the age of 50, and 31% of them 50 or older. In contrast, 45% of U.S. adults who identify with a religion are under 50, and 55% are age 50 or older.

Men are significantly more represented among atheists and agnostics.

Gregory A. Smith, associate director of research at Pew Research Center and primary researcher for the study, told OSV News that “one of the most important factors in understanding the growth of the

nones over time is that this is a generational thing.”

During the last few decades, said Smith, “quite religious” older cohorts of Americans who have aged and passed away “are being replaced by a new generation of young adults that is simply far less religious than their parents and their grandparents before them.”

Weddell sees the “nones” demographic as comprising “the generation of the sexual abuse scandals.”

“I’ve heard this over and over again: ‘My child was 18, when in 2002 ... (clerical abuse

scandals arose), and they’re old enough to understand it, and to get the kind of damage that it did and has done,” said Weddell. “And since (2002), there’s just been all kinds of conflict within the church. ... Their peers are skeptical, and the culture they’re immersed in, especially online, is skeptical.”

The Pew study found that the top reason “nones” cited for their stance was doubt about religious teachings themselves (60%), with 32% naming a

See ‘NONES’, page 18



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For Sr. Cathy Vetter CCVI, consecrated life is about relationships, being present

By Jay Nies

The Son of God — God's Holy Word — became one like us in order to become one WITH us for all eternity.

For Jefferson City native Sister Cathy Vetter of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word (CCVI), the essence of consecrated religious life is to reveal the reality of the Word Made Flesh, through relationships and one-on-one interactions.

"That's what my life is all about, what the Incarnate Word is all about: being present, being the Word of God, present to others," said Sr. Cathy, who recently came back to her hometown to pray and discern, nearly 55 years after entering religious life.

"I see this as a beautiful opportunity to spend time with my God and get to know my God, rather than know ABOUT my God or figure out 'What do others want me to do?' or 'What will be most helpful?'" she stated.

"Rather," said Sr. Cathy, "it's simply, 'Who are you, my God?' and 'Who am I, my God?'"

Most would find this approach quaint or exotic, if not completely foreign.

"In our society, we value people and reward them for what they do and not for who they are," said Sr. Cathy.

She spoke of these things in anticipation of the World Day of Consecrated Life, which the Church in the United States will observe on Sunday, Feb. 4.

It is a day to pray for and honor the people who consecrate themselves to God as sisters, brothers and religious priests.

Sr. Cathy recalled striking up a conversation with a maintenance worker who was repairing the duplex she recently moved into.

"So, why are you here?" he asked her.

"All I know," she responded, "is that I'm here just to be present to people."

"That's a good thing," he replied.

Later, upon finding out that the man was having surgery, Sr. Cathy had a name, a face and a connection to go with her prayers for him.

"More and more, I'm thinking that's the gift the Church needs, and that might be the gift of religious life," she stated.

"It's not doing stuff, necessarily," she said. "Yes, you do things, but it all needs to come out of that gift of being present."

An Irish rose

Sr. Cathy went to Immaculate Conception School in

Jefferson City, where she "fell in love" with her first- and second-grade teacher, Incarnate Word Sister Margaret McCormack.

"She was a fun, outgoing woman who loved life and loved people," Sr. Cathy recalled. "And I love life and I love people, too. I wanted to be like her."

Sr. Cathy's class was Sr. Margaret's first class at her first assignment.

"She was from Ireland, very young, and she had a lot of Irish humor about her," recalled Sr. Cathy.

She was in charge of 54 children in one room.

The classroom had a door at the front and another at the back, both leading into the hallway.

"She would leave through one door and then pop in through the other," said Sr. Cathy. "Sometimes, one of the other younger sisters would come in and playfully pretend that they were lost from each other."

"It was a wonderful way to regroup with us little kids," Sr. Cathy recalled.

Sr. Margaret taught traditional Irish dancing to the girls at recess, slightly lifting up the bottom of her black habit so the girls could see how her feet moved.

She would also join in the students' dodgeball games on the playground.

"That's how we all got to know that she was fun," said Sr. Cathy.

Later on, Sr. Cathy got to know and work with Sr. Margaret as an adult and fellow CCVI.

"We became good friends," Sr. Cathy recalled. "I was blessed to be with her over the years and in different ways."

Celebrating well

Sr. Cathy served for several years as the vocation director for the Jefferson City diocese, then as co-vicar for religious in the St. Louis archdiocese.

The chaplain at the CCVI



Sister Cathy Vetter CCVI

provincial house in St. Louis County was Father (later Monsignor) James Telthorst, now deceased.

He was studying Liturgy over the summers at the University of Notre Dame and would discuss at length with Sr. Cathy what he was learning.

"He'd say, 'Let's try this!' and I'd say, 'I'm in!'" she recalled.

"It was wonderful!" she said. "You can't overstate the power of good liturgy."

She recalled when Fr. Telthorst lit the fire for the Easter Vigil outside the convent chapel and had all of the sisters light their candles from the new Easter candle.

"No lights were on," she noted. "We gathered around him with our candles at the podium, and by the light of all those candles, he proclaimed the 'Exultet.'"

"It was visceral," she said, "because that's what good liturgy is."

He helped her appreciate the power of the Church's wealth of sacred rituals.

She found these to be especially effective in the 13 years she spent in parishes, coordinating the initiation of new Catholics into the Church.

"I loved using all the rituals to the best effect," she said. "Like Fr. Telthorst would say, 'You don't have to say so many words if you do good ritual.'"

At a parish in St. Louis County, she worked with the pastor to implement the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults to its fullest.

The process took time and was filled with moments of engagement with the people of the parish.

"If people can see that it's worth the effort, that they're really experiencing something important, then they'll be there for it," Sr. Cathy asserted. "And they'll be the ones who will stay connected with the parish."

Those connections are invaluable.

"It's not about how many bodies we have in the pews on Sunday," she stated. "It's how many people are being welcomed into our community of faith."

Sr. Cathy laments the American impulse to shorten and expedite things simply because people are busy.

"We keep shortening everything, and we get the minimum," she said. "But the minimum isn't what Jesus offered. He offered everything!"

A parishioner in a parish where she had been serving for a long time marveled to her, "Sister, you really gave us something!"

"No," she replied with a smile. "Jesus gave it to you. I just offered it and helped make it possible."

What's still needed

Sr. Cathy eluded to the tectonic changes that have taken place in religious orders and congregations all over the United States.

Being present is still eminently important, "but I'm not sure we have to do it through big institutions anymore," she said.

"Religious communities in this country evolved the way they did because of the great need for healthcare and education," she said. "We set it up, and other people eventually took it over. We don't

See SR. CATHY, page 23

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Priests accompanied condemned men to the gallows in 1907

By Jay Nies

Into the 1930s, county sheriffs in Missouri carried out death sentences in their jurisdictions by hanging.

The executions were public spectacles that often drew crowds.

So it was for Harry Vaughan, George Ryan and Edward Raymond, who were convicted of killing the prison gatekeeper while escaping from the Missouri State Penitentiary in November of 1905.

All three were hanged to death on June 27, 1907, on gallows erected outside the Cole County Jail in Jefferson City.

Accompanying the condemned men through their final hours, up to their last moments and even to their place of burial were Father Henry Geisert, Catholic chaplain at the prison and associate pastor of St. Peter Parish, and Father Joseph Selinger, the pastor of St. Peter Parish.

The escapees had taken the lives of three men in the course of their escape — two who died immediately, another who died later from his wounds.

Fr. Geisert had served as spiritual advisor to the three condemned men during their 19 months in prison.

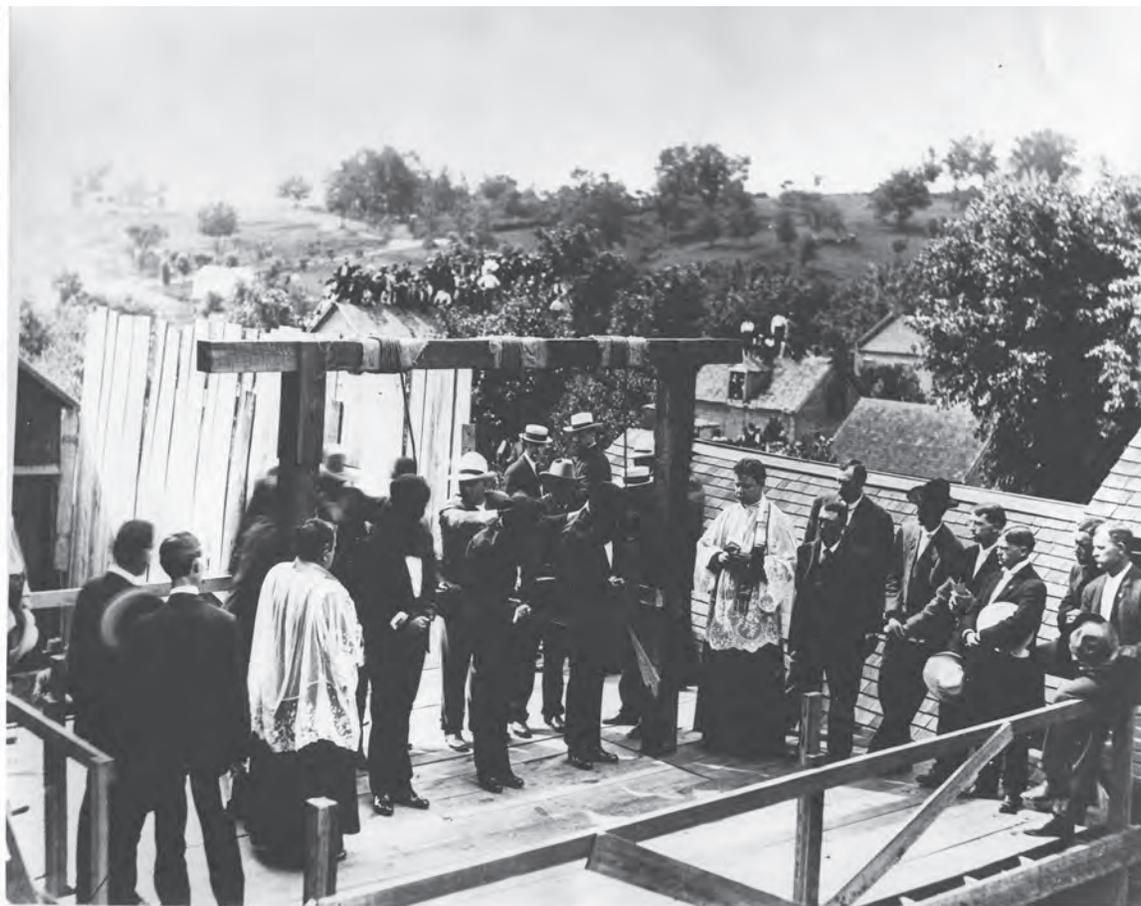
The Monday before the execution, he presented a petition, signed by several members of the jury that had convicted the men, asking the governor to commute Mr. Ryan's death sentence to life in prison.

The petitioners pointed out that Mr. Ryan, youngest of the three defendants, had done none of the shooting but was deemed an accomplice to the deadly crime and convicted and sentenced with the other two.

The governor denied the request for clemency.

With help from Fr. Geisert, each of the three condemned men underwent spiritual conversions in the time leading up to their executions.

"Harry Vaughan, the leader of the plot and one of the most daring of the trio, is a different man," the *Jefferson City Tribune* reported. "He has accepted the Catholic religion and spends nearly all his time on his knees



Father Henry Geisert, Catholic chaplain at the Missouri State Penitentiary and associate pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, and Father Joseph Selinger, pastor, accompany three men who were condemned to die by hanging in their last moments on June 27, 1907.

— File photo from the diocesan archives

praying."

"The three men have all embraced the Catholic religion and were baptized by Father Geisert, who has been their spiritual advisor since their conviction," the *Tribune* reported.

The *Cole County Democrat* noted that Ryan and Raymond had professed Catholicism "a month or two previously."

Mr. Vaughan was baptized a day and a half before his execution.

"I never tried to be anything else but a criminal because I was not taught there was anything to the contrary," he told a reporter for the *Tribune* that day.

"But life as a criminal is a failure as are all men who deliberately set out by making a living by crime."

Mr. Ryan told a reporter that he felt much better off than the fourth man who was involved in the failed escape, who was killed without time

to prepare to meet God.

After the three condemned men had breakfast in the Cole County Jail the morning of the execution, Fathers Geisert and Selinger administered the Sacrament of Confession to each and gave the men Holy Communion.

Ryan and Raymond appeared intensely interested as the priests prayed for the salvation of the souls of each of the men, according to the *Cole County Democrat*.

"Vaughn was deeply afflict-

ed by the words of the minister and at times sobbed bitterly, but none of them spoke," the paper noted.

The priests then accompanied the men, along with the sheriff, to the yard outside the courthouse, ascended the platform ahead of them, and stood with them until the end.

A print of an antique photo acquired in a Jefferson City antique store about 15 years ago shows the three men, heads covered, awaiting death, with the priests standing near them.

"For about a minute all stood motionless and the only sound was that of the prayer of the priest," the *Republican Review* newspaper in Jefferson City reported.

Immediately after the prayers ended, the death sentences were carried out.

The *Tribune* reported later that day that Fr. Geisert had claimed the deceased men's earthly remains and hired an undertaker to prepare them for burial.

Years after moving on from his role as chaplain, the priest spoke to parishioners in Colorado about what's needed to keep young men and women from committing the crimes that land them in prison or worse.

"What we need in life is not men who are good because they can't be bad, but men who are good because they won't be bad," he was quoted as saying in the Dec. 31, 1925, edition of the *Colorado Springs Sunday Gazette and Telegraph*.

The Missouri General Assembly abolished county hangings in 1934 and reassigned the responsibility of executions to the Missouri Department of Corrections.

Subsequently, more than 50 people were executed in the gas chamber that still stands at the old penitentiary in Jefferson City.

The state now carries out executions at the Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center in Bonne Terre.

As season four premieres around world, 'The Chosen' actors talk faith, life

OSV News

Warsaw, Poland

When the creators of "The Chosen" started with a crowdfunding project in 2017, they would not have thought in their wildest dreams they would be walking the red carpets from Los Angeles to New York and from London to Warsaw, with screaming fans begging for selfies.

Five years since the premiere of the first season, the series about the life of Jesus of Nazareth is now garnering over 770 million episode views and has more than 12 million social media followers.

Season four will debut in theaters across the U.S. and Canada Feb. 1, followed shortly by debuts in several other locations worldwide.

"I wasn't expecting any of this. I think it was one of the most enthusiastic receptions we've had for our premieres," Elizabeth Tabish, who portrays Mary Magdalene in the series, told OSV News in Warsaw Jan. 27, the day after the new season's first two episodes were shown to 1,600 fans in one of the city's biggest theaters.

"It was very exciting, you could just sense the warmth and love from the Polish people, and it just was very encouraging," Jonathan Roumie, a practicing Catholic who plays Jesus, told OSV News.

"The Chosen" is now one of the most-watched shows in the world, consistently a top performer across streaming platforms Prime Video, Peacock and Netflix.



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Priest's Success in Haiti Proves Faith-Filled Action Can Bless Thousands of Lives

When Father Glenn Meaux established the Kobonal Haiti Mission in 1989, families living in that region were trapped in material and spiritual poverty. Seeing their extreme needs, he felt called by God to make a difference in their deeply impoverished villages and developed a plan to provide help. His first outreaches were small, but they quickly expanded as others joined his cause and offered their support.

The impact of his faithfulness to God's calling has been inspiring to see. Through his obedience to the Lord and unwavering commitment to follow the Holy Spirit, thousands have been blessed beyond anyone's expectations.

"An incredible transformation has taken place in Kobonal, Haiti, and it all began with a bold decision to respond to God's calling and to serve as the Lord's instrument of mercy," confirmed Michele Sagarino, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, one of the largest and most effective Catholic relief and

development ministries working in the region. "That's really how every effective ministry begins. Someone encounters a situation that breaks their heart or challenges them spiritually, and then God tells them, 'I want you to be a part of the solution!' At times like those, we need to step out in faith and let God work through us. Those are acts

"At times like those, we need to step out in faith and let God work through us."

Michele Sagarino,
Cross Catholic Outreach

of obedience and merciful service that both glorify God and bless lives."

Sagarino knows Fr. Meaux well because the ministry she leads has been championing his efforts for more than



The new homes being built for needy Haitian families are seen as an answer to prayer.

two decades. During that time many U.S. Catholics have also become aware of the Kobonal Haiti Mission and have joined the cause too.

"While I celebrate the many wonderful things that have been accomplished at the Haiti Kobonal Mission, I'm currently focused on helping the children and families there that still have extreme needs," Sagarino said. "For example, I know there are children in the region who are still illiterate and desperately want to go to school. I want to be sure they get that opportunity. Then there are the families who will be going to sleep tonight in a ramshackle, unsanitary dwelling. I want them to have a safe place to live. Fr. Meaux has created a powerful ministry to support Haiti's poorest families, but the individuals he is trying to reach can't be supplied with what they need unless we step forward to fund those works of mercy. That's how we can make a difference and bless lives."

According to Sagarino, Cross Catholic Outreach's current and specific goal is to

help Fr. Meaux's team provide another group of needy families with new homes. (See related story on the opposite page.)

"His house building ministry has become very popular with U.S. Catholics because it provides struggling families with simple but sturdy homes — a foundation for building a better life. People want their charitable donations to produce major benefits and have an impact that will last. My hope is that as people learn more about what Fr. Meaux is accomplishing in Kobonal, Haiti, they will experience the same calling he has to help the poor and will also want to be a part of the solution."

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach's work for the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC03034, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner.



Fr. Meaux celebrates Mass with students at the Kobonal Haiti Mission.

Cross Catholic Outreach Endorsed by More Than 100 Bishops, Archbishops

Cross Catholic Outreach's range of relief work to help the poor overseas continues to be recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

"We've received more than 100 endorsements from bishops and archbishops," explained Jim Cavnar, CEO of Cross Catholic Outreach. "They're moved by the fact that we've launched outreaches in more than 90 countries and have undertaken a variety of projects — everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless

to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor. The bishops have also been impressed by Cross Catholic Outreach's direct and meaningful response to emergency situations, most recently by providing food, medicines and other aid to partners in Haiti, El Salvador and areas of Nicaragua impacted by natural disasters."

Archbishop Thomas Rodi of Mobile, Alabama, supports this mission, writing, "It is a privilege for me to support Cross Catholic Outreach. This organization funds

ministries to our neighbors in need in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and the Pacific. Through the generosity of so many, the love of God is made visible to many who are coping with the most difficult of daily living conditions."

In addition to praising the ministry's accomplishments, many prelates are encouraged that Pontifical canonical status was conferred on the charity in 2015, granting it approval as an official Catholic organization. This allows Cross Catholic Outreach to participate in the mission of the Church and give

concrete witness to Gospel charity, in collaboration with the Holy Father.

"Your work with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is a strong endorsement of your partnership with the work of the Universal Church," Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco said. "By providing hope to the faithful overseas by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, delivering medical relief to the sick and shelter to the homeless, and through self-help projects, you are embodying the Papal Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*."

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US Catholics Having Major Impact on Poverty by Building Simple, Sturdy Homes for Needy Families

Sadly, Rosetithe Augustin's two sons are growing up in conditions no child should ever experience. Their family's tiny dwelling in Haiti has a leaky scrap metal roof, and its mud-and-wood walls are slowly melting away with each passing rainstorm. In the summer months, the air inside often becomes so oppressive it can be challenging just to breathe.

"When it rains, I would look up to see where the water was coming from. Then, I would look down and see a river at my feet," lamented Rosetithe. "The children would get wet, and their books would get wet and were destroyed in the water."

"Like any mother, Rosetithe wants the best for her sons, but she knows her family's living conditions are creating a lot of roadblocks to their success. It's almost impossible to create a stable, healthy home life for young children in a house like hers. I know I would struggle to do it," said Michele Sagarino, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, one of the largest and most respected Catholic relief and development ministries serving in the Caribbean region. "That's why we have made it a priority to build and repair the homes of poor families in places like Kobonal, Haiti. When someone like Rosetithe receives that helping hand and can raise her children in a safe, sturdy home — well, it's life-transforming. There's no other way to describe it."

Asked why home security is so important, Sagarino detailed how that foundational support radiates blessings to many other areas of a family's life.

"A safe home improves health by creating a dry and sanitary place for people to eat and sleep. It has educational benefits too. Children don't lose school days due to sickness, and they have a productive place to read and study," she said. "Then there's the security and peace it provides. Families are safe from intruders and vermin, and they no longer need to worry about the dangers posed by tropical storms. Imagine the relief it is to have all those burdens lifted from your shoulders."

This year, in its effort to improve the living conditions of families like Rosetithe's, Cross Catholic Outreach has launched a special national campaign called "Children of Light," a name chosen to reflect the powerful call to service God makes in Ephesians 5: *For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — for the fruit of the light is found*



Above: Many fragile, single-room homes in Kobonal, Haiti, have dirt floors and leaky roofs, making them unsanitary and unsafe. Below: The Augustin children face tremendous challenges in life. The poverty in their region of Haiti is extreme.



in all that is good and right and true.

"There is actually a double meaning in this particular campaign title," Sagarino said. "We Catholics stand as children of light when we serve the poor, and the boys and girls we're helping — are also children of light. They have incredible potential to shine for the glory of God if we can just help them overcome the hurdles poverty has placed in their lives."

To accomplish its home building goals in Haiti, Cross Catholic Outreach will be working with the Kobonal Haiti Mission, located in the country's Central Plateau region. The director of the mission, Father Glenn Meaux, has a goal of building 50 homes to provide

336 children and 109 adults with a safe, sanitary place to live. Catholics in the U.S. are being asked to contribute to the project by sponsoring a house at a cost of just \$11,920 or by giving a smaller donation that can be combined with others to accomplish the same goal.

"I know it's a significant amount to ask someone to give, but a number of people are eager to fund an entire house," Sagarino said. "They have generous hearts, and they appreciate the fact that the contribution they are giving will provide a very specific blessing and will have a far-reaching impact. Of course, we're deeply grateful to those who give any amount to this goal. Every dollar is important in helping Fr. Meaux achieve his goal of building 50 homes

for families in need."

Sagarino added that she hopes those who participate in the "Children of Light" campaign will also use the opportunity to learn more about the Kobonal Haiti Mission and its other outreaches to the poor.

"Too few Catholics in the U.S. are hearing about the incredible work being done in the developing world by our priests, religious sisters and Catholic lay leaders," she said. "We want to get the word out. We want to celebrate the wonderful things the Church is doing in the world — as well as to encourage U.S. Catholics to support important missions of mercy. One way they can do that is by building homes in Kobonal."

How to Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach's effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper, scan the QR code, or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC03034, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

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



Pope: Amid 'barrage' of words online and off, listen to God's word

By Justin McLellan
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

God's word cuts through the sea of chatter spoken aloud and uttered online to touch the hearts of Christians and inspire them to share the Gospel, Pope Francis said.

"While society and social media reflect the violence of words, let us draw closer to and cultivate the quiet word that brings salvation, that is meek, that doesn't make noise, that enters into the heart," the pope said during his homily at Mass for the church's celebration of Sunday of the Word of God in St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 21.

Although Christians today are "barraged by words about the Church," he encouraged them to "rediscover the word of life that resounds in the Church."

"If not, we end up talking more about ourselves" than about Jesus, "and concentrate on our own thoughts and problems rather than on Christ and his word," the pope told the approximately 5,000 people gathered for Mass in the basilica.

In 2019, the pope decreed that the third Sunday of Ordinary Time be devoted to the "celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God," and celebrated Mass to mark the first Sunday of the Word of God in January 2020.

During Mass for the fifth

annual celebration of the day, Pope Francis installed two women to the ministry of lector, a ministry he formally opened to women in 2021, and nine men and women to the ministry of catechist.

"All the baptized, insofar as they participate in the mission of the Christ (as) priest, prophet and king, have an active part in the life and action of the church," he told the catechists during their rite of installment — which he established in 2021 — adding that catechists are called to "live more intensely the apostolic spirit, in the example of those men and women who helped Paul and the other apostles in spreading the Gospel."

The pope gave a Bible to each of the lectors and a silver crucifix to each of the catechists.

In his homily, the pope recalled the many saints who were deeply touched by the word of God — St. Anthony, St. St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Francis of Assisi — and who were moved to lead lives of holiness.

"Their lives were changed by the word of life, but I ask, how is it that for many of us the same thing does not happen?" Pope Francis asked. "So often we listen to God's word (and) it goes in one ear and out the other."

"We need to stop being



Father Francis Doyle, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Marshall and St. Joseph Parish in Slater, blesses parishioners at Mass on Jan. 21, which is celebrated in the Church as the Sunday of the Word of God.

'deaf' to God's word," he said. "This is a risk for all of us: overwhelmed by a barrage of words, we let the word of God glide by us. We hear it, yet we fail to listen to it; we listen to it, yet we don't keep it; we keep it, yet we don't let it provoke us to change."

After the Gospel reading,

the Book of the Gospels was placed in front of the basilica's main altar and remained opened during the Eucharistic Liturgy.

While Pope Francis presided over the Mass, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization's section for new evange-

lization, was the main celebrant at the altar.

In his homily, the pope reflected on the day's Gospel reading from St. Mark in which Jesus calls out to Simon and Andrew who were fishing and immediately "left their nets and followed him."

Copies of St. Mark's Gospel in Italian were placed on seats throughout the basilica for Mass participants to take with them.

Like the apostles, Christians today also are called to become "God's messengers and witnesses to a world drowning in words, yet thirsting for the very word it so often ignores."

"How often we struggle to leave behind our security, our routine, because these entangle us like fish in a net," the pope said. "Yet those who respond to the word experience healing from the snares of the past, because the living word gives new meaning to their lives."

After Mass, Pope Francis appeared at the window of his study overlooking St. Peter's Square to pray the Angelus with visitors and told them that to proclaim the Gospel "is not wasted time."

"Brothers, sisters, every one of us has received the call to evangelize, and to do so in the state of life in which we find ourselves, with the abilities, friends, work, age and neighborhood we have," he said.

SHELTER

From page 5

"He's really taken it under his wing to make sure it happens," said Deacon Martin. "And, it's not just, 'Okay, I won't stand in your way if you want to do this.' It's 'Here it is. Make it happen.'"

More to come

The shelter opens when the wind chill is 15 degrees or lower, or when the "real-feel" temperature is 30 degrees with a 50% chance of precipitation.

When the weather is dangerously cold for several days, the shelter remains open 24 hours a day.

Mike Eufinger signed up to help out on the 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. shift for one of the St. Vincent de Paul teams after a few invitations from Fr. Corel and

Deacon Martin.

He attributes his "yes" to "a call from the Holy Spirit to help others."

He noted that the late shift is usually pretty quiet, giving him time to read.

Knowing ahead of time that he'll be volunteering allows him to rest up before his shift.

He suggested that people who are thinking about volunteering at warming shelters in their communities should go ahead and take the plunge.

"I think it's not only the Christian thing to do, but think about how if you were in that situation, you'd want others to do this for you," he said.

Mr. Eufinger asked for prayers for people who live in the cold on the streets, and for the people who are try-

ing to help them escape that cycle.

In 2022, arctic temperatures came through between Christmas and New Year's, sending the Sedalia warming shelter into 24-hour mode for over a week.

This year's deep freeze broke that record.

"Things have warmed up, but we have no way to know what we'll face over the next two months," Deacon Martin stated on Jan. 25. "I'm sure we'll have another episode before the winter's out."

"We do our best"

Mrs. Martin emphasized that the warming shelter is a matter of life and death.

"We do this to prevent folks from dying in the cold," she stated. "We do our best. We wish we could do more."

The high cost of housing and heat make life difficult for people who are already struggling.

"When you're on the front lines and have to look those folks in the eye, and you know how hard they're struggling to try to make ends meet, you always wish there was more you could do," said Mrs. Martin.

Deacon and Mrs. Martin are aware of God's constant presence at the shelter.

"We know that without his presence, we could never pull this off, and he never lets us down," Mrs. Martin stated.

Sports can unite world, celebrate diversity, pope tells athletes

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Sports has the power to unite people, regardless of their differences, and to remind everyone they are part of one human family, Pope Francis said.

"It is an instrument of inclusion that breaks down barriers and celebrates diversity," he said Jan. 13.

And with the summer Olympic and Paralympic Games scheduled this year, "my hope is that, in the particularly dark historical moment we are living, sport can build bridges, break down barriers, and foster peaceful relations," he added, recalling the tradition of the "Olympic truce."

The pope made his remarks during an audience with members of the Vatican's sports association, "Athletica Vaticana," and representatives of partnering organizations, such as the world governing body of cycling -- the Union Cycliste Internationale and the Italian Athletics Federation. Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça, prefect of the Dicastery for

Culture and Education, and Bishop Paul Tighe, dicastery secretary, were also present.

Founded in 2019, Athletica Vaticana includes Vatican employees or citizens, priests, nuns and members of the Swiss Guard, and competes in sporting competitions on the local, national and international level.

In his speech, the pope expressed his "joy at the presence of Athletica Vaticana on the streets, the tracks and playing fields, and for your Christian witness in the great world of sport."

"Athletica Vaticana has been committed to promoting fraternity, inclusion and solidarity, bearing witness to the Christian faith among sportsmen and women, amateurs and professionals," he said.

He praised their desire to be close to those who are "fragile" or marginalized and their initiatives with young people with physical or intellectual disabilities, with prisoners, migrants and poor families.

"It is good that everyone participates in these meetings with the same dignity, including Olympic and Paralympic

champions, diplomats and members of the Curia. I repeat the word 'closeness,' a closeness that becomes tender with sport," he said.

"Sport is a means to express one's talents, but also to build society," the pope said. "Sport teaches us the value of fraternity. We are not islands: on the pitch, it does not matter where a person comes from, what language or culture they speak. What counts is the commitment and the common goal."

"This unity in sport is a

powerful metaphor for our lives. It reminds us that despite our differences, we are all members of the same human family. Sport has the power to unite people, regardless of their physical, economic or social abilities," he said.

"I encourage every one of you to see sport as a path of

life that may help you to build a more united community and to promote the values of Christian life: loyalty, sacrifice, team spirit, commitment, inclusion, asceticism, redemption," he said, highlighting the importance of amateur sports, "which is the lifeblood of sporting activity."



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YEAR

From page 4

effectively, precisely because it has prayer as its foundation," he said.

When asked how the year can complement the U.S. bishops' National Eucharistic Revival underway, Msgr. Graham Bell, undersecretary of the dicastery's section for new evangelization, told Catholic News Service, "We are well pleased that the American bishops want to call attention to what

Vatican II calls the source and summit of Christian life because it must be the foundation of every renewal."

Therefore, the revival initiative "is very appropriate in view of the 2025 jubilee," he said.

The dicastery will release ideas, suggestions and resources as the year continues, starting with an eight-volume series of booklets titled, "Notes on Prayer," that "delve into the various dimensions of the Christian act of praying, signed by authors of international renown," Msgr. Bell said at the news conference.

As the translations are done, the series will be made available to the world's bishops' conferences, the archbishop said.

The first volume, titled *Praying Today. A Challenge to Be Overcome*, was released Jan. 23 and was written by Cardinal Angelo Comastri, retired archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica, with a preface by Pope Francis.

"Prayer is the breath of faith, it is its most proper expression. Like a silent cry that comes forth from the heart of those who believe and entrust themselves to God," the pope wrote.

The other texts, to be released over the next three months, will carry titles such as "Praying with the Psalms," "The Prayer of Jesus," "Praying with Saints and Sinners," and "The Prayer Jesus Taught Us: The 'Our Father.'"

The dicastery also will send out texts and guides digitally for dioceses to integrate, modify and distribute as they see fit,

Archbishop Fisichella said. The different texts will cover many possible aspects of a Christian's prayer life, including spiritual retreats, shrines and the Priesthood.

In addition, he noted, Pope Francis' 38 general audience talks on prayer, given from May 6, 2020, to June 16, 2021, are available online, reflect on the various forms of prayer and contain many useful suggestions.

Pope Francis will set up a "school of prayer" for 2024, he said. It will be similar to the pope's "Fridays of Mercy" initiative during the extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in 2016, when he visited people on the "peripheries," including babies in a neonatal unit, a center for the blind and a housing project.

"This will be a series of moments of encounter with specific groups of people to pray together and better understand the various forms of prayer: from thanksgiving to intercession; from contemplative prayer to the prayer of consolation; from adoration to supplication," the archbishop said.

There is "a profound need for spirituality," he said. And the Year of Prayer is meant to be "a way of fostering the relationship with the Lord, offering moments of genuine spiritual rest."

"It is like an oasis sheltered from daily stress where prayer becomes nourishment for the Christian life of faith, hope and charity," the archbishop said.

JOSEPHINUM

From page 3

by all of its members.

"That pretty much describes who I am and my perspective as a priest and now as a bishop," said Bishop McKnight.

"House of Joseph"

Father John J. Jessing founded the Josephinum in 1888, primarily to prepare priests in the United States to serve the growing immigrant communities from Germany and throughout Europe.

Pope Leo XII (+1978-1903) granted it the status of the only pontifical seminary outside Italy — a distinction it retains.

Its motto is taken from Romans 8:31: "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

The seminary's Fick Auditorium bears the name of a Rich Fountain native, Monsignor Leonard J. Fick, who served on the seminary's faculty for decades after graduating there.

"I never got to know him personally, as he had retired by the time I was a student there," said Bishop McKnight. "But I did hear a lot about him the entire time I was there."

The bishop recalls processing with other seminarians out to the cemetery on Nov. 2 of each year to remember the seminary's founders and deceased faculty members, and pausing to pray at Msgr. Fick's burial place.

Microcosm for the Church

Bishop McKnight noted that seminaries are

important places for men who are discerning a possible call to Priesthood to develop a strong sense of their calling under the guidance of competent formators.

"An individual's internal discernment complements the external discernment he receives from the Church through its agents at the seminary," he noted.

"It takes time both to discern and to prepare to be formed and configured according to the template of Christ, the High Priest," the bishop continued.

The seminary faculty is a microcosm of the whole Church, and in this case, "a very good model of clergy and religious and laity working well together," he said.

Bishop McKnight was pleased to have spent time at the Josephinum observing and absorbing the vision of the Church that the fathers of the Second Vatican Council had put forth.

Namely, that he was preparing to become a priest who serves the common Priesthood of all Baptized Catholics.

Fr. Beseau said he's proud of how that formation has carried forth into Bishop McKnight's Priesthood and Episcopacy.

"He's given over everything in his life to the service of Christ in his Church," the rector stated. "It's a real joy for us to be able to recognize that and honor it."

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'NONES'

From page 11

lack of belief in God or any higher power.

In addition, 47% of "nones" listed dislike of religious organizations and 30% pointed to negative experiences with religious people. In total, 55% of the "nones" said religious organizations, religious people or both were key reasons for being nonreligious. In 44% of the nones, a lack of need or time for religion was cited.

The Pew study also adds an important dimension to what the authors call the "complicated" link between religious disaffiliation and civic engagement. While "nones" tend to vote, volunteer and follow public af-

fairs at lower rates, that lower level of involvement is "concentrated among 'nones' whose religion is 'nothing in particular,'" rather than agnostic or atheist.

In fact, the study said that "atheists and agnostics tend to participate in civic life at rates matching or exceeding religiously affiliated people." Overall, most "nones" expressed satisfaction with their family, social and communal lives, according to the study.

The researchers also highlighted the following features of "nones":

- Moral decision making. Most "nones" (83%) base decisions between right and wrong

on a desire to avoid hurting people, with an almost equally high percentage (82%) also saying that logic and reason are crucial in this regard. Feeling good about moral decisions is a major driver (69%), as is the desire to stay out of trouble (60%). The same factors also apply to religiously affiliated people, but the "nones" do not rely on religious beliefs to weigh such factors.

- Spirituality. More than half (54%) of "nones" undertake some activity (such as meditation, exercise, yoga, spending time in nature, centering themselves) to connect with either a sense of transcendence, others or their "true self." Most "nones" also hold that animals have spirits or spiritual energies, and believe the same to be true for cemeteries, part of nature and certain objects. However, such beliefs and practices are also shared by those who are religiously affiliated.

- Perspective on science. "Nones" tend to view science more favorably than their religiously affiliated counterparts (56% compared to 40%). Yet most "nones" admit there is "something spiritual beyond the natural world" (63%) and that science is unable to explain some things (56%).

Smith told OSV News that while "there are a number of trends that suggest the U.S. is growing less religious ... it's also important to remember that in many ways, the U.S. remains a very religious place, and most Americans identify as Christians."

For Catholics, the challenge is now to focus on "two big starting points" for recalibrating their pastoral outreach to "nones" — those who may be in the pews and those beyond the church doors, said Weddell. "We want to break the silence about the reality of a liv-

ing relationship with God; we want to break the silence about Jesus," she said. "The church teaches that when we name his name, he is present; we're invoking his presence."

The second "crucial" step is "serious, intercessory prayer for a change in the local spiritual climate," joining with Christ, who is "interceding for every human being, and for the purpose of God in the fulfillment of the Father's plan of salvation," Weddell said.

Such prayer lifts the "secular haze" that "makes it very difficult for people to see and experience the presence of God," she said.

Amid the National Eucharistic Revival — a three-year, grassroots initiative of the U.S. bishops to enkindle devotion to the Real Presence — parishes can offer Eucharistic adoration to seekers, inviting them encounter Christ and pursue a deeper relationship with him through the Catholic faith.

"The great high priest intercessor is dwelling in our tabernacles ... pouring out his Holy Spirit," said Weddell. "When we intercede (for souls), we will see a lot more of these sovereign sort of actions of God that we don't have in our five-year plan, that we never even dreamed of, and that we don't even have concepts for."



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BP. BAHHUTH

From page 6

his doctorate and obtained a student work visa to gain experience in his field.

He taught for a year as a visiting assistant professor of chemical engineering at the University of Wyoming, then found to his chagrin that no one was hiring.

He moved out to California where his parents were living. That's when he poured out his heart to God in St. John Vianney Church in Hacienda Heights.

Not yet ready to accept the better future God had in mind for him, the aspiring chemical engineer got hired at a local convenience store and worked his way up to manager, then area sales manager.

"All the time, I was also learning more and more about the Church," he said. "I had this hunger to learn about my faith, and to serve."

Seeking more flexibility at work, he bought two sandwich-store franchises and became his own boss.

People at church began asking him if he'd thought about being a priest.

No, but he had thought about helping people in desperate need.

"I figured that if God is calling me to do anything, it's to be a missionary and work with the poor," he recalled.

He joined a Catholic lay missionary group and was assigned to a parish in a predominantly poor neighborhood in Los Angeles.

"I wanted to do what God wanted me to do," Bishop Bahhuth recalled. "But how do you figure out what God wants you to do?"

His spiritual director told him, "You have to know your real self. God made you a certain way to help you fulfill his plan."

"The plan is not going to come from the outside but from the inside," the spiritual director continued. "So, what do you want to do with your life? What gives meaning to your life?"

Bishop Bahhuth grappled with those questions over the next several months.

Finally, his spiritual director let him off the hook, saying: "I don't think I've ever

heard you say that you have a Priestly vocation. All I hear you say is that people tell you that you ought to be (a priest)."

"If you don't want to be a priest, that's a good sign that God doesn't want you to be one," the spiritual director told him.

Bishop Bahhuth was surprised to feel sad, rather than relieved.

"I did still want to help people break the cycle of poverty," he recalled. "But when we die, we don't get to take anything with us."

"However, if I could lead one person to Christ, they would receive life for all eternity," he said.

In the time it took him to drive home, about an hour, "all the pieces came together and I got my answer."

"I said, 'Yeah, that's what I want to do with my life!'"

Without a doubt

The future bishop applied for admission to St. John Seminary in Camarillo, California, as a seminarian for the Los Angeles archdiocese.

He went in completely open to whatever the Lord had in mind for him, "but there was never a time when I seriously doubted that this was what God was calling me to do," he said.

"And he kept affirming me."

Having studied science and religion in great depth, he is convinced that there's no conflict between them.

"They only complement each other," he said.

He was delighted to discover in the seminary how philosophical analysis mirrors the mathematical method of proving something to be correct or incorrect.

"You start with a theorem and work back from there," he noted. "I enjoyed it — the analysis and critical thinking and how it related to scientific thinking and analysis."

Have no fear

Bishop Bahhuth was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on June 1, 1996.

"The main thing about Ordination that stays in my mind



Monsignor (later Auxiliary Bishop) Albert M. Bahhuth of Los Angeles distributes Holy Communion during Mass at Holy Family Church in South Pasadena, California, July 16, 2023.

— OSV News photo/Pablo Kay, courtesy Angelus News

is the part where we lay prostrate on the floor," he said.

"To me, that's the most moving part of the Ordination Rite. I always go back to that — reminding myself to surrender completely to God."

The prayer card for his Ordination included the words: "Fear is useless. Have faith in God."

"God is always faithful," Bishop Bahhuth insisted. "Once you say the 'yes,' God will make it work as long as we stay faithful."

He ministered in parishes for 20 years before serving for five years in the Chancery as vicar general and moderator of the curia.

Named a monsignor in 2017, he returned to parish ministry in 2021.

Last Summer, he received a call from Cardinal Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

The cardinal inquired how the transition back to parish life was going.

Then, he asked, "Are you ready for another transition?"

Namely, would he accept Pope Francis's appointment to serve as one of four new auxiliary bishops of Los Angeles?

"It wasn't something I wanted or was working for, but I had to believe it was the work of the Holy Spirit," said Bishop Bahhuth. "How can you say 'no' to God's will?"

Later, while praying in the chapel of his rectory, the bishop-elect was overcome with the responsibility that lay be-

fore him.

"Suddenly, it hit me that I was going to be a successor to the Apostles," he recalled. "The weight of that responsibility tied my stomach in knots."

His spiritual director reassured him, as did Los Angeles Archbishop José Gomez.

"The more I prayed and talked to my spiritual director, the more I realized that if God calls us to something, he will give us what we need to help him fulfil his plan for salvation," said Bishop Bahhuth.

"All I need to do is surrender my will and say 'yes' to him," he stated.

So, on Sept. 26, 2023, in the massive Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, Archbishop Gomez consecrated him and the other three new auxiliaries as bishops.

Again, Bishop Bahhuth lay prostrate before the altar.

In the Ordination Rite for bishops, the newly ordained are commanded "to be a loving father, a simple shepherd and a wise teacher."

"I pray for each of those things every day, along with being 'a humble servant,'" he said.

He chose as his episcopal motto: "Go Make Disciples," from the instructions Jesus gave his closest followers before ascending into heaven (Mathew 28:19).

"Good things happening"

In his new role, Bishop

Bahhuth oversees the administration and spiritual care of a four-deanery region of the nation's largest archdiocese.

The region includes about 1 million Catholics.

He gathers monthly with the priests of the region, visits parishes regularly, helps them deal with problems with such things as finances or human resources, and administers the Sacrament of Confirmation in parishes throughout the region.

"Every day is different," he said. "And I've been so blessed."

One of his main priorities is helping the priests of his region find ways to collaborate on administrative tasks in order to free up more time and energy for celebrating the Sacraments, engaging in pastoral ministry and leading people to God.

He's also committed to promoting evangelization and helping Catholics grow in their relationship with Christ.

"We want people to come to Mass and take part in the Sacraments not because of some obligation or out of habit or fear but in order to fall in love with Jesus," he said.

"And in order for you to have that, Christ has to be part of your daily life."

Bishop Bahhuth asks for prayers "that God will give me the wisdom to know his will and the courage to do it."

He believes that the Church's continued existence — despite everything — for the past 2,000 years is testament to God's strength and glory.

"The Church is still here, and the Gospel is still being proclaimed, and God is still calling people to follow him as priests and religious," he said.

"It seems that all we see or hear or remember are the bad things in the world," he stated. "But there are a lot of good things happening and a lot of people who are Catholic doing great things out of faith."

People still ask him if he wishes he could have realized his priestly calling sooner.

"I say no!" he stated. "The man I am now and the priest I am now was formed by all of those experiences."



By Father Donald Antweiler
ACROSS

1. This puzzle features more responses to the unprecedented, massive four month-long series of earthquakes, ____ and tremors from mid- Dec. 1811-1812 in the Mo. Bootheel & Mississippi River Valley.
9. A popular online site to buy and sell globally in a secure environment.
13. My recurring cancer left me in an endless ____ of visits with doctors.
14. Abraham's ancestral homeland.
15. "Earthquake religion" became the common ____ for backsliding after the tremors finally declined.
16. Letters for Int'l. Monetary Fund; a powerful UN group funded by 190 members to promote world economic stability and growth; headquartered in Washington, D.C.
17. "Et ____, Brute?" —from Shakespeare's play "Julius Caesar" meaning "And you, Brute?" (i.e., Caesar's last words as he lay stabbed to death by a cabal led by his treacherous friend Brutus).
18. A brand of cola.
19. To be "in ____" is to be "on the same page."
22. Mild shaking was ____ as far away as Detroit, Baltimore, Charleston, New Orleans, Arkansas and Nebraska.
23. Letters for Russia Today, a Russian state-controlled int'l. TV station.
25. A clumsy, uncultured or boorish person.
28. "It is impossible for me to ____ you a just conception of the terror that pervades this country," —Illinois territorial governor Ninian Edwards in *Convulsed States*, Jonathan T. Hancock.
29. "...this woman was caught in the very ____ of committing adultery," (John 8:4).
31. Indicating one's birth name.
32. Neither I ____ anyone else really cares about it.
34. Resources were thin in the area. "After the Louisiana Purchase (1804), the Archbishop of Baltimore suddenly became responsible for the ____ Mississippi Valley and beyond with hardly any priests," —*Convulsed States*, Jonathan T. Hancock.
35. Letters for Twitter, a huge social media platform, now called "X".
36. In baseball, home ____.
38. Prefix for teem or chew.
39. "Part of (Lincoln's) greatness was to see the humanity ____ people...and recognized the essential economic ingredient was people," —*Ways and Means, Lincoln and the Financing of the Civil War*, Roger Lowenstein.
40. Mammary gland of a female sheep, cow or goat.
41. TravelCenters of America (____) is a company with 280+ full-service gas stations on major routes across 44 States, including at Cuba in our diocese. It is now owned by #69 ACROSS.
43. "During the first earthquake (mid-Dec. 1811), a traveling priest left his ____ near New Madrid to offer confessions to a frightened riverside crowd," —*Convulsed States*, Jonathan T. Hancock.
45. Abbr. related to Rd. or Ave.
46. Letters after a dentist's name.
48. "After the third ____ earthquake (Feb. 12, 1812), Bishop Joseph Flaget of Bardstown, Ky. took note of the tremors and offered confessions," —*Convulsed States*, Jonathan T. Hancock.
50. It's sort of true, more or ____.
52. Letters for Post Script, an add on message after the end of a letter.
54. When in Hawaii, we were invited to ____ (2 wds.).
57. Original 12-step program.
58. My "____" moment in coming to better know Jesus happened on a Teens Encounter Christ, at Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
60. "A great noise and awful grumbling shook the fowls off their _____. The cry of a bird was not to be heard the entire day. I recollect it continued for 23 days and some say longer," —Ellis Cornelius in Huntsville, Alabama; *Convulsed States*, Jonathan T. Hancock.
61. "When residents of New Madrid found higher ____...amid scenes of terror, all Catholics and Protestants became of one religion and partook of one feeling," —*Convulsed States*, Jonathan T. Hancock.
64. When advised of the cost, I told the architect to ____ the blueprints.
66. "____! I really felt it: joy isn't found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul," —*Story of a Soul*, St. Therese of Lisieux.
67. Letters for the United States Navy.
68. "And if you ____ to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendant..." (Galatians 3:29).
69. Letters for British Petroleum, major oil company that has bought out #41 ACROSS.
70. A left over morsel of food.
72. "(God's Mother) asked him, 'Did you think the gold was given to you to ____ for yourself alone?'" —*Dead Water*, Barbara Hambly.
73. Letters for Ultra High Frequency; used in line of sight transmissions in TV, radio, Wi-Fi, cordless phones, etc.
75. "The world won't change ____ our hearts and minds do," —Dr. Tracy Bond.
77. Prayerful last words.
81. Abbr. for 1st Gospel.
82. In response to the earthquakes, the U.S. Gov't. in 1815 offered New Madrid County residents to trade their damaged worthless holdings and claim 160-acre ____ elsewhere. This was the first time in U.S. history that federal social welfare relief was enacted.
83. Mother of God and Magdalene.
84. Cold War foe.

DOWN

1. The capital of this State is Montgomery, home of the Rosa Parks Civil Rights museum (abbr.).
2. Fee-fi-____-fum.
3. "The surest way to become a pacifist is ____ join the infantry," —*Up Front*, Bill Mauldin.
4. "Swamped, cracked and pocketed by sandblows, land near the ____ was altered irrevocably," —*Convulsed States*, Jonathan T. Hancock.
5. "For it is better to ____ for doing good...than for doing evil," (1 Peter 3:17).
6. Post-earthquakes, St. Louis territorial official Frederick Bates dreaded Mo. was becoming 'nothing but a place of exile for robbers and ____ in a few years," —*Convulsed States*, Jonathan T. Hancock.
7. "The Gospel isn't a life management program. It shouldn't merely be the ____ we fall on when life gets ugly. It should be the legs we walk on," —Mary DeMuth.
8. He had a gift for coming up with the right thing to say on the ____ of the moment.
9. "She will ____, and they will laugh at her. (For) that is not the King that sits there," —*Personal Reflections of Joan of Arc*, Mark Twain.
10. I love ____ and eggs in the morning.
11. "Nothing intensified the bond between Pres. Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II ____ the assassination attempts in 1981, which occurred only six weeks apart," —*A Pope and a President*, Paul Kengor.
12. Hark ____, do you fling the King's command in his face and refuse to deliver this message of yours to his servants?" —*Personal Reflections of Joan of Arc*, Mark Twain.
19. Country internet code for Singapore.
20. A yellow triangle shaped sign at an intersection means ____.
21. Although this State's nickname is The Silver State, it also produces 75% of all the gold mined in the U.S. (abbr.).
24. Mao ____ Tung (Mao Zedong), Chinese Communist leader.
26. Insurance giant.
27. The ____ priests residing in the area circulated through distant communities to celebrate the sacraments sporadically. St. Louis with nearly 6,000 people had no regular priest from 1808-1818.
30. "How sharper than a serpent's ____ it is to have a thankless child," —"King Lear," Act 1, Scene 4; Shakespeare.
33. "____ the ramparts we watched..." —Star Spangled Banner.
36. "The first requisite of a good citizen...is that he shall be able and willing to ____ his own weight," —Theodore Roosevelt.
37. Save a little here, and a little there, and it all ____ up after a while.
38. "Many people believed the ____ of the world was at hand, or at the very least, the earthquakes demanded immediate spiritual responses;" e.g., "Baptist

PUZZLE CLUES
continued on page 21

PUZZLE CLUES

From page 20

- and Methodist conversions spiked,” —*Convulsed States*, Jonathan T. Hancock.
39. Moon of Jupiter.
42. Chemical letters for gold.
43. “...the Lord, your God, is God in heaven above and on earth ____,” (Joshua 2:11).
44. “...because every lie is alien to the ____,” (1 John 2:21).
46. The discovery of the ____ Sea scrolls in 1947 was a major event casting new light on the Jewish religion in the time of Jesus and the emergence of Christianity.
47. The extra tire a car carries.
49. We are saving all that clutter for a ____ sale.
51. “A word in the wrong ____ may be a knife in the wrong back,” —*Brother Cadfael’s Penance*, Ellis Peters.
53. “Whole districts have been depopulated and many valuable farms utterly destroyed. Residents were now wandering without a home to go to or a roof to ____ them,” —Mo. territory Gov. Wm. Clark petitioning Congress for relief from the New Madrid earthquakes.
55. Letters for Urban Outfitters, a trendy apparel retail chain.
56. Singer/musician for King David (see verse 1 of Psalm 50 and of all the Psalms from 73-83); Psalm 73 esp. is his honest and heart-warming story of faith and struggle.
57. Although a civil judge ____ a civil marriage, a Catholic marriage tribunal determines whether a relationship that appeared to be a marriage was actually a marriage at all as the Church understands it.
59. “Much ____ About Nothing”; comedy by Wm. Shakespeare.
61. “And they sat down, one ____ on one side of the pool and the other on the opposite side,” (2 Samuel 2:13).
62. He is really ____ lunch about a lot of things! (2 wds.)
63. “The cell of a Carmelite nun holds secrets that the rest of ____ will discover only in heaven,” —Vatican secretary of state Cardinal Bertone on Sister Lucia, one of the Fatima children.
65. A nursing degree.
68. “If any man violates this edict, a ____ is to be taken from his house, and he is to be lifted up and impaled on it...” (Ezra 6:11).
69. No ifs, ands, or ____! Just do it!
71. Letters for Round Nose Lead; ammo that delivers a balance between expansion and penetration, making it ideal for hunting small animals like rabbits and squirrels.
74. For years, immigrants passed over the devastated earthquake areas. Only trappers were attracted by the increased numbers of muskrats and ____ bearing small animals inhabiting the vast newly-created swamplands.
76. St. Louis water “comes out of the turbulent bank-caving Missouri (river) and every tumblerful of ____ holds an acre of land in solution,” —*Life on the Mississippi*, Mark Twain.
78. The Bay State where the Pilgrims first settled (abbr.).
79. This State was originally called New Netherlands (abbr.).
80. Letters for Sacred Scripture.
81. Letters for Mizzou, the flagship campus of the 4-campus Univ. of Mo. system.

ANSWERS on page 23

The end is in sight



Reconstruction of the medieval choir framework of the Notre Dame Cathedral is pictured in Paris Jan. 12, 2024. The cathedral was ravaged by a fire in 2019 that sent its spire crumbling down, and restoration work continues before the whole world will see the cathedral reopen Dec. 8.
— OSV News photo/Sarah Meyssonier, Reuters

CONSECRATED

From page 1

God was directing me to be.”

SSNDs make up the largest contingent of sisters now serving in this diocese.

Sister Mary Rost SSND has been the parish life collaborator at Immaculate Conception Parish in Brookfield for the past five and a half years. She previously served in Russellville.

The Brookfield parish consists of about 190 families.

“I believe in the goodness and life of the parish,” Sr. Mary stated.

She is convinced that as a religious sister, she offers to the parish, the community and the Church the perspective of a faith-filled woman who enjoys working with councils and committees to discern what’s best for the parish and working together to achieve common goals.

“I enjoy participating in our activities and feel that it is important to be as involved as I encourage others to be, and to try to be consistent in thanking others for all they do,” she said.

Pope St. John Paul II in 1997 instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life.

This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on Feb. 2. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed, symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world.

So, too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

Sr. Karen said belonging to a religious congregation such as the SSNDs means she’s never been alone.

“I have the support from the sisters,” she said.

Someone recently told her that “it makes a difference here having a Sister with us.”

“I am so grateful to God for the invitation to follow Him as a School Sister of Notre Dame and now to be in ministry with the people of Cuba, Bourbon and Steelville,” she said.

Sister Claret Feldhake SSND teaches

art at St. Joseph School in Westphalia.

“I am able to teach students through art about not only various media, color, drawing, painting, but also about various cultures throughout the world through the art forms of those countries,” she noted.

She also holds and cultivates a strong commitment to prayer and the Sacraments.

“Hopefully, it encourages the parishioners and students by being visible at our school Masses, Mass during the week and on the weekend,” she said.

The SSND congregation maintains an active presence in nations on several continents.

“Our community is very strong in diverse cultures,” Sr. Claret noted. “Being able to share this with students, faculty and parishioners is a blessing.”

Sr. Claret previously served for 13 years as a missionary in Africa; taught art in high schools; and served as director of care for aged sisters at Veronica House in St. Louis; and accepted her

current role in Westphalia.

All of this helps illustrate how the Holy Spirit works in people’s lives to share God’s love to many people, she said.

Sr. Claret noted that in a culture saturated with instant access to information and entertainment, “one can easily forget to be present to the God within us and in those we are serving.”

“Prayers are needed to help us stay centered on our call to serve God through serving and being present to the people in our lives,” she said.

Her advice to anyone who feels called to exploring a vocation to religious life is to start by talking to someone who’s already in religious life.

“Ask questions, share personal reflections on the call, and most of all, pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance in following the call,” she suggested.

Sr. Karen’s advice is simply to “Come and See.”

usccb.org/events/2024/world-day-prayer-consecrated-life

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

Feb. 2

Westphalia, K of C pre-Lenten drive-thru fish fry, 4-6:30 pm

Feb. 4

Argyle, Argyle/Koeltztown Volunteer Fire Department annual pancake, sausage & egg breakfast, 7:30-11 am, K of C Hall

Feb. 10

Columbia, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish Mardi Gras Festival, 11 am-4 pm

Feb. 11

Belle, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am; **Starken- burg**, Church of the Risen Savior Parish breakfast, 7-11 am, Valentine Hall; **Westphalia**, Lions Club breakfast, 7-11:30 am, Lions Den

Feb. 16

Eldon, K of C Lenten fish fry, 5-7 pm, Sacred Heart Catholic Center; **Holts Summit**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 3:30-7 pm; **Jefferson City**, K of C Council #1054 Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, 1822 Tanner Bridge Rd; **Jefferson City**, Bishop McAuliffe K of C Council/Boy Scout Troop 104 Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall; **Morrison**, Assumption Parish Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **St. James**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish hall; **Taos**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm

Feb. 18

St. Anthony, K of C breakfast, 7:30-11:30 am, St. Anthony Parish Hall

QUESTION

From page 8

other way.

However, in contrast, we as Catholics believe that the Eastern Orthodox Churches, despite not being in union with the Pope in Rome, have nearly identical understanding of the sacraments as well as priests and bishops ordained via apostolic succession. Therefore, the Orthodox do have valid sacraments from a Catholic perspective, and thus we also recognize the Real Presence in their celebrations of the Eucharist.

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.

Feb. 23

California, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4-6:30 pm, Annunciation Parish basement; **Eldon**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 5-7 pm, Sacred Heart Catholic Center; **Holts Summit**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 3:30-7 pm; **Jefferson City**, K of C Council #1054 Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, 1822 Tanner Bridge Rd; **Russellville**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **St. James**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish hall; **Taos**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm

Mar. 1

Chamois, Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish seafood buffet, 4-7:30 pm; **Columbia**, Sacred Heart K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School; **Eldon**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 5-7 pm, Sacred Heart Catholic Center; **Holts Summit**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 3:30-7 pm; **Jefferson City**, K of C Council #1054 Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, 1822 Tanner Bridge Rd; **Jefferson City**, Bishop McAuliffe K of C Council/Boy Scout Troop 104 Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall; **St. James**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish hall; **Wardsville**, Wardsville/Osage Bend K of C Lenten Fish Fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, St. Stanislaus gym

Mar. 10

Belle, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am; **St. Thomas**, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish ham & sausage breakfast, 8-11:30 am; **Starken- burg**, Church of the Risen Savior Parish breakfast, 7-11 am, Valentine Hall

Meetings & Conferences

Feb. 7

VIRTUAL, Estate Planning online seminar for Catholic families, 6:30-7:30 pm, for info or to register visit [http://bit.ly/CatholicPlanning](https://bit.ly/CatholicPlanning)

Feb. 12, 20, 27 & Mar. 5

Belleville, IL, "Exploring the Big Questions of the Cosmos," 4-week study with Vatican astronomer, Br. Guy Consomagnon, S.J., 10 am-noon, Kings House Retreat Center, for info or to register visit <https://kh.snows.org>

Feb. 23

Jefferson City, Practicum & follow-up training on P/E core concepts, for Clergy & Marriage Prep Facilitators, 8:30 am-4 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, for info or to register call 573-635-9127 or email faithformation@diojeffcity.org

Feb. 24

Jefferson City, Practicum & follow-up training on P/E core concepts, for Clergy & Marriage Prep Facilitators, 8:30 am-4 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, for info or to register call 573-635-9127 or email faithformation@diojeffcity.org

Mar. 3

Jefferson City, Double feature presentation with Jason Evert, "Purified" chastity presentation 3-4:30 pm and "Gender & Theology of Your Body" presentation 6:30-7:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, for tickets visit chastity.com/purified, for info call 573-635-7991 or email julie.g@cathedraljlc.org

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Every Tuesday

Jefferson City, "Tuesday With Faith," small group discussions, 6:30-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info, call 573-645-2478 or email jimkemna@gmail.com

Tuesdays during Lent

Camdenton, Catholics Returning Home, 6:30-8 pm, St. Anthony Parish education center

Every Friday

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

Feb. 8

VIRTUAL, "Fuel the Body, Fuel the Soul," monthly program sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, 7-8 pm, for info visit <https://bit.ly/fuel-the-body-and-soul>

Feb. 10-11

Jefferson City, Marriage Encounter Weekend, Best Western Capital Inn, for info or to register visit jeffcityme.com

Feb. 17

Columbia/Jefferson City/VIRTUAL, "Living Flame 1" 7-session program on in-depth spiritual study and enrichment of centering prayer, 9 am-2 pm; participants may join via Zoom or in-person at Broadway Christian Church in Columbia or Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City; to register visit cocemo.org

Mar. 14

VIRTUAL, "Fuel the Body, Fuel the Soul," monthly program sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, 7-8 pm, for info visit <https://bit.ly/fuel-the-body-and-soul>

Liturgical

Feb. 18

Jefferson City, Rite of Election, 3 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph

Feb. 19, 26 & Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25 **Jefferson City**, Lenten Lectio Divina and Centering Prayer, 12:10-12:50 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph cry room

Feb. 21

Jefferson City, Crusader Family Mass, 7:15-8:30 am, Helias Catholic High School's St. Pius X Chapel

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

Feb. 17

Mary's Home, Fully Alive 2.0, afternoon of praise & worship, talks, Mass and more, 1-5 pm, Our Lady of Snows Parish, to RSVP visit diojeffcity.org/ncyc

Feb. 24

Jefferson City, Fully Alive 2.0, afternoon of praise & worship, talks, Mass and more, 1-5 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, to RSVP visit diojeffcity.org/ncyc

Mar. 2

Macon, Fully Alive 2.0, afternoon of praise & worship, talks, Mass and more, 1:30-5:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish, to RSVP visit diojeffcity.org/ncyc

Health & Wellness

Feb. 7

Jefferson City, American Heart Association CPR class, 5:30-8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info or to register contact dhilke@icangels.com or 573-690-8077

The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

Submit all events and advertising requests through our online form:
diojeffcity.org/event-listing/

Deadline for advertising is 10 business days in advance of issue date!

2024 PUBLICATION DATES

- January 5 & 19
- February 2 & 16
- March 1, 15 & 29
- April 12 & 26
- May 10 & 24
- June 7 & 21
- July 5 & 19
- August 2, 16 & 30
- September 13 & 27
- October 11 & 25
- November 8 & 22
- December 6 & 20

To submit items for the PEOPLE PAGE, including **Baptisms, Birthdays** for ages 90 and older, **Anniversaries** of 10+ years in increments of 5 ONLY (e.g., 15, 25, 45 years, etc.), **Marriages, Deaths, Elections, Honors and Appointments**, please go to:
diojeffcity.org/update-information

Anniversaries

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate
 Michael & Melissa Grgurich, 25 years

Palmyra, St. Joseph
 David & Gable Lewis, 40 years

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels
 Greg & Patty White, 40 years
 Adam & Leigh Ann Stallo, 20 years

Baptisms

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Matilda Marie Wilson**, daughter of Bret & Jennifer Wilson

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Karsyn Rea Herigon**, daughter of Cory & Amanda Herigon; **Jameson Anton Stieferman**, son of Jon & Abbey Stieferman

Birthdays

Indian Grove, St. Raphael — **Wayne Reigelsberger**, his 91st on Feb. 11; **James Speichinger**, his 91st on Feb. 17

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Dorothy Selby**, her 93rd on Feb. 6

SR. CATHY

From page 12

have to do it anymore.

"But, what's still needed is relationships — one-on-one, personal relationships," she said. "How to be with other people and listen to them and leave your cell phone in your pocket."

She said people make it harder for Jesus to be present in the world today, "with all of the devices and distractions we're carrying around with us."

She cited something as simple as walking without counting the steps or listening to something distracting.

"I've taken many walks," she said. "But, now that I'm not so busy, I can let the walk take me, and be present to nature all around me."

"Nature complements us and we complement nature," she said.

The best example

Sr. Cathy attributed much the harm and division that's taking place in the world today to people's lack of effort or ability to live in right relationship with God and each other.

"Jesus showed us how to do it," she said. "He was so good at forming

Marriages

Jefferson City, Immaculate
 Conception — **Alayba Brown & Dalton Forck**

Deaths

Mary Jo Distler, 66 — sister of Sr. Kathleen Wegman, SSND — on Jan. 16 in Jefferson City.

Indian Grove, St. Raphael — **Mary Frances Fox**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Doris Kraus**

Mokane, St. Jude Thaddeus — **Janet Deimler; Sylvia "Babe" Timmermeier**

Elections

Mokane, St. Jude Thaddeus — **Darren Murphy** president, **Jamie Hall** vice president, and **Taryn Byrne**, secretary to the Parish Pastoral Council; **Nancy McCarthy, Amy Christensen** and **Kari Perry** to the Parish Finance Council

relationships, and he knew that the best way for us to relate to each other is to share a meal.

"He said, 'Do what I do. That's all you have to do,'" she stated. "He showed us, and it's what we do."

She's convinced that by learning to be truly present to others, people are more likely to do things that matter.

"When we talk to people and listen to them and really get to know them, they might tell us a real, dire need that they have that they might not mention to anyone else," she stated.

"Then, maybe we can give them what they need, rather than offering them what we think they need."

She's not counting on any of that happening virtually or over some device.

"I don't remember how many times someone text-messaged me," she said.

"But I do remember if we sat down and had a cookie together."

"I remember the encounters. I remember the presence with people. I remember the look on people's faces," she stated.

STAUDT

From page 9

name of God.

These greater plans can be discerned in the history of St. Augustine. The first recorded marriage in the continental U.S. occurred between a Spanish man, Miguel Rodriguez, and a free black woman, Luisa de Abrego. The city would become a refuge for runaway slaves from the 13 colonies, with the blessing of King Charles II, who allowed those who converted to the Catholic faith and were willing to serve in the local militia for four years to settle there. They created the first free black settlement in the current boundaries of the U.S. in 1738, known as Fort Mose (Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose), which grew to 3,000 residents. Under Spanish colonial governance, Native tribes also found refuge in Florida, coalescing as the Seminoles.

But these things were not to last. The British temporarily took control of Florida in 1763, causing the evacuation of Catholics — Spanish, black and Native — to Cuba. After Spain regained control, it soon ceded Florida to the United States in 1821 through the Adams-Onís Treaty, forced through Andrew Jackson's occu-

pation of Pensacola in the First Seminole War, breaking up the last free zone for Native Americans on the East Coast. After that, the Catholic presence in the oldest city in the nation nearly disappeared, and with it the alternate history of the country that most chose to forget. Things could have been different, with Our Lady serving as a unifying force across peoples and cultures, but it is not too late.

As I kneel in the shrine, before the statue of Our Lady nursing her Creator, I'm grateful for her own care for my family. As our Mother, she has seen us through a fair share of difficult moments, as she has done for Catholics across the continent. We kneel here together in this place where Catholics have venerated Mary's motherhood for almost 500 years. We are still here and are still hoping that the foothold established here for faith will continue to blossom, founded not on any ordinary rock, but on the cornerstone of Christ the King.

Dr. Staudt's column is syndicated by the Denver Catholic, the official publication of the Archdiocese of Denver.

Pope: For the terminally ill, incurable doesn't mean 'un-care-able'

Vatican City

Catholic News Service

People who are terminally ill and their families should always receive the care and assistance they need, Pope Francis said.

Incurable does not mean "un-care-able," the pope said in a video message from the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, formerly known as the Apostleship of Prayer, released Jan. 30.

The pope's prayer intention for the

month of February is dedicated to people who are terminally ill, and in his video message, he said,

"Even when little chance for a cure exists, every sick person has the right to medical, psychological, spiritual and human assistance."

"Families should not be left alone in these difficult moments," he said, as "they need access to adequate means so as to provide appropriate physical, spiritual and social support."

"Let us pray that the terminally ill and their families always receive the necessary medical and human care and assistance," he said.

MCLAUGHLIN

From page 9

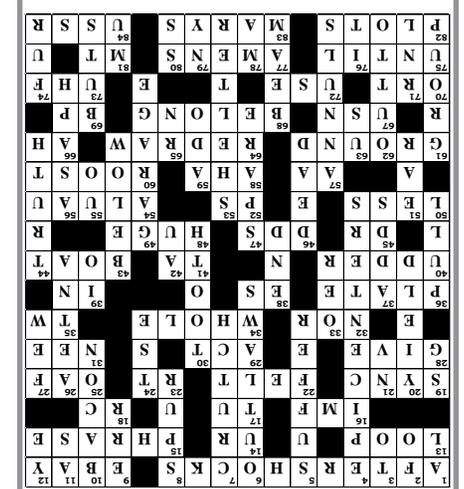
space that had hosted the sacramental milestones of her life: her first Holy Communion, her marriage — the baptism of her first child. Decades of my family's history and formation, I realized, are compressed into those pews.

Had I visited Our Lady of Hope years earlier, it would not have had the same effect. Only now, as a husband and father, can I begin to appreciate it. It was in this church that my grandmother was fashioned in the faith, the woman who so lovingly guided me to know, love and serve Christ.

My children will never meet her on earth. But I will bring them there, in time, and give to them what I received from her.

Sean McLaughlin is a teacher who writes from Pennsylvania.

Crossword puzzle answers



Eternal rest grant unto him ...



Members of the Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Trailblazers boys' and girls' varsity basketball teams in Columbia visit, pray and reflect at the grave of their school's namesake, Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton, at St. Peter Cemetery in Quincy, Illinois.

— Photos from the Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Facebook page

Vehicle Day



ABOVE and RIGHT: The Junior Deputies of the Osage County Sheriff's Department take part in a "vehicle day" on Jan. 26 outside Holy Family School in Freeburg.

— Photo from the Osage County Sheriff's Office - Missouri Facebook page

Raising their voices



Two students from St. George School in Hermann pose for a photo while Participating in the Missouri All-State Children's Choir, accompanied by their teacher, Mrs. Bush.

— Photo from the St. George Catholic School - Hermann, MO Facebook page

Strings attached



Students from St. Peter School in Jefferson City accompany the school's Contemporary Choir at Mass on Jan. 27 in St. Andrew School in Holts Summit to help kick off Catholic Schools Week.

—Photo by Jay Nies



Bible Accent

Levi was not the first man whom Jesus called to follow him. In Luke 5:1, we read that Jesus was teaching a crowd of people at Lake of Gennesaret.

Jesus saw two boats alongside the lake. The fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets.

Jesus climbed into one of the boats. It belonged to a man named Simon.

He asked Simon to put out a short distance from the shore. Then Jesus sat down and taught the crowd from the boat.

“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch,” Jesus said after he was finished teaching.

“Master,” Simon replied, “we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.”

Simon and his crew lowered the nets. They caught so many fish that the nets were overflowing and beginning to tear.

Simon and his crew signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. Both boats became so filled with fish that they were in danger of sinking.

When Simon saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees.

“Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man,” he said.

“Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men,” Jesus replied.

St. Ethelbert of Kent

St. Ethelbert of Kent was an Anglo-Saxon who was born around the year 560. He ruled over southern England and was the first Anglo-Saxon king to support Christianity. When he wanted to marry Bertha, daughter of the king of Paris, he had to promise to allow her to practice her Christian faith. He also gave St. Augustine of Canterbury land for churches and a monastery so Augustine could evangelize the people of Britain. Ethelbert became a Christian around the year 601, and he died in 616. We remember him on Feb. 24.



Jesus calls Levi the tax collector to follow him

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

After Jesus began his public ministry, he traveled to many places to teach and heal people.

In one town he visited, Jesus was approached by a male resident who had leprosy. The man saw Jesus and fell prostrate before him.

“Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean,” the man said.

“I do will it,” Jesus said as he stretched out his hand and touched the man. “Be made clean.”

The man’s leprosy immediately disappeared.

In another town, some people tried to bring a paralyzed man on a stretcher to Jesus as he was teaching in someone’s home.

Since the men could not get their friend through the crowd and to the door of the home, they instead climbed to the roof, removed some of the roofing material and lowered the stretcher through the roof so it was in front of Jesus.

Jesus saw how much faith the men had.

“As for you, your sins are forgiven,” he said to the paralyzed man.

Some scribes and Pharisees were listening to Jesus. They thought to themselves that Jesus was blasphemous, because only God can forgive sins.

Jesus knew what they were thinking. He asked whether it was easier to say the man’s sins were forgiven or to tell him to rise and walk.

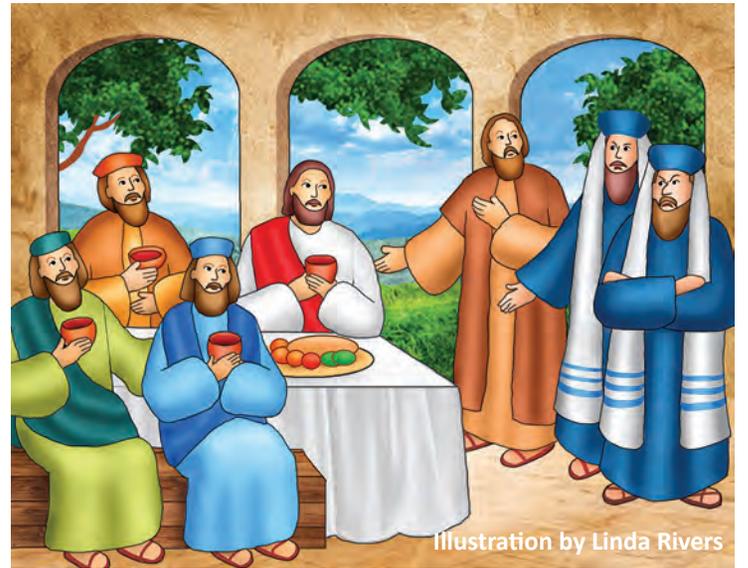


Illustration by Linda Rivers

“But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins, I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home,” Jesus said to the paralytic.

The man immediately did what Jesus said, and he walked home glorifying God.

After he healed the paralytic, Jesus went outside. There he saw a man named Levi, a tax collector who was sitting at the customs post.

Jesus went to speak to Levi.

“Follow me,” he said.

Levi got up and followed Jesus. He even gave a great banquet for Jesus in his home.

Many tax collectors also were there for the celebration.

The Pharisees and scribes started complaining.

“Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” they asked Jesus.

“Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do,” Jesus replied. “I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners.”

Read more about it...

Luke 5

1. Whom did Jesus call to follow him?
2. Why did this upset the Pharisees and scribes?

Essay



Reading for
February 17, 2024:
Luke 5:27-32

How do you show Jesus that you trust in him?




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Puzzle

Unscramble the letters in each word and arrange them to form a quotation from the children’s story.

ot het i ton lacl girthouse

evah creptenan ot moce

Sentence:

Answers: to, the, I, not, call, righteous, have, repentance, to, come; I have not come to call the righteous to repentance.

'The Good, the Bad, the Beautiful' shows Catholicism through and through

The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful: History in Three Dimensions, by Joseph Pearce, Ignatius Press (2023), 300 pages, \$19.95.

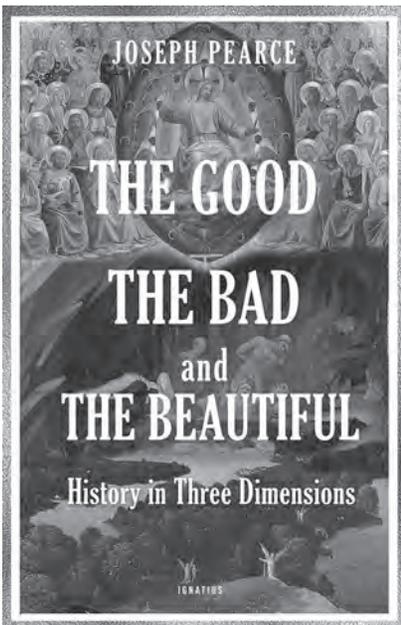
By Cecilia Cicone

Whether it's the Crusades, the Spanish Inquisition or Galileo, the apparent missteps of the Catholic Church within history are commonly used as arguments against her claim to be the one true path to salvation.

In his latest book, Joseph Pearce sets out to work through all of Church history in hopes of identifying where God was actually at work, as opposed to where human impulses and evil influences appeared as wolves in sheep's clothing.

Each chapter of *The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful* summarizes one of the centuries making up the 2,000-year history of the church.

Pearce takes a trinitarian formula, based on Jesus' identity as "the way, the truth, and the life" and identifies where the Church, in that century, had been "Good," serving as the way of salvation; where



she went "Bad," distorting the truth of God's love; and "the Beautiful" thing she produced as a lasting testament to God's majesty and the wonder he is due.

"The Good" of each century of Catholic history is what the reader is most likely to expect.

The saints, most especially martyrs who witnessed to the faith with their lives and their service to the poor and vulnerable, kept the Church on the right path.

Scholars such as Irenaeus and Thomas Aquinas revealed the divine through theological works. Widespread practice of the sacraments meant that people were continually given access to the grace they needed for salvation.

And yet, from even the first century of the Church, Pearce acknowledges that there have been forces working against the Holy Spirit, seeking to confuse, divide, and even destroy the Bride of Christ, beginning with rampant heresies and persecution.

From the fall of Rome to Martin Luther — continuing to the Enlightenment and then two world wars — throughout her history the Church has been impacted by political and cultural events. "The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful," demonstrates that although she is tossed and thrown at every age, "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

When Pearce discusses what is beautiful about each century of Church history, he looks primarily at the creation of art as a participation in the transcendental good of "beauty" without excluding secular art.

What is beautiful, he says, reflects not only human culture but also brings insight into the divine as the Creator has revealed himself in that particular age. From Augustine's *City of God* to Tolkien's *Lord*

Movie Ratings



General Patronage

Journey to Bethlehem (PG)
Wish (PG)



Adults and Adolescents

Trolls Band Together (PG)



Adults

American Fiction (R)
Freelance (R)
Freud's Last Session (PG-13)
The Holdovers (R)
The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes (PG-13)
I.S.S. (R)
Killers of the Flower Moon (R)
The Marvels (PG-13)
Origin (PG-13)
Priscilla (R)
Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé (Not rated)
Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour (PG-13)



Limited Adult Audience

Dumb Money (R)
Napoleon (R)



Morally Offensive

The Beekeeper (R)
The Exorcist: Believer (R)
Saw X (R)
Silent Night (R)
Thanksgiving (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

of the Rings Trilogy — with many artists, writers, composers, architects, and more in between — the subsections of "The Beautiful" that close out each chapter are delightful expositions of how the popular culture of the day has continually and surprisingly fostered an encounter with God.

Pearce ends the book in the 20th century, however, without mentioning the realities that we now know and must face regarding clerical sex abuse and the cover-ups surrounding all kinds of clerical misconduct.

Given the cacophony of the other evils that took place in the last century, and that fact that the abuse and misconduct issues primarily came to light in the 21st-century, this makes some sense, but at least mentioning the apparent evils

being faced almost daily by the Church faithful might have made the book feel a bit more current and complete.

While *The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful* may be a bit dense for the casual reader, it is a real treasure trove for the history buff or a budding Catholic apologist.

Each century is covered briefly, in only a few pages, hitting the highlights of the time without getting bogged down in unnecessary details.

In this book, Pearce has given the Church an incredible assist in seeing Catholicism's sometimes turbulent history within the light of God's loving plan.

Cecilia Cicone is an author and communicator who works in diocesan ministry in Northwest Indiana.

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TREASURES

From page 1

on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to the Church, communities and nation.

Bishop McKnight lauded the faith, dedication, resilience and stewardship of Catholic school educators and the positive impact they're making across the diocese.

"Thanks to your hard work, our future is very bright," he stated.

He said the teachers and staff of each Catholic school

work each day "to build up the community of faith and prepare our young people to grow into virtuous citizens."

"And in fulfilling their important ministry, they model our faith and traditions for the next generation," the bishop stated.

"Above and beyond"

Kara Higgins, principal of St. Andrew School in Tipton, said the teachers and staff, while not expecting a bonus, truly appreciate this gesture of gratitude.

"This shows their dedication to our Catholic Schools does not go unnoticed," she said.

She noted that teachers and staff go "above and beyond every day" at St. Andrew School — "and not only for the students, but for each other, as well."

"They are caring, supportive, and motivate their students to do their best in a faith-filled environment," she stated.

Amy Schebaum, principal of St. George School in Hermann, pointed out that no one goes into teaching, especially at a Catholic school, for the money and fame.

"It is a calling!" she said. "We are called to Catholic



Students of Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School in Columbia present the gifts at the Offertory to Father Roberto Ike, newly installed pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, at Mass on Sunday, Jan. 28, the first day of Catholic Schools Week.

— Photo by Annie Williams

education because we have a love of children and Christ that we want to pass on to our youngest parishioners."

She said her faculty and staff pour their love and faith into their students, as well as their knowledge of academics.

"I cannot begin to tell you how much it means to my faculty and staff as well as myself for us to be given these

"I taught at the public school and we would have never received something like this," he told her.

Mrs. Grant said it's very humbling to receive a bonus, "especially when you are doing something you enjoy!"

"Educators are not always recognized for what they do on a daily basis, which isn't just teaching," she stated.

"Our mission is to help guide, inspire, love and encourage our young people to be Christ-like and grow in their faith, service and

generous bonuses," she said. "It feels amazing to have our work recognized and deemed important work for our parishes."

Leigh Grant, principal of Immaculate Conception School in Macon, shared some candid statements from members of the I.C. faculty and staff:

"What a wonderful surprise! God is good."

"Oh my goodness, I just had to buy a new set of tires and this will help out tremendously."

She noted that a young college student who cleans for the school in the evening thought maybe his bonus was a mistake.

leadership."

"Christ's hands and feet"

Erin Vader Ed.D., diocesan superintendent of Catholic Schools, said Bishop McKnight understands and appreciates the amazing work the teachers and staff perform every day in service to the nearly 7,000 students enrolled in Catholic schools here.

"These wonderful people put our children first, and model Catholic Christian life for them inside the classroom and out," she said.

"They are truly Christ's hands and feet in this world and I am so proud to work with them," she stated. "May God bless them, and all the

Daily Readings

Sunday, Feb 4

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jb. 7:1-4, 6-7
Ps. 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
1 Cor. 9:16-19, 22-23
Mk. 1:29-39

Monday, Feb 5

St. Agatha, virgin and martyr
1 Kgs. 8:1-7, 9-13
Ps. 132:6-7, 8-10
Mk. 6:53-56

Tuesday, Feb 6

St. Paul Miki and companions, martyrs
1 Kgs. 8:22-23, 27-30
Ps. 84:3, 4, 5, 10, 11
Mk. 7:1-13

Wednesday, Feb 7

1 Kgs. 10:1-10
Ps. 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40
Mk. 7:14-23

Thursday, Feb 8

St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, virgin
1 Kgs. 11:4-13
Ps. 106:3-4, 35-36, 37, 40
Mk. 7:24-30

Friday, Feb 9

1 Kgs. 11:29-32; 12:19
Ps. 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15
Mk. 7:31-37

Saturday, Feb 10

St. Scholastica, virgin
1 Kgs. 12:26-32; 13:33-34
Ps. 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22
Mk. 8:1-10

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for February:

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

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faithful stewards in our diocese who make these bonuses possible."

Bishop McKnight referred to Catholic schools as "treasures of the diocese."

"Our Catholic schools are very special to me, as they spring from the heart of the Church," he stated.

Moving together in hope, he invited Catholic school educators to continue to serve and teach with the same

joy described by St. Paul in his Letter to the Colossians:

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing songs, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (3:16).

A complete list of the Catholic schools in the diocese can be found at:

diojeffcity.org/schools

Church of the Risen Savior Parish
Breakfast
February 11
 7-11AM
 Menu includes: pancakes, blueberry pancakes, sausage, ham, biscuits & gravy, hashbrowns, scrambled eggs, baked apples, coffee, orange juice, water
 ADULTS \$12 – KIDS 5-11 \$5 (4 & UNDER FREE)
 Valentine Hall - 197 Hwy. P
STARKENBURG

Pancakes, Sausage & Eggs
Breakfast
Westphalia Lions Den
Sunday, February 11, 7-11:30am
 Dine-in and/or Carry-out
 Adults \$12 · Children 10 & under \$6
 Bake Sale ♦ Prizes
 Sponsored by Westphalia Lions Club

Wardsville/Osage Bend Knights of Columbus
Fish Fry
Friday, March 1 4:30-7:30 pm
St. Stanislaus Gym
Wardsville
 Fish, baked potato, fries, hushpuppies, baked beans, coleslaw & dinner roll
\$14 per order (ages 5 & under free)
 Cinnamon rolls available for purchase!

Knights of Columbus Council 8400
HOLTS SUMMIT
Fish Fry
Dinners
Fridays—February 16 & 23
March 1, 8 & 15 Served 3:30-7 pm
 Voted "Best Mid-MO Fish Fry" in 2023 by News Tribune readers
 5 Fish Frys this year Don't miss a single one!
 USA FARM-RAISED CATFISH baked potatoes, slaw, baked beans, french fries, cornbread, dessert & drinks
 Dine-in — Adults \$15 / Kids 5-12 \$7 4 & under Free Carryouts \$13
ST. ANDREW CHURCH — Use Center Street exit and follow signs

For more events, check out Page 22 or the diocesan calendar at diojeffcity.org/ events

Taos K of C Council #6430
FISH FRY
FRIDAYS
FEB 16 & 23
MAR 8 & 22
 4:30-7:30 pm
 Dine-in or Carry-out
 Fried fish or boiled shrimp, baked potato or fries, slaw, hushpuppies, baked beans, ice cream, tea & coffee
\$14
 Kids burger & fries—\$6
 Cash or check ONLY
Knights of Columbus Hall
TAOS

Eldon K of C #7133
LENTEN FISH FRY
ELDON Catholic Center • 5-7 pm
Fridays
Feb 16, 23
Mar 1, 8, 15, 22
\$12/Person • \$6/Kids 6-12 • Free/Kids 5 & under
FISH DINNERS: Fried catfish, baked pollock, fried shrimp, fries, baked potato, baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, dessert & drink
SHRIMP DINNERS: 10 jumbo shrimp & sides
COMBO PLATE: 5 jumbo shrimp, fish & sides
 All you can eat fish & sides | No seconds on shrimp

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BISHOP MCAULIFFE COUNCIL #12992/BOY SCOUT TROOP 104
FISH FRY
FRIDAYS, FEBRUARY 16, MARCH 1 & 15
 4:30-7 PM
CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH CANA HALL - JEFFERSON CITY
DINE-IN OR CARRY-OUT
adults \$14 - kids 6-12 \$7 - kids 5 & under free
 HAND-BREADED FISH FILLETS, MACARONI & CHEESE, FRENCH FRIES, COLESLAW, GREEN BEANS, ICE CREAM & DRINK

NEWMAN PARISH
Mardi Gras Festival
February 10, 2024
Free event open to the public!
 602 Turner Ave in Columbia, Missouri
Food Trucks*, Parade, Music & King Cake
Festival Information
 Parade begins at 11 AM
 Food Trucks*/Music Hot Drinks/King Cake following parade in Newman Gathering Space & Courtyard
 Want to be in the parade? The more the merrier!
 To participate in the parade, visit www.comonewman.org/mardigras

HAPPY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK!
WE ❤️ OUR TEACHERS!
 Thank you to all of our educators & staff of St. Martin School for your loving dedication in providing Catholic education for the children of our parish family!
 A special shoutout to **MRS. ROSEMARY BARDWELL** for her 41 years of service!!
 Thank you Mrs. Bardwell and congratulations on your upcoming retirement!
 —St. Martin Home & School Association