

## Helping create a culture of vocation

Hundreds of sixth-graders learned about finding their own calling from God and helping others do the same.

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# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

May 10, 2024 • Vol. 67 No. 23

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## Eighth-graders attend Mass with bishop



Altar servers process to the sanctuary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City during the inaugural diocesan Eighth Grade Mass with Bishop McKnight on May 1. More than 500 eighth-graders from the diocese's 37 Catholic schools attended the Mass, followed by a luncheon and festivities in Cana Hall.

— Photo by Annie Williams

## Bishop to ordain Gregory Clever, seminarian, to the Diaconate on June 1

### Will continue preparations for the Priesthood

By Jay Nies

Gregory Clever grew up in a place where urban and rural overlap.

His heart always leaned toward the rural.

"I like conservation and finding God in nature, and the prospect of serving God in a rural part of Missouri fills me with joy and hope," said Mr. Clever, a seminarian whom Bishop W. Shawn McKnight will ordain a transitional deacon on Saturday, June 1.

His diaconal ordination will take place at the same Mass where Rev. Mr. Christopher Hoffmann will be ordained a priest of the Jefferson City diocese.

It will be at 10 a.m. in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City. All are invited to attend.

The Mass will be livestreamed.

Mr. Clever will continue his seminary formation with the intent of being ordained a priest.

### "A mysterious calling"

The third of nine children (five sons, four daughters) born to Dr. Henry and Dorothy Clever, Gregory Clever grew up in a large family that took its Catholic faith seriously.

"Faith was always an important part of our lives," he recalled. "God was very present to us. We went to Mass every

See ORDAIN, page 15

By Jay Nies

Verses of "10,000 Reasons" cascaded off even more abundant mosaic tiles and stained-glass panes in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

About 500 eighth-graders from the diocese's 37 Catholic elementary schools were there to worship and then to dine, dance, sing and find greater connections before moving on to high school.

It was the diocese's inaugural Eighth Grade Mass.

"My heart is filled with gratitude for all of you who have come to the mother church of the diocese to celebrate this special Mass," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, who presided and preached the homily.

"Nothing makes us prouder than when we see you here, being reverent and understanding what you're experiencing," said Erin Vader Ed.D., diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools.

About 30 priests — mostly pastors of parishes with Catholic schools — concelebrated the Mass.

Students served in liturgical roles and sang in the choir.

The diocesan Catholic Schools Office planned the event in close association with the newly-convened Diocesan Advisory Student Council.

The council, made up of seventh- and eighth-graders from Catholic schools around the diocese, suggests and helps plan diocesan events for students.

"They had everything to do with today," Dr. Vader said of the council. "They've done a remarkable job."

### Restored relationship

In his homily, Bishop McKnight stressed the importance of recognizing Jesus fully present in the Holy Eucharist

See EIGHTH GRADE, page 14

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## Pray for deceased priests

May 6 — Msgr. Charles H. Patterson, St. Joseph Home, Jefferson City (2010)

May 11 — Msgr. Francis E. Hagedorn, St. Joseph, Pilot Grove (1981)

May 15 — Fr. Norman J. Ahrens, St. Joseph, Martinsburg (1990)

May 17 — Fr. James J. Burns, Immaculate Conception, Shackelford (1959)

May 18 — Fr. William D. Baskett, Sacred Heart, Eldon (1965)

## Wednesday Rosary, Mass during May in Starkenburg

In honor of the Month of Mary, the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg will have Mass and a Rosary every Wednesday evening in May. The Rosary will be prayed

communally at 5:30 p.m. at the outdoor Rosary Walk. Please bring lawn chairs.

Mass will be celebrated at 6 p.m. inside the Shrine Chapel.

**cathmo.com**

### 1st & 2nd Grade Teacher

St. Clement School in St. Clement, Mo., has an opening for a 1st and 2nd grade classroom teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. A successful candidate is a practicing Catholic in good standing who can minister to students regardless of subject area or a teacher who, consistent with the mission of St. Clement School, promotes and teaches the Catholic faith as reasonably determined by the principal. Applicants should hold the appropriate Missouri teaching certification, or its equivalent. All interested persons should complete the application at [tinyurl.com/StClementTeacher](http://tinyurl.com/StClementTeacher) and contact the Principal, Laurie Schuckenbrock, at [lschuckenbrock@stclementmo.org](mailto:lschuckenbrock@stclementmo.org).

### Teaching Positions — Sedalia

Sacred Heart School in Sedalia, Mo., has multiple openings for teaching positions for the 2024-2025 school year. Successful candidates are practicing Catholics in good standing who can minister to students regardless of subject area or a teacher who, consistent with the Mission of Sacred Heart School, promotes and teaches the Catholic faith as reasonably determined by the principal. Applicants should hold the appropriate Missouri teaching certification, or its equivalent. All interested persons should complete an application by visiting [tinyurl.com/SacredHeartJobs](http://tinyurl.com/SacredHeartJobs) and submit a resume to the Principal, Nancy Manning, at [nmanning@gogremlins.com](mailto:nmanning@gogremlins.com).



## Official Appointments

*Chancellor Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL, has announced that the Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, STD, Bishop of Jefferson City, has recently made the following appointments to provide the most effective pastoral care of the Diocese of Jefferson City:*

### PRIESTS

**Very Reverend Christopher L. Cordes**, appointed to the Helias Catholic High School Board of Directors for a term of two years, effective May 3, 2024.

**Very Reverend Roberto M. Ike, PhD**, appointed to the Fr. Augustine Tolton Regional Catholic High School Board of Directors for a term of two years, effective April 30, 2024.

### SISTERS

**Sister Ruth Ann Klauser SSND**, of Mary Immaculate Parish in Kirksville, appointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Council as the Consecrated Religious representative for a term of three years, effective May 1, 2024.

### LAITY

**Mr. Justin Francka**, of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia, appointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Council as the Newman Center representative for a term of two years, effective May 4, 2024.

### The Catholic Missourian

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

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

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**Mrs. Ruth Hughes**, of Immaculate Conception Parish in Macon, appointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Council as a representative of the North Deanery for a term of three years, effective July 1, 2024.

**Mrs. Elizabeth James**, of St. Martin Parish in St. Martins, appointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Council as a representative of the See City Deanery for a term of three years, effective July 1, 2024.

**Mr. Kent Korthas**, of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Pettis County, reappointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Council as a representative of the Southwest Deanery for an additional term of three years, effective May 1, 2024.

**Mr. Russell Kremer**, of Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Frankenstein, reappointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Council as a representative of the Southeast Deanery for an additional term of one year, effective April 30, 2024.

**Mr. Jonathan Pund**, of the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, appointed to

the Diocesan Pastoral Council as a representative of the See City Deanery for a term of three years, effective April 30, 2024.

**Mrs. Sheri Stormer**, of Visitation Parish in Vienna, reappointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Council as a representative of the Southeast Deanery for an additional term of one year, effective April 30, 2024.

**Mrs. Kelly Wheeler**, of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia, reappointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Council as a representative of the Central Deanery for an additional term of three years, effective April 30, 2024.

**Mr. Craig Husting**, appointed as a board member of the Preservation Fund of St. Joseph Cathedral for a term of three years, effective March 21, 2024.

**Mr. Luke Prenger**, appointed as a board member of the Preservation Fund of St. Joseph Cathedral for a term of three years, effective March 21, 2024.

Given at the Chancery this 6th day of May, 2024.

  
**Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL**  
Chancellor

## Weekly Rosary in Baring

A communal Rosary is prayed at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday through the Summer at the Grotto in Baring. The time change allows for attendance after Mass at St. Joseph Church in Edina.

The Rosary will be cancelled in case of inclement weather.

All are welcome. There are benches for seating but you can also bring your own lawn chair.

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Diocese of  
Jefferson City

# Westphalia Catholics join in solemn procession, ancient blessing of fields and flocks

By Jay Nies

The rains fell softly upon the fields as the faithful prayed with their minds, their voices and their feet.

Antiphonally invoking the intercession of the saints and chanting penitential Psalms, they pleaded for God's help and protection while taking part in a Rogation Procession around St. Joseph Church in Westphalia.

"Rogation" means "humbly asking."

The ancient rite culminated with a Solemn Blessing of all the surrounding fields and flocks.

It was the evening of April 25, the Feast of St. Mark, the date on which for centuries the Major Rogation for the year was traditionally held.

"This is a celebration that goes back at least 1,500 years,



**LEFT:** Father Dylan Schrader, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia and St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Folk, prays a traditional Blessing of Fields and Flocks on the steps of St. Joseph church on April 25, the Feast of St. Mark. **RIGHT:** Members and friends of St. Joseph Parish process in light rain around the churchyard as part of a traditional Major Rogation ritual to plead humbly for God's help and protection.

— Photos by Jay Nies

to ask God for his blessing for crops and animals, but also his deliverance from a variety of things that can threaten us," explained Father Dylan Schrader,

pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia and of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Folk.

He encouraged all who participated to recognize their radical dependence on God and turn to him in supplication "for the blessings that we need not only in our spiritual life but also in our material existence."

The procession was an earthy experience, held in equilibrium with the aromas of flowers, pollen and damp soil, and with rain that threatened to pour but held back until the participants were safely back in church.

"It's drizzling a little bit, but we can handle it," Fr. Schrader noted. "After all, rain is part of what we're praying for. So, God is answering our prayers."

The priest began the procession by kneeling in silent prayer before the Most Blessed Sacrament, then leading the faithful down the church aisle and out into Creation.

The chorale led the faithful in asking for God's mercy, then chanted the names of individual saints in heaven, with the people responding "pray for us" to each.

The people then chanted together a verse from Psalm 139: "Remember not, O Lord, our offenses nor those of our parents: neither take revenge of our sins."

Upon returning to the



church steps, Fr. Schrader began the Solemn Blessing of Fields and Flocks.

Schrader said.

As such, the blessing was directed at the fields and flocks of the entire area.

"You bless the earth, and abundance flows in its pastures," Fr. Schrader prayed. "Grant that by your blessing, our fields may yield the food we need."

"You make the wheat grow that provides our daily bread and the gift of the Eucharist," he continued. "Give us a crop made rich by abundant rain and fertile soil."

The priest asked God to bless

See ROGATION, page 19

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

"One of the reasons we're processing around the church property is that it actually represents all of the surrounding countryside for us," Fr.



## Bishop McKnight's Calendar

**MAY**

- May 10** St. John Apostle of Charity Society annual dinner, 5:30 pm, Bishop's residence
- May 11** Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, 10 am, Chancery; Confirmation Mass, St. Brendan Parish, Mexico and Holy Spirit Parish, Centralia, 5:30 pm, St. Brendan Church, Mexico
- May 12-16** Diocesan Mission Trip to Merida, Mexico
- May 17** Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Executive Committee dinner meeting 5 pm, Bishop's residence
- May 18** Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Board of Directors Formation Retreat, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, Starkenburg
- May 19** Confirmation Mass, St. Bonaventure Parish, 10:45 am, Marceline; Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Parish, Wien, St. Boniface Parish, Brunswick, and St. Joseph Parish, Salisbury, 1:30 pm, St. Mary Church, Wien; Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Graduation, 7 pm, Columbia
- May 20** Feast of Mary Mother of the Church Mass, National Shine of Mary, Mother of the Church, 6:30 pm, Laurie
- May 21** School Advisory Council dinner, 5:30 pm, Bishop's residence
- May 28** Council of Deans meeting, 11 am; Presbyteral Council meeting, 1 pm, Chancery
- May 30** School Family Engagement Workshop, 11 am, Chancery
- May 31** Ordination rehearsal dinner, 5 pm, Bishop's residence

**Bishop McKnight's May prayer intention for our Local Church**

For those who are preparing for marriage and those who are living the sacrament of holy Matrimony: May the mutual self-giving of spouses and engaged couples bring new life into our community of faith.

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

Para quienes se están preparando para el matrimonio y quienes están viviendo el sacramento del santo Matrimonio: Que la entrega mutua de los cónyuges y de los novios traiga nueva vida a nuestra comunidad de fe.



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



**LEFT:** Groups of people from all over Missouri and surrounding states take part in a pre-march rally on the South Lawn of the State Capitol during this year's Midwest March for Life, May 1 in Jefferson City. **RIGHT:** Students from Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City, which was honored as this year's Pro-Life School of the Year by the Midwest March for Life organizers, walk behind the banner. **BELOW:** Melissa Ohden, founding CEO of the Abortion Survivors Network, gives the keynote presentation during the pre-march rally. — Photos by Jay Nies

## 15th annual Midwest March for Life participants reminded of the impact “ordinary people” can make

Birthdays are complicated for Melissa Ohden.

She was accidentally born alive after being exposed for five days to the toxic saline solution that had been injected into her mother's womb.

“Do you know what the abortion industry lovingly calls people like me?” Mrs. Ohden posed to participants in this year's Midwest March for Life in Jefferson City.

“We're called the dreaded ‘complication of abortion,’” she stated. “As if somehow, my life and the lives of future generations to come after me are something to be dreaded, prevented, avoided.”

She spoke from the steps of the State Capitol at a rally preceding the 15th annual March on May 1.

Thousands of people from all over the state, most wearing red, took part in the rally, followed by a march through downtown Jefferson City with signs, placards and uplifting songs and chants.

Mrs. Ohden and the other presenters spoke passionately of the importance of keeping Missouri pro-life by upholding the highest values and ideals among young people, helping pregnant mothers in need, showing truthful compassion to people who have taken part in abortion, regulating the mail-order abortion-drug industry, and defending the state's Constitution from at-

tempts to bring back abortion-on-demand through the initiative petition process.

Thirty-five life affirming



organizations offered information and literature at tables set up throughout the grounds.

Bishop Edward Rice of Springfield-Cape Girardeau led the opening prayer at the rally and later preached to an overflowing crowd in the Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter near the Capitol.

“Heavenly Father,” he prayed, “bless the work of the pro-life movement in our state and throughout the country, so that in the creating of a culture of life, every child will be received as a gift, and we may promote the value and the sanctity of human life as a core belief in our culture.”

His words and those of the other speakers echoed off the Capitol and other nearby buildings where the affairs of

tion that was intended to take my life, and would forever change hers.”

Mrs. Ohden often hears that abortion procedures no longer fail.

“I can tell you that they do,” she stated. “Women stop their abortions because of the pain or because of regret. And because of abortion-pill reversal, we see babies surviving chemical abortions.”

She believes one of her purposes for surviving was to tell her story and get important but uncomfortable conversations started.

“I am a person of great hope,” she said. “I see the difference we've made over the years, and I know the difference we're going to continue making together.”

Brandy Meeks, president of the Vitae Foundation, offered the marchers a historical per-

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

spective.

“We gave people fractions of rights and humanity and personhood in this country in the past, and frankly, it didn't

work out very well for us,” she stated.

“Because it was wrong then and it's wrong now.”

Bridget VanMeans, president and vision leader of Thrive St. Louis, a life affirming, full-service women's healthcare organization, said nothing is more important than safeguarding human life.

“Young people understand that there are many important issues,” she noted. “But as long as abortion is allowed in our nation, there is no other more important issue.”

### Prodigal daughter

Pro-life activist Megan Mastro described herself as “a daughter of God and a mother who lost her child to the abortion industry.”

Three years ago, she would have described herself as anti-Catholic and fiercely pro-choice.

She had become pregnant at 16 and had an abortion.

The clinic staff told her to ignore the messages of the “irrational pro-life people” who were standing on the nearby sidewalk.

This “ignited in me a fear of how pro-life people would treat women like me and what they would call me,” she recalled.

Equating abortion access

See MARCH, page 11

# Sixth-graders learn about creating a good vocation environment

By Jay Nies

Not everyone in the Church has the same calling from God, but all are called to participate in the great work of creation and redemption.

And no one can do it alone.

“Rather, we are all called to support one another in what God wants to do through us,” Bishop W. Shawn McKnight pointed out at this year’s Sixth Grade Vocations Day.

About 565 sixth-graders from Catholic schools

and parishes throughout the Jefferson City diocese attended the event, sponsored by the diocesan Vocations Office and held on May 1 at Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School in Columbia.

Approximately 150 adults — including chaperones, presenters, volunteers and the entire Our Lady of Lourdes School faculty and staff — were also present.

Participants wore matching T-shirts emblazoned with the day’s theme: “Called to Sainthood” on the front and “Be not afraid!” on the back.

The sixth-graders learned about Marriage, Priesthood and Consecrated Religious Life and every Christian’s call to pursue holiness.

“It’s very important that we understand that in order to respond to the call of God in your life, you first have to be able to hear it,” said Bishop McKnight.

“You have to know what God is calling you to — and that takes discernment, that takes time,” he stated. “Then, once you hear the call of God, you have to respond.”

Both of those tasks require a proper environment and support of the entire Church, he said.

## “Walk in his love”

The sixth-graders gathered for community-building and instructions, attended Mass together with Bishop McKnight, then took part in several impact



**LEFT:** Sister M. Karolyn Nunes of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George (FSGM) and Father Paul Clark, diocesan vocation director, director of seminarians and chaplain of Helias Catholic High School, address the participants of this year’s diocesan Sixth Grade Vocations Day May 1 in Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School in Columbia. **RIGHT:** A panel of religious sisters from several congregations discusses Consecrated Religious Life during one of the impact sessions at Sixth Grade Vocations Day.



— Photos by Jannie Williams

sessions of their choosing, each highlighting a vocation in a particular way.

The event also included lunch, games and Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

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

Sister M. Karolyn Nunes of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George (FSGM) talked about letting go and putting God in charge.

“Vocation is simply a path to holiness that flows from relationship with the Father,” she stated. “When we walk in his love, we can’t go wrong and we have nothing to fear.”

When asked about her hobbies, Sr. Karolyn mentioned that she plays the harmonica and showed the students the one she had in the pocket of her habit.

“Can you play it now?” several sixth-graders fired back.

She happily obliged, giving an impromptu rendition of “Immaculate Mary” and “Come, Holy Ghost.”

## “Like a GPS”

In an impact session on Priesthood, Father Stephen Jones, pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City and rector of the Cathedral, talked about why vocations are relevant and important.

“As members of the Church,

you are part of something bigger than yourselves,” he told the sixth-graders.

“You are part of God’s eternal plan, and he calls each of us — in particular ways — to certain vocations in order to serve him and enliven the Church,” said Fr. Jones.

At a session on Christian Marriage, Jose Maria Gonzalez asked sixth-graders: “What do you think would happen if we say no to God? What would happen if God had a plan for us and, for whatever reason, we didn’t follow it?”

One girl said: “I think that because God loves so much, with infinite patience, he would just re-route us. You know? Like a GPS. You miss the right exit, and you don’t get a negative message telling you how bad of a driver you are; you just get re-routed in the best way possible.”

“That was the best answer to that question that I’ve ever heard!” said Mr. Gonzalez, director of faith formation at Sacred Heart School in Sedalia.

He pointed out that God never gets tired of forgiving people and welcoming them back into a right relationship with himself.

Rather, it’s people who get tired of asking for forgiveness.

“We would rather be perfect and self-sufficient,” said Mr. Gonzalez.

Nonetheless, God is always ready to show more patience and love than anyone else can

fathom.

Mr. Gonzalez emphasized that Christian Marriage is a vocation — in itself a calling from God.

“God specifically calls people to marriage, which means that he prepared that vocation for us even before we existed, and he gives us all the tools we need to succeed,” said Mr. Gonzalez.

Husband and wife become one flesh, and that unity is both a blessing and a challenge.

Mr. Gonzalez talked about the importance of talking, listening, being honest, and praying together as ways for a husband and wife to build an enduring marriage.

## “The right fit”

Sister Mary Ruth Wand, SSND — who has been a School Sister of Notre Dame

for over 60 years and who visits people who are hospitalized, homebound or living in nursing homes in Sedalia — said the participants at Sixth Grade Vocations Day were attentive, respectful and enjoyable to be with.

“Hopefully, they went home with a deeper love of God, deciding to live in the joy of find-

See VOCATIONS, page 17

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## Giving new life to old trees in a Chariton County churchyard

*The following reflection is from a member of St. Joseph Parish in Hurricane Branch:*

By Becky Bentle

Our beautiful church grounds were not exempt from the ash tree disease that has destroyed thousands of ash trees in Missouri.

So what is it they say? "When life gives you lemons you make lemonade."

And that's what happened, thanks to a single person who had an idea.

He did his homework and proposed an amazing solution to our "lemon" problem of the dying trees.

The "lemonade" turned out better than anyone could have ever imagined.

We hope the praying hands welcome visitors to Hurricane Branch for many years.

Even more so, we hope visitors will glance to the south in the cemetery and catch a glimpse of St. Joseph looking out over our cemetery.

What do you know about St. Joseph?



**These wood-carvings depicting praying hands and St. Joseph in the churchyard of St. Joseph Church in Hurricane Branch were created in response to the trees becoming infected with a disease affecting ash trees throughout Missouri.**

— Photos from the Friends of St. Joseph Hurricane Branch Catholic Church Facebook page

My first thought is that he was a carpenter. He had a God-given talent to create wonderful things with his hands.

Just like Eagle Ridge Chain-

saw Carvings, who created our beautiful carving of St Joseph for all to enjoy!

Did you know that in the entire Bible, there is not one quote from St. Joseph? Not a



single word!

It is said he was a very hard-working man who wanted nothing for himself.

He was always the person who stood back and made sure

everyone was okay.

He was one that could be counted on to be there for everyone in their time of need.

But not one time did anyone write about anything that he said. He was a carpenter without any great fancy or exquisite words.

The angle that the sculpture of St. Joseph is facing is perfect.

He is humbly standing in front of an old dirt plowed field. It reminds us that he doesn't have to say a word.

He brings so much peace and comfort to those who have loved ones buried there under his watchful eyes.

He silently keeps watch over all those who have passed.

He stands there, silently promising to watch over us when the time comes for us to join our loved ones.

A huge thank-you to Dennis Speichinger

for the amazing idea and all the hard work of turning that idea into reality.

And thank-you to Eagle Ridge Chainsaw Carvings for these beautiful tree carvings.

## St. Robert Bellarmine Altar and Rosary Society volunteers revitalize church kitchen during Lent

By Annalisa Bone

The St. Robert Bellarmine Altar and Rosary Society undertook an extensive kitchen renovation project during Lent 2024.

This ambitious effort saw dedicated volunteers transforming the church's kitchen and dining spaces into clean, organized and functional areas.

Volunteers went above and beyond, surpassing each day's set goals, streamlining what initially seemed to be a daunting task.

Efforts began by emptying the kitchen from top to bottom of all its contents.

As the days progressed, every nook and cranny was deep-cleaned, leaving no dust bunny



**Members of the St. Robert Bellarmine Altar and Rosary Society work on deep-cleaning and renovating the church kitchen as part of a Lenten project.**

— Submitted photos

behind.

Volunteers were repeatedly

impressed by the craftsmanship of the original parish-

ioners who built the kitchen and were grateful to have the

See KITCHEN, page 18



## Helias Catholic holds May Crowning

By Anna Campbell

Helias Catholic High School students and families celebrated May Crowning at Mass on May 2.

May Crowning is a tradition honoring Mary as the mother of God during the month of May.

“Mary’s life is a beautiful reminder to us of what a life solely devoted to the Lord should look like,” said Zach Rockers, Helias director of campus ministry.

Father Joseph Luzindana shared a description of the work of St. Athanasius, who defended the doctrine of Jesus Christ’s divinity.

He also expressed appreciation for May Crowning and shared a message of faithful steadfastness.

When people look fine on the outside, but are empty inside, he said, “The devil comes and builds his empire in your heart, and then whatever comes out is terrible. That’s why Jesus said, ‘Be connected to me. I am the vine, you are the branches,’” Fr. Luzindana said.

“Today, he’s telling us, ‘Re-



**Father Joseph Luzindana, associate pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph parish in Jefferson City, celebrates Mass on May 2 at Helias Catholic High School. During the Mass, students took part in the ancient tradition of the May Crowning of Mary. Placing a crown of flowers on the statue of the Blessed Mother reflects a dedication to the saint, the mother of Jesus.**

— Photo by Julie Smith, courtesy, *Jefferson City News-Tribune*

main in my love,” Fr. Luzindana added.

“We have read so many saints who decided for Jesus. I beg you today, decide for Jesus. Do not give the devil a chance. People have denied God, they have abandoned the Jesus who died for us,” he said.

Twelve female students presented roses to and then crowned Mary.

Helias Catholic students led

those assembled in a few songs, including the Magnificat, based on Mary’s song of praise.

Following the Mass, the school held its underclassmen award ceremony.

*Ms. Campbell is a reporter for the Jefferson City News-Tribune newspaper (newstribune.com), which published a version of this story on May 3. This version is published here with permission.*

## ‘I’m going fishing’



**Sometimes, fishers of men just need to fish. Bishop W. Shawn McKnight thanks Deacon Thomas Manion and Father Jason Doke for their company as they fished the beautiful Little Piney Creek in our diocese on May 7.**

## Memorial Day Mass in J.C.

Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City and vicar general of the Jefferson City diocese, will preside at this year’s Memorial Day Mass at Resurrection Cemetery in Jefferson City.

It will be at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 27, in the Mausoleum Chapel at the cemetery, 3015 W. Truman Blvd.

## Denver-based Augustine Institute will relocate to St. Louis area in coming months

By Jennifer Brinker  
OSV News

St. Louis

The Augustine Institute announced April 23 that it has purchased the former Boeing Leadership Center near Florissant and will begin moving its headquarters to the St. Louis area in the coming months.

The Denver-based, lay-led institute includes a graduate school that offers master’s level degrees in theology, pastoral theology, biblical studies and Catholic education.

It also publishes catechetical and sacramental preparation materials for adults and children, produces films and podcasts, and created formed.org, a streaming service featuring Catholic content.

The institute said in a statement it will transition its operations over the next few years, with its headquarters and graduate school of theology opening on the new campus in time for the fall 2024 semester.

The 284-acre property, located in unincorporated north St. Louis County north of Florissant and overlooking the Missouri River, was once owned by the Desloge family and has been appraised by the St. Louis County assessor at \$28.8 million.

Moving to the St. Louis area offers an opportunity to expand the graduate school and “further our mission of helping Catholics understand, live and share their faith,” president Tim Gray said in a statement.

The new facility “will transform the work of the Augustine Institute by allowing us to take our curriculum and resources beyond a digital interface, which already reaches millions around the world, into a national center for Catholic conferences, retreats, evangelization and fellowship.”

St. Louis Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski said in a statement that the Augustine Institute will transform the property into “the premier center for the New Evangelization in the United States. By leveraging St. Louis’ central location, the Augustine Institute can foster a new era of collaboration with Catholic organizations nationwide and invite more people to encounter Jesus Christ and His Church.”

The institute said that plans are al-

ready underway to transition the graduate school to St. Louis and is part of a multi-phase plan to convert the property into a center for evangelization at the service of the Church.

The institute also said it will offer conferences and retreats and host events for other apostolates and ministries.

Father Christopher Martin, vicar for parish mission and vitality for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, said that through working with Augustine Institute, the archdiocese will be able to enhance its efforts for evangelization and discipleship.

“We look forward to tapping into its wide array of existing resources, exploring our faith with its renowned theologians, and engaging in hands-on training in our own backyard,” he said.

*Jennifer Brinker is a reporter at the St. Louis Review, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.*

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Jefferson City

## QUESTION CORNER

## Is there still responsibility for past sins after confession?

By Jenna Marie Cooper  
OSV News



**Q: I have a confession question. I have heard that past sins, either venial or mortal, even after confessing them stay with you somewhat and only “really” get dismissed after your soul is scrubbed clean by time in purgatory. So would someone with a very bad past who does a turn-around, goes to confession and receives absolution, and leads a good life going forward still be “responsible” for past sins? (Rhode Island)**

A: There are many layers to your question, but the short answer is that we are truly and fully forgiven from our sins when we receive absolution after a good confession. However, sacramental absolution by itself doesn't necessarily resolve all the consequences of our sins.

Canon 959 of the Code of Canon Law reflects this reality when it notes that one of the requirements for sacramental absolution is that the penitent be truly sorry for their sins and that they “intend to reform themselves” (or, as this is sometimes translated, that they have “firm purpose of amendment”). In other words, forgiveness of sin from the sacrament of penance can only come about if the penitent is willing to do what they need to do in their life outside the confessional to bring their life into harmony with God's law.

On an observable natural level, it might seem fairly obvious that a sacramental confession does not automatically “fix” all the negative aspects of a situation our sins may have caused. For example, if a person were to confess intentionally inflicting major damage to someone else's property, that newly forgiven sin would still, in a sense, “stick with” the penitent insofar as they would still be responsible for repairing the damage — and might even need to face secular criminal charges. In a similar but less dramatic way, a person who confesses a tendency to lose their temper with their family members would still need to work toward improving the relationships that may have been injured by their unkind words or actions; that is, other people's hurt feelings do not instantly go away as a result of their confession.

With respect to your question specifically, a person who repented after years of habitual sinful behavior might still have a lot to do to resolve the problems their sins may have caused — though we can assume that this burden would be made much lighter by the grace of the sacrament.

The idea that “sin has consequences” also extends to the idea of purgatory. God does not punish sins that he himself has forgiven through the sacrament. But purgatory is not intended to be a form of divine punishment, strictly speaking. Rather, purgatory is meant instead to be a time of healing from the negative spiritual effects of our sinfulness.

Many sins have the potential to hurt other people (and sometimes also ourselves) in earthly or bodily ways. But all sin unavoidably wounds the soul of the one who commits it. Even venial sins can make us less capable of loving God and receiving his love, and this spiritual damage does not necessarily go away just because the sin that caused the damage has been forgiven. Purgatory is a state that God in his mercy gives to us so that our souls may be strengthened and purified so as to be made ready to enter into the full glory of heaven.

That being said, there are things we can do on earth to heal our souls and hopefully shorten our time in purgatory. For one thing, a fervent prayer life can draw us closer to God, prepar-

See QUESTION, page 18

## Papal Audience

May 8, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on the theological virtues, we now examine hope, by which we desire the happiness of eternal life. Without hope the life of virtue would seem unobtainable. Christian hope is grounded in the Lord himself who died and rose for us. As his followers we trust in his promises, especially the gift of the Holy Spirit, striving each day to live in a manner worthy of our calling. Patience walks hand-in-hand with hope, providing a steady path forward. When we are accompanied by them on the journey of life, we remember God's mercy and faithful love. This helps us to avoid being held captive by nostalgia for the past, by melancholy or discouragement. With youthful hearts may we, like Simeon and Anna, persevere in hope.

I greet all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's audience, especially those from Cameroon, India, the Philippines and the United States of America. As we prepare to celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension, I invoke upon you and your families the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, risen and ascended into heaven. May the Lord bless you all!



## Fr. Flatley: The Twelve Steps to Freedom

By Father Matthew Flatley

Shortly after I arrived as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, a parishioner approached me and asked if I.C. could host an AA meeting at the parish.

Of course, I said yes.

Actually I was surprised there was not one already in place, as there is a long and hallowed history of Catholic Churches hosting AA meetings in their basements.

*Many religious scholars believe that AA may very well be judged to be the greatest spiritual movement of the 20th century.*

A story about an old timer in AA reveals that after many years of suffering in isolation, and putting his wife and children through hell because of his alcoholism, he finally found the courage to go to his first AA meeting.

At the meeting, he spilled his guts. He told this room of strangers all of the things that he had always tried to hide from others, convinced that if he ever truly revealed his darkest secrets, people would reject him.

When he had finished, they all gave him their telephone numbers and invited him to call them.

*In fact, some of them said, “Call me, I would love to have lunch with you sometime.”*

The Twelve Steps of AA were written for alcoholics as a path of recovery, when all else had failed.

In short time, thousands of people all over the world were turning to this spiritual program to heal from a spiritual malady.

Soon, the spouses and children of these alcoholics adapted the Twelve Steps so as to help them.

For many years, the family members of those suffering from the disease of alcoholism suffered from the effects of the disease as well, and they needed a path of healing too.

Hence the program of Al-Anon was born.

Soon thereafter, these Twelve Steps were adapted again ... this time for those poor souls struggling with addictions and compulsions of other kinds ... around food, drugs and gambling, and the list goes on.

*In time, those suffering started to replace the word alcohol in the first step with words like drugs or food, or gambling or compulsive sex.*

Many folks in Twelve Step Programs will state that they are not religious. In fact, the program teaches that a person does not have to believe in “God” but rather, only in a Higher Power, or a “God of their own understanding.”

*A saying in AA goes like this, “There is a God and it is not you, if you can believe that, you're on the path to recovery.”*

One thing is for certain, a spirit of healing is at work. It is now millions of folks around the world who have found a way to rebuild their lives.

By joining a fellowship with others who are also willing to share their experience strength and hope with each other, willing to work the Twelve Steps of a spiritual program, and believing in a power greater than themselves, they find recovery.

*They find a new way of life.*

There was once a Trappist monk, renowned around the world to be a wisdom teacher, who was shown the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This monk had been cloistered for decades and had never heard of the Twelve Steps.

He read them through very slowly, paused and reflected, and then read them through again, very slowly.

*He exclaimed, “These steps are a path of humility ... they are a path to freedom!”*

*Fr. Flatley, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, is moderator of spiritual formation for the Jefferson City diocese.*

## Against cosmic melancholia

By George Weigel



On September 5, 1977, “Voyager 1,” built by NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, was launched from Cape Canaveral atop a Titan III rocket.

It’s still going, almost 47 years later and some 15 billion miles away: humanity’s “most distant emissary,” as a British writer recently put it, continuing its mission “to boldly go” where no human artifact has gone before (to vary the most famous split infinitive in television history).

Voyager 1 has more than repaid Amer-

ican taxpayers the \$433 million dollars it cost to build it.

Its fly-bys of Jupiter, Saturn, and their moons yielded breathtaking photos that lift the spirit by illustrating the magnificence of Creation.

As it hurtled through the outer Solar System and into interstellar space, Voyager 1 enlarged our understanding of that Creation by sending back a mass of scientific data that astronomers and astrophysicists may continue to receive for another decade or so, and will study long after that.

Even after Earth-bound scientists lose contact with it, however, Voyager 1 will continue to carry humanity out into the universe, as its design includes an au-

dio-visual disk containing Mozart, Bach, and Beethoven, the sounds of babies crying, messages recorded in 55 languages, and much else.

(That gold-plated disk also includes the silhouette of a naked man and woman, reduced from the more explicitly detailed depiction carried by the Pioneer 10 spacecraft because of politicians’ complaints about “smut in space.” Comforting, isn’t it, to know that congressional imbecility is not a phenomenon unique to our moment?)

David Whitehouse, writing about Voyager 1 in the London-based *Spectator*, was awestruck by the “isolation” of this remarkable interstellar probe, which he suggested was “impossible for us truly to

comprehend.

Light — the fastest possible traveler — takes just over a second to reach the moon and about four hours to pass the most distant planet, Neptune.

Yet to reach Voyager it takes more than 22 hours.” Mr. Whitehouse’s awe, alas, was mixed — one might even say, tinged — with a melancholy bordering on despair:

“It’s strange to think that it will be exploring on out into deep space long after its makers — humans — have become extinct...Long after the pyramids have crumbled into sand and the Earth has become uninhabitable, [Voyager] will just be starting its odyssey. It will move through different constellations and spend its life

See WEIGEL, page 19

## Three ways to find silence in our digital age

By Sister Hosea Rupprecht  
OSV News



One day, I was running an errand that took me along the Pacific Coast Highway. It was a bright, sunny day and the ocean was sparkling.

On my way home, I spotted a few empty parking spots along the side of the road and, totally on a whim, pulled into one.

Since the traffic was whizzing by on the driver’s side, I rolled up that window but kept the other one down.

This made the rhythmic sound of the ocean waves more prominent.

I sat in the car, closed my eyes, and just listened for three minutes.

I felt such a sense of calm, even among all the tasks that had crowded my day, that I still remember that feeling months after the day I’ve described.

Those three minutes in the car were not silent.

I could hear all kinds of sounds around me, but what was important was that my heart was silent.

In that inner silence, I found peace and serenity.

How often in our daily lives do we long for moments like that — calm, peaceful and still — only to find that they consistently elude our grasp?

I think God is laughing a little because, even as I write about silence, there’s a guy with a chainsaw going right outside the office where I’m working, cutting down a dead tree. Seriously?

Alongside the sounds of life, the digital world provides plenty of sound, noise and input that fills not only our ears but our brains, sometimes to the point where we feel overloaded with visual, audible and intellectual stimuli.

These things are not bad in and of themselves but where do we draw the line to find the balance we need?

And why bother? Because silence connects us with God, others, and ourselves.

Here are some things to remember:

### 1. Silence is a choice.

Well, ambient silence may not be, such as traffic or chainsaw noise, but we can choose to be interiorly silent.

Pope Benedict XVI talked about having an “ecosystem” that favors silence.

“When messages and information are plentiful, silence becomes essential if we are to distinguish what is important from what is insignificant or secondary,” he wrote in 2012, “it is necessary to develop an appropriate environment, a kind of ‘eco-system’ that maintains a just equilibrium between silence, words, images and sounds.”

Make it a point to set up times and/or places for yourself where silence is the default.

Maybe it’s unplugging from media during your commute to work or designating a special room or corner in your home where you can sit in silence.

I crave quiet in the evening hours so I programmed my phone to silence notifications from 8 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. the next day.

### 2. Use silence to enter into contemplation.

On a recent road trip to lead a retreat, I was listening to an audiobook novel to help pass the six-hour drive time.

Eventually, I turned off the book and just drove in silence.

It gave me the perfect opportunity to be in touch with God’s love for me, and to pray for the people I was going to meet the next day.

God’s voice is the most important one to hear each day, but we can only hear it when we are silent ourselves.

During your morning routine, carve out a few minutes to silently connect with God.

Ask God to bless your day and give

you the courage to seek and follow His will for you.

See SR. HOSEA, page 19

## REFLECTION

### Mothers’ gifts

By Mark Saucier

Ann Reeves Jarvis was just another woman in the mountains of West Virginia in the 1800s.

She was a mother, homemaker and Sunday school teacher.

She was also an activist, organizing Mothers’ Day Work Clubs to combat unsanitary living conditions. She tried to educate mothers to reduce the high infant mortality rate.

After the Civil War, she worked to promote peace between Union and Confederate families.

When she died in 1905, her daughter Anna wanted to celebrate her and every mother “for the matchless service she renders to humanity in every field of life.”

On May 10, 1908, at the Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia, Mother’s Day was born.

With due respect for the courage and sacrifice pregnancy demands, there is so much more to being a mother than just bringing a child into the world. Getting a Mother’s Day card for that is like a participation award.

The Christian model for mothers is Mary (though the only Gospel story from Jesus’s childhood is when he is lost).

The veneration we have for Mary as Mother isn’t based on parenting, home economics or PTA involvement.

We find it in her response to the Annunciation, the startling news that she was chosen to bear God into the world.

“Here I am, the servant of the Lord, let it be done according to your Word.”

That was the beginning of her motherhood, of her birthing of God.

I am grateful and in awe of the mothers in my life: my own mother, who left us too soon, my wife and mother of six; my daughter and daughters-in-law, my sisters and sister-in-law.

They are special women who love their children profoundly and extend that love beyond the home.

But if we look at mothering as Mary’s selfless commitment to birth God among us, and Mother’s Day as commemoration of service “to all fields of life,” then our appreciation on Mother’s Day is not just for biological mothers.

In the Bible, there are stories of childless women who embodied the virtues of motherhood and birthed God among their people: Miriam the prophet, David’s doula Abishaga, the prostitute Rehab, and Mary Magdalene, the Apostle to the Apostles.

I know many women today who by vow, by choice, or by circumstance, do not have children, but whose lives are channels through which mothering graces flow.

For every woman whose life is about the other, who lives the humility of Mary and the service of Ann Jarvis, Happy Mother’s Day!

# Encounter

## From Despair to Hope: Your Lenten Generosity Transforms Lives

### AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



By Litz Main

As the Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the countless individuals and families who have stepped forward with open hearts and generous hands to support our Lenten Appeal this year.

Imagine the despair etched on the face of Jessica (not her real name), a single mother of two struggling to pay a title loan at an exorbitant 304% interest rate.

Initially, she borrowed \$1,320, facing monthly payments of \$440 — an overwhelming financial burden.

Yet, a few months later, her face lit up with joy upon learning her \$1,800 loan balance had been refinanced over 18 months with a manageable \$109 monthly payment. Catholic Charities facilitated this significant relief through its predatory lending refinance program.

Stories like Jessica's are a testament to the transformative power of compassion and its positive impact on people's lives.

For over a decade, Catholic Charities has served as a cornerstone of support for our community's most vulnerable members.

We offer a lifeline to those in need, with a wide range of services designed to empower and uplift.

From providing immediate relief through our client-choice food pantry to offering long-term programs that foster self-sufficiency, such as Financial Wellness, we strive not just to alleviate burdens, but also to equip individuals with the tools they need to build brighter futures.

Embracing the spirit of Matthew 25:31-40, your generosity becomes the very embodiment of serving Christ in our midst.

Visualize shelves brimming with sustenance in our food pantry, a direct testament to your giving spirit — truly, when I was hungry, you gave me something to eat.



community places in us.

We take great care in assessing the needs of the people we serve, identifying any gaps in services, and ensuring that our programs remain relevant and impactful.

This means we always strive to find new ways to provide compassionate care and empower those we serve to create sustainable futures for themselves and their families.

Our mission would not be possible without the dedication of two incredible groups: our volunteers and donors.

Our volunteers, the backbone of our organization, selflessly share their time and talents.

Consider the profound peace imparted during a counseling session, your support manifesting as solace and direction for those weighed down by life's storms — when

I was troubled, you were there to comfort me.

Contemplate the new beginnings afforded to families uprooted by conflict, finding solace and a fresh chapter in our embrace through our refugee resettlement program — when I was a stranger, you welcomed me.

Each act of kindness you show to our neighbors is a gift to God, and we are forever grateful.

Jessica's story is just one among many illustrating how your generosity transforms lives.

Your contributions didn't just help her survive — they put her on the path to financial stability, allowing her to thrive and create a brighter future for her children.

This is the ripple effect of your compassion; it extends far beyond the initial act of giving, creating a wave of hope that strengthens families and uplifts our entire community.

At Catholic Charities, our commitment to stewardship is guided by a profound sense of responsibility for the trust our

However, they can only operate with the financial resources generously provided by our donors.

Your combined efforts form a powerful force for good in the heart of Missouri, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support.

The spirit of Easter constantly reminds us of our call to serve those in need.

Every act of kindness, whether volunteering your time or donating to a worthy cause, fuels our mission of love and service.

As we move forward, we humbly ask for your continued support.

No action is too small, and no contribution is insignificant.

At Catholic Charities, we are grateful for your compassion and generosity every day.

You are the embodiment of the Easter spirit, spreading hope and love throughout our diocese.

May the joy of this season fill your hearts as you reflect on the incredible impact you've made.

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# MARCH

From page 4

with female empowerment, she openly expressed her gratitude and lack of regret for her abortion.

"But the hidden truth was that my body was in a state of perpetual grief, due to the unnatural loss of my son," she stated.

"My interior life was chaotic. I felt angry, confused, distraught. For years, I tried to calm the storm, using crystals, drugs, tarot cards," she said.

Only in turning back to Christ did she find the path to true healing.

"Twelve years after rebelling as God's prodigal daughter, I returned home to my Father's house to confess my sin," she stated.

Reconciled with the Catholic Church, she received an outpouring of Divine Mercy and attended a Rachel's Vineyard healing retreat for people who have been harmed by abortion.

"I left that retreat equipped with a new mission: to fight for the dignity of mothers, the lives of their children, and for the minds of all the misled pro-choice people," she said.

She volunteers with an organization that gives her opportunities to have peaceful dialogue with college students who favor abortion access.

"I get to inspire these students to dream of a society that supports and reveres pregnant women," she said.

She challenges the narrative that says pregnancy is a time-sensitive problem to be resolved.

"And I reintroduce it as a profoundly beautiful gift, even when the timing isn't convenient."

## "God's messenger"

Tri21 triathlete and motivational speaker Gabriel Cobb proclaimed that he's not afraid to be seen.

"I'm 23 years old, and I have Down syndrome," he announced to a round of applause.

He has competed in 13 unmodified half-Olympic triathlons, which include swimming, biking and running.

The Missouri native has given talks in several states and has addressed a gathering at the United Nations.

He talked about his relent-

lessly supportive family, including parents "who have always kept the bar high."

His faith comes first, followed by his Christian witness.

"I am Gabriel, one of God's messengers," he said.

Helias Catholic High School junior Claire Huntley, a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, led the singing of "God Bless America" at the rally and sang two sets of hymns and praise songs on the Capitol steps.

Ivy Almon, brand ambassador for Support After Abortion ([supportafterabortion.com](http://supportafterabortion.com)), urged everyone present to cultivate a listening ear and an open heart in order to help people who have been wounded by abortion find the healing they need.

"There are hurting people all around us," she said. "We need to slow down and notice them and offer them a safe place to begin their healing."

She urged everyone to be aware that an average of 1 in 4 women in this country has had an abortion by age 45, and that about half of those are a woman's second or greater.

She emphasized the importance of speaking compassionately and non-judgmentally, listening openly to a woman's story, and knowing how to put her in contact with people who can help her heal.

"Together, we can create a compassionate and supportive community where individuals are valued, heard and supported on their journey toward healing," she said.

## Young witnesses

Midwest March for Life Co-Founder Kathy Forck presented the 2024 Pro-Life School of the Year Award to Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City.

She noted that the school has an active LIFE Runners chapter that meets, prays and walks together once a month; participates in a leg of the LIFE Runners Across America Relay each fall, takes part in the Midwest March for Life and sponsors a bus trip for eighth-graders and others to the National March for Life in Washington, D.C.



A wave of marchers moves past the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City during this year's Midwest March for Life. — Photo by Jay Nies

Students also take part in many other charitable and life-affirming activities throughout the year.

"They contribute items to the parish Pro-Life Committee's annual Project for Babies and the Elderly each year, and students chalk messages of thanks to their moms for the gift of life around the parish property for Mother's Day," Mrs. Forck noted.

Students from the honored school carried the March for Life Banner near the front of this year's march.

## "Ordinary people"

Clergy members carrying a rugged cross led the March around the Capitol Circle, toward the Governor's Mansion and back through the city's central business district.

The drum corps of Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City laid down a steady beat for the marchers, while young participants called out: "What does the pro-life generation look like?" "This is what the pro-life generation looks like!"

Several groups repeated upbeat chants and slogans, while others sang hymns and songs.

Each of the rally speakers urged the participants to channel their energy and determination into consistent, concrete action.

"Are you ready to be assertive and bold?" event emcee Mark Serafino asked the marchers. "That's what it's going to take. Not just here on the Capitol lawn but in your homes, in your backyards, in your churches and in your neighborhoods."

Mrs. Ohden said Missouri is blessed with "some of the most sacrificial, impactful leaders and organizations and yes, ordinary people."

"Ordinary people by the grace of God are called to do extraordinary things and make an extraordinary difference every single day," she said.

"No matter what happens in the days ahead, pro-life Missourians are going to continue to stand strong and to fight and get the truth out there and help protect babies in the state of Missouri," said Mrs. Meeks.

Similar themes were presented in an upbeat and age-appropriate manner during a pro-life youth rally after the March.

## To God's altar

More than 550 Catholics overflowed the St. Peter Proto-Cathedral for the Closing Mass, while an ecumenical prayer service was held in the Capitol Rotunda.

Bishop Rice presided at the Mass and preached the homily.

Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. of Kansas City-St. Joseph and Father Anthony Viviano, moderator of pro-life activities for the Jefferson City diocese, and several other priests concelebrated.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, who gave the opening prayer at last year's March, was celebrating Mass at the previously scheduled diocesan Sixth Grade Vocations Day and could not be present at this year's March for Life.

Bishop Rice called the Closing Mass the most important part of the day.

"Having marched and listened to all these great talks, we come to the altar," he said. "We come with thanks to Almighty God for the gift of life."

As it was the feastday of St. Joseph the Worker, Bishop Rice pointed out Jesus's foster-father's role as a man of action.

"Obedient and strong and faithful, patron of the poor and the dying and protector of the Holy Church, St. Joseph shows us the way!" Bishop Rice proclaimed. "He challenged us to work with women in need, doing what we can to support women who are facing a crisis and help them choose life."

He called everyone to unite their pro-life convictions with God's, through frequent attendance at Mass, Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and praying the Rosary.

"Let us always be convinced that life will be victorious," he said.

Next year's March will take place on May 1, 2025.

[midwestmarchforlife.com](http://midwestmarchforlife.com)

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# Window from former St. Aloysius Church restored

A stained glass window from the former St. Aloysius Church in Baring has been restored.

Lois Hunziker proposed this project after purchasing the window when the church was being torn down for safety

reasons in 2023.

She wanted the window to be revamped so that it could easily be on display in the Baring Community Center.

She contacted Rich Green, the Industrial Arts teacher at Knox County R-1 School District, to



**ABOVE:** Krayden Hamlin, Robert Dooley, Collin Hayes and Reice Miller stand with the stained glass window they helped restore from the former St. Aloysius Church in Baring. The window is on display in the Baring Community Center. **RIGHT:** Lois Hunziker and Dot Kriegshauser admire the restored window — Photos by Rich Green



see if a student would be willing to take on the project, and there were a few ready for the task.

Church member Collin Hays and other Knox County High School students Austin Heath, Robert Dooley, Mitchell Mauck, Krayden Hamlin

and Reice Miller worked on the project.

They added depth to the back of the frame so they could install LED lights to illuminate the glass.

They also built a base allowing Teresa Hunolt to lean the

window back and store it in a closet if needed.

In addition, they used the old window weights for a counterbalance on the bottom and enclosed them in a white box.

*This article is from the St. Joseph Parish website in Edina: [sasj.diojeffcity.org](http://sasj.diojeffcity.org).*

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# Fr. Niekamp to lead Spring Pilgrimage to Starkenburg Shrine

**DATE: May 19**  
**TIME: 10 am - 3 pm**

The Historic Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows Shrine at Starkenburg will host its annual Spring Pilgrimage on Sunday, May 19.

The day will begin at 10

a.m. with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

The pilgrims will then carry a replica of the White Lady, an image that has been at the Shrine since 1852, in a Rosary procession through the Shrine grounds, stopping at each of the outdoor Stations of the Cross.

A traditional German meal will be available for purchase from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Valentine Hall, which is handicap accessible and air-conditioned.

The public is welcome to attend the meal, even if not participating in the pilgrimage. "We look forward to welcoming pilgrims from all over Missouri to our Spring Pilgrimage" said Father Philip Niekamp, spiritual director of the Shrine. "All are invited to spend a refreshing, prayerful day in the pastoral environs of this beautiful Shrine," he said.

Fr. Niekamp is pastor of St. George Parish in Hermann, Church of the Risen Savior Parish in Rhineland, Immaculate

Conception Parish in Owensville and St. Alexander Parish in Belle.

Following the meal, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available.

The pilgrimage will conclude with Benediction at 1 p.m. and Mass at the Outdoor Altar at 2 p.m., with Fr. Niekamp presiding.

Religious articles will be available for purchase and will be blessed in the afternoon.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows is located in Montgomery County, 2 miles north of the Katy Trail, on Highway P.

The Shrine is handicap-accessible.

The Shrine and St. Martin's Church Museum are open daily for visitors. For more information about the history and other events at the Shrine, visit [www.risensavior.diojeffcity.org](http://www.risensavior.diojeffcity.org).

The parish office can be reached at 573-236-4390.

## Pope: Jesus asks for faithfulness, but also friendship

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Jesus calls believers not only to be servants of his kingdom, as the prophets and Mary were, but also to be his friends, Pope Francis said.

"Friendship is not the fruit of calculation, nor of compulsion, it is born spontaneously when we recognize something of ourselves in the other," he said May 5.

Jesus not only wants to entrust humanity with his mission of salvation, the pope said, "he wants more, something greater that goes beyond goods and plans themselves; it takes friendship." Jesus is invested in his friendship with humanity "even to the point of making himself fragile for us, of placing

himself in our hands, without defense or pretense, because he loves us," he said.



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## EIGHTH GRADE

From page 1

and the Mass.

“You see, in our Catholic churches, the way we treat the Blessed Sacrament says a lot about our faith in Jesus Christ,” the bishop said.

He pointed out how the Cathedral’s altar and tabernacle are embellished with materials and artwork that proclaim joy and reverence for Jesus in every sacramental encounter.

The tabernacle, adorned with artistic reminders of Mary as the Mother of the Savior, attests to the Incarnation — the Son of God becoming fully human while also remaining fully divine.

“Because of our communion with Christ, we have communion with one another in the Church, which is the Body of Christ,” said Bishop McKnight. “That is who we are.

“Our worship here, centered on God, and our love of God is integrally defined in the twofold commandment: ‘Love God and love your neighbor,’” the bishop stated.

By dying on the cross and rising from the dead, Jesus restored the communion that had been lost between God and humanity by Adam’s first sin.

The Eucharist makes Jesus and his restorative sacrifice fully present at every Mass.

God makes himself uniquely present within the worldwide universal Catholic Church, founded by Jesus Christ.

“In our communion with God’s Church, we have communion with God himself,” said Bishop McKnight.

With that comes the privilege and responsibility of announcing his Good News to the rest of the world — “an invitation to invite them to recognize the presence of God among us,” the bishop said.

### “Be a saint!”

Bishop McKnight and Dr. Vader thanked the priests, the principals and vice principals, the teachers, the volunteers and the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish staff for their roles in bringing about this first Eighth Grade Mass.

Both thanked the students, including the choir members, for their active and attentive

participation.

Dr. Vader intends to have the Mass become a yearly event.

She told the students that the purpose of every Catholic school is to bring them closer each day to Christ, “and to help you be the best Christian and the best Catholic you can be in this world.”

She gave them a challenge as they prepare to move out into the “bigger world” — “Be a saint!”

That doesn’t mean being perfect or not making mistakes.

Rather, “being a saint means you dedicate yourself to God and to making sure that you are making the best decisions that you can in trying to do good every time you can,” she said.

“And when you make a mistake, you double down and you try harder and you do your best again.”

Dr. Vader cautioned the students against letting the world define who they are or what is right and wrong.

“Find your own fire,” she said. “Find your own spark. You know what is good and right. Be strong! Be a saint!”

She reminded them that no matter what the world does to them, they always have someplace they can go.

“You have a home with your family, you have a home with your friends, you have a home with your old teachers, and you have a home in your parish,” she said. “There are people who know you and there are people who love you.”

More importantly, they must never stop turning to God, “who loves you more than any of us ever could.”

“Put your faith in Christ and let your heart rest,” she told them.

### Work in progress

Members of the Diocesan Advisory Student Council were pleased with how the Mass and festive luncheon came together.

Council member Eli Woodruff, an eighth-grader at Holy Family School in Freeburg, believes it’s important for students from different schools



Erin Vader Ed.D. (top right), diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools, addresses the eighth-graders of the diocese’s 37 Catholic elementary schools at the end of the inaugural Eighth Grade Mass on May 2 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

— Photo by Jay Nies

to meet, share ideas and help serve the Church.

He said the council members also suggested holding a crafts and activity day for Catholic school fifth-graders, and a “quiz bowl” academic competition for seventh-graders.

Both events, along with the long-standing Sixth Grade Vocation Day and another Eighth Grade Mass, are slated to be held next year.

Eli said he’s enjoyed becoming friends with fellow council members.

He plans to attend Fatima High School in Westphalia next fall and to take as much of what he’s learned and experienced at Holy Family with him.

He believes anyone who is invited to serve on the Diocesan Advisory Student Council next year should do it.

“It’s a commitment, but it’s not very hard,” he said. “And it’s pretty fun.”

### Setting an example

Council member Nora Seedorf, an eighth-grader at Mary Immaculate School in Kirksville, gave the welcoming remarks before the Mass.

Her principal had invited her to serve on the diocesan council this year, “and I said yes.”

The council meets virtually each month, allowing members throughout the diocese to participate without traveling.

The council’s objectives have been straightforward.

“We help plan activities for this year and next year, espe-

cially for fifth through eighth grade,” said Nora.

“And we’re all really excited to get to know each other better and help advance our communities,” she stated.

Serving on the council requires some effort, “but I really like it,” she said.

This fall, Nora will embark on a combination of classes at Kirksville High School and the Catholic online Seton Home Study School with her parents.

She’s sad that the Catholic faith will no longer be the center of her life at school, but she’ll continue to learn about God and grow in her faith at home.

She plans on staying in touch with all of her friends from Mary Immaculate.

She intends to pray whenever she can and give a good Christian witness through her everyday life.

“If people do see me make the Sign of the Cross, hopefully it will help them see that it’s okay to be strong in your faith,” she said.

### Being responsible

Eighth-grader Chloe Stafford’s principal at Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City recommended her to serve on the Diocesan Advisory Student Council.

“She said I was responsible,” Chloe recalled.

“To me, that means being prepared and ahead of things, knowing what’s happening, being ready to do anything,” she stated.

Chloe believes planning this year’s Eighth Grade Mass was

one of the council’s crowning achievements.

“Dr. Vader asked us about things that we wanted to see happen, fun activities,” she said. “We want every grade to have something fun to do together.”

Chloe plans to take the experience she’s gained from her time on the council with her to Helias Catholic High School in the fall.

She’s looking forward to making new friends and having access to new activities and experiences.

“I hope I can also take everything that I learned at ‘I.C.’ and be a good friend and a good student and be respectful and responsible,” she stated.

### “I love being here”

Reese Hohe’s seventh-grade English teacher at St. Patrick School in Rolla assigned the class to write a short paper about what they like about school.

“After that, I kind of got chosen for this,” she said.

She’s enjoyed serving on the council this year.

“It’s been fun,” she said. “I’ve also made some good friends.”

She hopes to return to the council in the fall during her eighth-grade year at St. Patrick.

She knows next year will be different, with new members and new challenges and opportunities.

Her advice to the new members who will join the council then: “You’ll do fine. Just talk about what you want to add, what you’re thinking about and your ideas.”

Reese said she enjoyed worshipping God with such a large group of eighth-graders in the recently renovated Cathedral.

“It was beautiful,” she stated. “I love being here.”

She’s particularly impressed with the resplendent mosaic behind the crucifix, above the tabernacle.

“I love how it’s so shiny and glittery and gold,” she said. “I also like how the tabernacle, where the Blessed Sacrament is kept, looks like the Ark of the Covenant. I thought that

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## ORDAIN

From page 1

Sunday and usually also once or twice a week on weekdays. We prayed the Rosary fairly frequently.”

His home parish in the St. Louis archdiocese was St. Joseph Parish in Cottleville. The once-idyllic country parish near the edge of the St. Louis metro area has grown exponentially in the past 40 years into one of the largest Catholic parishes in Missouri.

Mr. Clever’s parents homeschooled him and his siblings through elementary school, including robust religious education.

He then went to DeSmet Jesuit High School, an all-boys Catholic school in the heart of St. Louis County.

He admired many priests who served at his parish, as well as transitional deacons who were on their way to becoming priests.

He also looked up to his great-uncle, Monsignor John H. Westhues (1922-2008), a Jefferson City native who served for many years as a priest of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau.

“I always thought about being a priest,” Mr. Clever recalled. “They seemed cool and mysterious.”

He attended several spiritual retreats with seminarians who were actively seeking God’s unique plan for them.

“That was big,” Mr. Clever recalled, “getting to know seminarians and seeing that they are real people who have fun in their lives and that they’re just like me.”

Spending time in prayer brought him profound peace.

“I think that sense of peace I found in prayer was the really big thing that helped me discern my vocation,” he said.

His parents, siblings and friends were aware of his priestly aspirations and supported his decision to enter priestly formation for the St. Louis archdiocese.

He majored in philosophy at Cardinal Glennon College of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis and continued with post-graduate theology studies and priestly formation at Kenrick-Glennon.

Fellow seminarians included Paul Clark, Christopher Au-

buchon and Joshua Duncan, who eventually became priests of the Jefferson City diocese; and Andrew Auer, who’s now a priest of the St. Louis archdiocese serving at St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia.

“I have really fond memories of that time,” said Mr. Clever. “We learned a lot. It’s not always easy, but approaching God from a perspective of reason is important, and seeking God through philosophy really matters.”

### Keeping watch

Seven years after entering the seminary, Mr. Clever decided not to continue.

“God does funny things to help us get to where he wants us to be,” he stated.

Simply, he was no longer finding peace in prayer.

“There was a disquiet in my soul in which God was saying, ‘Maybe not right now,’” he recalled.

He didn’t feel like he was closing the door on Priesthood forever.

“Generally speaking, it was more like, ‘God, I’m not sure what you want, so I’m just going to be open to it,’” he said.

Mr. Clever accepted and relished the role of middle-school religion and science teacher at Sacred Heart School in Valley Park.

“Those were two very happy years,” he stated.

It allowed him to share his passion for faith and for God’s Creation.

“My degree is in philosophy, but I always find science interesting,” he said. “If you understand philosophy, teaching middle-school science is not particularly difficult. There are a lot of connections there.”

All the while, he continued making regular visits to one of his favorite places, the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starckenburg, in the Jefferson City diocese.

“I always feel close to God there,” he said. “I found peace there and I found God there.”

The historical shrine in the Ozark foothills honors the Blessed Mother and the sorrows she accepted upon becoming the mother of the Savoir — not only his violent death on the

cross but also the ingratitude with which his sacrifice has been met by so many through the ages.

“I’ve always been able to see God in the sorrows of Our Lady, so I find a lot of solace in prayers for her intercession,” said Mr. Clever.

His sense of peace in prayer gradually returned, and he knew God was calling him back into priestly formation.

This time for the mostly agrarian Diocese of Jefferson City.

“It was pretty much the same thing as the first time,” he stated. “Get in touch with the vocation director and set up a meeting and go from there and follow the Holy Spirit.”

“You’re trying to follow God,” he said. “He’ll take care of you if it’s something he wants.”

### Gold standard

Mr. Clever’s parents welcomed his decision to continue discerning Priesthood in a diocese so close to their own.

“Their faith in God is my foundation,” said Mr. Clever. “I’m still very close to them.”

Bishop McKnight enrolled Mr. Clever in Mundelein Seminary in Chicago.

This is how Mr. Clever described priestly formation: “You’re obviously going to school. But you also have a lot of discernment and meeting with formators and trying to figure out, ‘What does God want for me?’”

“It’s certainly not easy,” he stated. “You’re trying to grow and become what God wants you to be — finding the things about yourself that have to die so that you can become that person God made you to be.”

“So, as St. Paul talks about, you’re becoming ‘like gold tested in fire,’” he said. “Seminary is like a fire that is good for you, purifying you and helping you become the person God made you to be.”

As part of their formation, Mr. Clever, Jacob Hartman and Shane Klithermes — fellow seminarians of this diocese — spend time each week



Gregory Clever

at St. Peter Damian Parish in Bartlett, Illinois, in the Chicago archdiocese, forming bonds with parishioners and fully investing themselves in the life of the parish.

Mr. Clever’s favorite courses so far have included human formation, St. John’s writings, and practicum classes on praying the Mass and praying the Rite of Baptism.

“So, you’re learning not just how to do it right but how to properly pray through that experience,” he said.

He’s also found the homiletics classes at Mundelein to be excellent.

“I’m grateful for those as well,” he said.

### “Just the Gospel”

Mr. Clever received a letter from Bishop McKnight a couple of months ago, formally summoning him to receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

“I was ecstatic!” said Mr. Clever. “It’s something you think about for such a long time, something you’re preparing for, and to finally have it in hand, it’s just kind of surreal.”

Having attended many diaconal ordinations, he said the part that stands out most for him is when the man being ordained lays face-down before the altar while all the faithful ask the saints to pray for him.

“There’s something very powerful and beautiful about that,” he said. “You lay yourself down in total surrender to God.”

Father Anthony Yates, a priest of the St. Louis archdiocese, who served as Mr. Clever’s

spiritual director and as pastor of a parish where he helped out for a year as seminarian, will ceremonially help him put on his vestments during the ordination.

“He’s been a very positive influence on my discernment,” said Mr. Clever. “He showed me a lot about how to be a holy priest, a good priest at a parish.”

Mr. Clever will remain a deacon — an ordained clergy member who engages in and facilitates the day-to-day and sacramental life of the Church — for the rest of his life, even after he becomes a priest.

Two things he’s especially looking forward to about being a deacon are preaching homilies at Mass and administering the Sacrament of Baptism.

“There is something particularly beautiful that Christ is working through you in claiming someone for God,” he said of Baptism. “That person becoming a child of God right there.”

As for preaching: “Just the Gospel. Jesus rose from the dead! That’s what we’re always here to reflect on.”

### “Be saints!”

When asked about his favorite Bible verse, Mr. Clever cited without hesitation John 3:30, in which St. John the Baptist, referring to Jesus, says, “He must increase, I must decrease.”

“It’s about growing in holiness and putting Jesus out in front,” said Mr. Clever. “Making sure things are in their proper order. Making sure we resist the tendency to make ourselves into gods. Whenever we try to put ourselves out in front of Jesus, something has gone wrong.”

He likewise called to mind Jesus’s last words in John’s Gospel: “Follow me.”

Mr. Clever asks for continued prayers as his diaconal ordination approaches and as he continues preparing for Priesthood.

“Just pray for me to be a saint,” he said.

To help God answer that prayer, he suggested: “Be saints, too!”



By Father Donald Antweiler  
**ACROSS**

1. This puzzle is proudly brought to you by the \_\_\_\_\_ EIGHT!
6. In 1985, the Mo. State insect was proclaimed to be the \_\_\_\_\_. It is so designated also in 16 other States because of its important role in agriculture.
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ vera plant is used for small cuts and skin abrasions.
14. The Bible says there were EIGHT persons in the \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Peter 3:20).
15. Israeli airline.
16. "It is in keeping with the very meaning of the Eucharist that the faithful, if they have the required dispositions, receive communion each time they participate in the \_\_\_\_\_," —*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1388.
17. Cornhusker State (abbr.).
18. Prefix for mobile or biography.
19. Movie alien.
21. It seems like an \_\_\_\_\_ two that I've been waiting for my new computer (2 wds.).
23. Prefix for cord or volt.
24. Josiah, one of the few really good kings in the history of Israel, was EIGHT years old when he began his \_\_\_\_\_, (2 Kings 22:1).
26. Known for its potatoes and mountains, this State is nicknamed the Gem State because it produces 72 different types of precious and semi-precious stones (abbr.).
28. Louisville slugger, for example.
31. River bottom dirt carried by a current.
32. Letters for Hemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying component of red blood cells.
33. Last words?
35. EIGHT-lettered city which is home to the main campus of the Univ. of Mo.
37. A type of baseball pitch.
38. Leers at.
41. Letters for Learning Disability, a disorder involved in understanding or using language, writing or spoken.
42. The EIGHT-lettered name of our State comes from the \_\_\_\_\_ for which it is named.
46. "...Esau, who sold his birthright for a single \_\_\_\_\_," (Hebrews 12:16).
47. This State, the Hawkeye State, gets its nickname from a character in the novel *The Last of the Mohicans*, written by James Fenimore Cooper in 1826 (abbr.).
49. The middle name of J. C. Penny, born in Hamilton, Mo. in 1875.
50. This State is called the Mountain State. It has some of the most rugged land in the country (abbr.).
52. I changed the \_\_\_\_\_ of my letter to better project boldness and confidence.
54. The EIGHT-lettered Mo. State flower is the White \_\_\_\_\_ blossom. There are 75 species of this flower in our State.
56. Me, in Paris.
58. "When his son Isaac was EIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded," (Genesis 21:4).
59. "Some even went \_\_\_\_\_ far as to suggest that there was no corpse at all — that the coffin was empty, or weighted only by stones inside," —*The Case of the Empty Coffin, Great Mysteries of History*, Kenneth Platnick.
60. A cubic centimeter (\_\_\_\_\_) is used to measure the volume of blood in the human body.
62. "Puller scanned the file under the \_\_\_\_\_ of a streetlamp outside CID headquarters," —*Zero Day*, David Baldacci.
63. Abbr. for *Exempli Gratia* (i.e., for example).
64. That's a laugh!
66. Pack up your \_\_\_\_\_. We've got a long hike.
68. The round top of a water tower in Tipton, Mo. is painted like a giant EIGHT \_\_\_\_\_. It is a lasting tribute to Tipton's heritage as source of the high-end pool tables produced by the former Fischer Pool Table company.
70. The bark of this tree long provided material to write on. Also, words can be easily and legibly carved into its smooth trunk. Its name is thought to be the source word for book. It has long symbolized knowledge.
72. In computer networking, short for Station. Or, the beginning letters for Saint Thomas Aquinas.
73. Mount where Moses received the 10 commandments.
74. Pie \_\_\_\_\_ mode (2 wds.).
75. ...hallowed be \_\_\_\_\_ name...
76. Companion to NT.
77. In 2007, the Mo. legislature declared Mo.'s State grass to be the EIGHT-lettered Big \_\_\_\_\_. It was a major component of Mo.'s prairies. It was requested by Truman elementary 4th graders in Rolla, Mo.
80. "There is now in this country (Confederacy) much suffering among the poorer classes...for want \_\_\_\_\_ corn and salt," —*Battle Cry of Freedom, the Civil War Era*, James McPherson.
81. On average, people in this country tend to eat about 100 acres (yes, acres) of pizza each day (abbr.).
83. You've got questions? I've got \_\_\_\_\_!
84. High priest who raised the future prophet Samuel in the temple (1 Samuel 3:1-21).
85. Brand of soda.
87. His name means Lion of God, or The Lord is my Savior. \_\_\_\_\_ Fleischer served as the 23rd White House Press Secretary for Pres. George W. Bush.
88. \_\_\_\_\_ Kringle, derived from the German *Christkindl* (Christ Child), is the traditional Christmas gift-bearer in parts of Germany and Switzerland.
89. To sharpen.
90. Pre-schooler, for example.
91. "Mr. Lincoln and his wife were scrupulous in most of the outward observances of religion and attended \_\_\_\_\_ regularly. When Willie died, they sent for their pastor," —*Tad Lincoln's Father*, Julia Taft Bayne.
3. The small \_\_\_\_\_ and pop store up the street was the social center of our neighborhood.
4. The traditional EIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ are in the Gospel of Matthew, ch. 5, v. 3-10.
5. "...in a certain way, we have already \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ. Christian life is already now on earth a participation in the death and Resurrection of Christ," —*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1002.
6. This EIGHT-lettered Mississippi River town is famous as the home of the humorist and popular author who made his home town famous, starting with his second novel: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.
7. Sandwich cookie.
8. Letters for the dangerous failed State of North Korea.
9. "...to announce a \_\_\_\_\_ of favor from the Lord..." (Isaiah 61:2).
10. The EIGHT-lettered name of Mo.'s official State bird is the Eastern \_\_\_\_\_. New York State also has chosen this beautiful bird as its State bird.
11. "For as often as you \_\_\_\_\_ this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes," (1 Corinthians 11:26).
12. Letters for the Electric Light Orchestra, a 1970-80s rock band.
20. The Magi, for instance.
22. This State's nickname is the Ocean State because of its sandy shores and beaches and seaside Colonial towns (abbr.).
25. An extension at right angles to the length of a building.
27. Letters for Mo.'s Department of Corrections.
29. Letters for All Terrain Vehicles.
30. Mao \_\_\_\_\_ Tung.
31. Lion villain in Disney's *The Lion King* animated movie.
32. Mo. \_\_\_\_\_ EIGHT begins in St. James, Mo. and continues east through Steelville, both towns and parishes in our diocese, for a total of 69 miles into St. Francois County.
34. In 2005, Mo.'s EIGHT-lettered State amphibian was officially declared to be the North American \_\_\_\_\_. It was nominated by a 4th grade class from Chinn elementary in KC.
36. In the movie theater industry, letters for Box Office.
39. Dorothy's Auntie.
40. "Adam had relations with his wife, and she gave birth to a son whom she called \_\_\_\_\_. God has granted me more offspring in place of Abel, she said..." (Genesis 4:25).
43. Letters for the parish in Brookfield or Owensville.
44. "Pacelli, the future Pope Pius XII, and the \_\_\_\_\_ generally, understood the vital

CLUES continued on page 17

## CLUES

From page 16

- importance of American Catholicism to the long term vigor of the Church. In 1936, he was the highest-ranking Catholic official ever to visit the U.S.” —*A Pope and a President*, Paul Kengor.
45. Relative Humidity (\_\_\_\_) refers to the moisture content of the atmosphere.
47. “Acedia has a temporal dimension: the day seems 50 hours long; it has a spatial dimension: the impression of being hemmed \_\_\_\_\_, of being stifled.” —*The Noonday Devil: Acedia, the Unnamed Evil of Our Times*, Abbot Jean-Charles Nault.
48. “Reacher...looked \_\_\_\_\_ the man behind the desk with an expression that said he’d been more impressed with the contents of his Kleenex the last time he’d blown his nose.” —*The Secret*, Lee Child and Andrew Child.
51. Letters for Volkswagens.
53. “The blast of glory that attends launch and landing doesn’t last long. The spotlight moves \_\_\_\_\_, and astronauts need to, too.” —*An Astronauts Guide to Life on Earth*, Col. Chris Hadfield.
54. A witch or crone.
55. Bone.
56. Abbr. for the Bay State, so called because of its most famous bay, Cape Cod, where the Pilgrim’s first settled.
57. As the moon \_\_\_\_\_ around the earth, it strays away from earth by about 1.5 inches a year, about the rate fingernails grow.
58. Philistine woman who betrayed Samson (Judges 16: 4-22).
60. The EIGHT-lettered common name we, as Church,
- are known by.
61. Mo.’s official EIGHT-lettered State invertebrate (yes, we have an official one) is the \_\_\_\_\_, more commonly known perhaps as a crawdad.
64. Slang perhaps for a gangland pistol or a fastball pitch in baseball, or just an appliance to produce warmth.
65. “The reason the religious makes profession of the condition of perfection is not because he is \_\_\_\_\_, but because he is a religious.” —*The Diocesan Clergy, History and Spirituality*, Antoine-Marie Charue, Bishop of Namur.
67. Old Testament heroine; 19th book of the Bible (abbr.).
69. Short for a Labrador Retriever.
70. A hive full of #6 ACROSS.
71. Burgers’ Smokehouse, south of California, Mo. is esp. famous for its country and smoked city \_\_\_\_\_.
73. After the confrontation at the party, things really went \_\_\_\_\_.
78. His Nat. Guard \_\_\_\_\_ was sent to the Gulf coast to help with the hurricane’s aftermath.
79. A \_\_\_\_\_ Team is often called in for hostage rescues and active shooters.
82. St. \_\_\_\_\_ is the name of the parish in Warsaw, Mo.
84. “We must not \_\_\_\_\_ on the side of overconfidence.” —*The Sign of Four*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
86. A degree from Mo. S&T perhaps.
88. Kansas Jayhawk univ.; Mizou nemesi (abbr.).

See ANSWERS, page 19

## Iowans rally to urge repeal of new state law

OSV News

Davenport, Iowa

As many as 1,000 people participated in prayer vigils and rallies in four Iowa cities May 1 in support of human dignity and the repeal of a new, punitive state law on illegal migration.

On that same day, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, Iowa’s bishops issued a statement opposing the law and calling for a

fair, compassionate resolution to challenges with migration.

The law, which takes effect July 1, is similar to a Texas law passed last year but is on hold pending court appeals. I

n Iowa, Catholic parishes and the Iowa City Catholic Worker houses anchored the rallies and vigils in three of the four cities — Davenport, Iowa City and Waterloo.

## VOCATIONS

From page 5

joy of finding the right fit of living that holy love in their future life decisions,” she said.

Sr. Mary Ruth is convinced that God spoke to everyone at the event in some personal way.

The sixth-graders heard repeatedly that finding their vocation is an ongoing process of discernment to know God’s will.

“We pray that at home, in the classroom, and all of daily living, there will be an environment conducive to faith growth and appreciation of discernment for calls to religious and priestly life,” said Sr. Mary Ruth.

Benedictine Brother Placid Dale, a member of the Benedictine community at Conception Abby in northwestern Missouri, spoke of living under a monastic rule.

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

“We’re all called to be saints,” Brother Placid noted. “We become saints by listening to God and by journeying toward God in this life.”

How does someone figure out his or her specific vocation?

“You start by praying and listening to God,” the brother stated. “You have to ask God, ‘What is it that you’re calling me to be?’”

He acknowledged that God’s answer can be jarring at first.

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

### “Our job”

This year, Sixth Grade Vocation Day took place on the memorial feastday of St. Joseph the Worker, honoring Jesus’s foster father in his role as provider and protector of the Holy Family.

At a Mass concelebrated with priests of the diocese, Bishop McKnight emphasized that Sixth Grade Vocation Day is about more than helping individual sixth-graders be open to the calling God has for them.

“More important, I would say, is your significant role in helping create a culture of vocations within your school, with-



Participants in this year’s Sixth Grade Vocations Day wear matching T-shirts emblazoned with the day’s theme: “Called to Sainthood” on the front and “Be not afraid!” on the back. — Photo by Annie Williams

in your parishes, within our diocesan Church,” the bishop stated.

He spoke of how St. Joseph helped the Blessed Mother raise Jesus and provide an ideal oasis for him to grow in understanding of his vocation as the Son of God and the Savior of the World.

Not everyone in Jesus’s hometown were as helpful — with some taking offense at the great things he was saying and doing in their presence.

“I suppose some of them probably felt a little jealous of him, maybe a little envious, and they didn’t help make a good environment to support Our Lord’s vocation as God intended,” said Bishop McKnight.

The bishop said discerning and following one’s own unique call from God is much easier in such a supportive environment.

“Sometimes, unfortunately, there just isn’t such a positive environment in the home,” the bishop noted. “And that’s a great difficulty for young people who hear the call of God and want to respond but are defeated in one way or another.”

Therefore, it’s important for other people — including friends and peers — to help young people recognize their unique gifts and talents that suggest a particular vocation in the Church.

“Maybe, that means getting over some jealousy ourselves because we might see some qualities in them that would make them a good priest, a good religious sister ... or maybe a very faithful Catholic in the world today,” said Bishop McKnight.

He cautioned that encour-

agement is helpful but presumption is not.

“We don’t need to be telling everybody what their vocation is. That’s God’s job,” said the bishop. “But it’s OUR job to support them in their discernment.”

### A word to parents

Sr. Karolyn said if she could reinforce anything to the sixth-graders’ parents, it would be that holiness and happiness are intimately related.

“The vocation that your child is called to becomes a source of life — even if it’s different from the vocation that you are called to,” she said she’d tell parents.

Mr. Gonzalez emphasized the importance of family life and of parents spending significant time with their children.

“If you don’t spend quality time together, you will miss the opportunity to grow together, to talk about life, to share values and to be a role model,” he said.

He observed that that time passes extremely quickly.

“If adults don’t slow down to really ‘live’ their kids — as opposed to ‘live with’ their kids — there’ll come a time when they will ask themselves what went wrong or why their kids do this or that,” he stated.

In that sense, phones can become a very strong enemy to family life, “and we adults cannot ask our kids to leave their phones aside if we don’t do it first,” he said.

Sr. Mary Ruth prayed that everyone at Sixth Grade Vocations Day, especially the students, “would remain open, with listening ears and hearts.”

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

## Fundraisers & Social Events

May 12

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

May 31

Freeburg, Cruise-in and Holy Family Parish BBQ, 5 pm-midnight, parish grounds

Jun. 2

California, Annunciation Parish picnic, 11 am-6 pm; Fran-kenstein, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish picnic, 11 am-6:30 pm

Jun. 9

Belle, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am; Loose Creek, Immaculate Concep-

tion Parish picnic, 11 am-10 pm

Jun. 10

Jefferson City, Vitae Foundation's Rackers Family memorial pro-life golf classic & pickleball tournament, 8 am-5 pm, Jefferson City Country Club, for info or to register visit [vitae.foundation.org](https://vitae.foundation.org)

## Meetings & Conferences

May 17-19

St. Louis, 25th Anniversary St. Louis Marian Conference, Renaissance Hotel-St. Louis Airport, for info or to register, call 314-850-7718 or visit [stlmc.org](https://stlmc.org)

Jun. 2

Camdenton, Post Weekend

Ultreya for Cursillo, 2-4 pm, St. Anthony Church lower level, for info visit [diojeffcity.org/cursillo](https://diojeffcity.org/cursillo)

Jun. 15

Shelbina, Catholic Charities Parish Engagement and Charity Event, 9 am-noon, St. Mary Parish, for info or to register visit [cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/peace](https://cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/peace)

## Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

mayo 18

Jefferson City, Retiro de Quinceañera, 9 am-3 pm, San Pedro, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 en su celular o en WhatsApp o por

correo electrónico a [ecasastro@diojeffcity.org](mailto:ecasastro@diojeffcity.org); Marshall, Retiro de Quinceañera, 10 am-4 pm, San Pedro, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 en su celular o en WhatsApp o por correo electrónico a [ecastro@diojeffcity.org](mailto:ecastro@diojeffcity.org)

mayo 25

Columbia, Planificación Familiar Natural - Familia de las Américas, 9 am-noon, Sagrado Corazón, Para información sobre instructores y clases contacte a Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 o por correo electrónico a [ecastro@diojeffcity.org](mailto:ecastro@diojeffcity.org), para más información sobre este método, visite: [diojeffcity.org/natural-family-planning/](https://diojeffcity.org/natural-family-planning/) y/o [familyplanning.net/es](https://familyplanning.net/es)

## 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](mailto:jimkemna@gmail.com)

Every Friday

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

May 15

Jefferson City, Monthly gathering of the Men of Signum Crucis, 5:30-8 pm, Helias Catholic High School, for info visit [menofsignumcrucis.com](https://menofsignumcrucis.com)

May 18

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](https://cocemo.org); Columbia, "Life in the Spirit," CoMo Catholic Charismatic

Prayer Group, 8 am-4 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish multipurpose room

Jun. 13

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

May 12

Laurie, Mother's Day Mass, beginning with free brunch 9:15-11 am, Mass 1:30-2:30 pm and unveiling of recently added name to Mothers' Wall of Life, RSVP at [mothersshrine.com](https://mothersshrine.com)

May 14

Starkenburg, Second Tuesday Mass, with Sacrament of Reconciliation, Rosary and luncheon following Mass, 11 am-1 pm, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows

May 15

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

May 19

Starkenburg, Spring Pilgrimage, 10 am-3 pm, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows

May 27

Jefferson City, Memorial Day Mass, 9-10 am, Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum

## 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](https://icangels.com/youngadults)

Third Sundays each month

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

## KITCHEN

From page 6

opportunity to continue their legacy.

Volunteers meticulously scrubbed away years of dirt, making the kitchen shine.

No shortcut was taken as volunteers lemon-oil-cleaned cabinets, hand-washed each and every dish, deep-cleaned appliances, repaired and paint-

ed the walls, and stripped, waxed, and cleaned the floors.

Leaders of various parish groups came together to make the hard decisions regarding what items would be kept or discarded.

The final steps involved moving furniture, appliances, and all the dishes back into the kitchen.

Transformation completed, the results are truly spectacular.

Throughout the renovation, volunteers exemplified dedication, teamwork.

St. Zita's words, "A servant is not holy if she is not busy," were embodied in the group's efforts.

There was no rancor — only generosity, laughter and appreciation for the sacrifices of past St. Robert Bellarmine parishioners.

This project showcased the power of community and faith, making Lent 2024 a time both of sacrifice and holiness.

A special thank you to every volunteer who worked tirelessly to make this project a success. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated.

*Ms. Bone is a member of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in St. Robert.*

## Pope urges reparation to the Sacred Heart, including for abuse crisis

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

The spiritual practice of reparation "may be somewhat forgotten or wrongly judged obsolete" today, but it is essential for the promotion of justice and healing, including on behalf of those who have suffered abuse in the Church, Pope Francis said.

With a sincere commitment to reparation, the hope is that even "if the irreparable cannot be completely repaired, love can always be reborn, making the wound bearable," the pope said.

Pope Francis met May 4 with participants in a conference marking the 350th anniversary of the 17th-century apparitions of Jesus to French St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, which included his call to promote devotion to his sa-

cred heart and to make acts of reparation or penance for the times people have not recognized Christ's love.

Reparation is a concept found throughout the Bible, the pope said.

"In the Old Testament, it takes on a social dimension of compensation for evil committed," being a matter of justice such as returning something that had been stolen or repairing something that was damaged.

"In the New Testament, however, it takes the form of a spiritual process, within the framework of the redemption brought about by Christ," the pope said.

"Reparation is fully manifested in the sacrifice of the cross. The novelty here is that it reveals the Lord's mercy toward the sinner."

## QUESTION

From page 8

ing us for a heavenly life in his direct presence. And it has been traditionally understood that if we patiently bear the sufferings we naturally experience in this life, this can help us grow more detached from sin and the passing things of this world so as to set our hearts more firmly on God alone.

*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](mailto:CatholicQA@osv.com).*

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](http://diojeffcity.org/update-information)

## Anniversaries

**Argyle, St. Aloysius**  
 Don & Carol McCoy, 60 years  
 David & Brenda Moore, 55 years  
 Bob & Marie Delaney, 40 years  
 Dale & Sharon Schenewerk, 40 years  
 Don & Laurie Kleffner, 35 years  
 Shawn & Shelley Kell, 10 years

**Brookfield, Immaculate Conception**  
 Randy & Doris Holloway, 45 years  
 Bret & Kathy Seckington, 30 years

**Fayette, St. Joseph**  
 John & Pat Merk, 50 years  
 Harold & Beth Lammers, 40 years  
 David & Sheila Wallace, 35 years  
 John & Nan Geha, 25 years  
 Jason & Sarah Hutchinson, 20 years

**Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception**  
 Dennis & Vickie Lueckenotte, 40 years

**Palmyra, St. Joseph**  
 Joe & Terry Barnes, 55 years  
 David & Regina Hastings, 50 years  
 Duane & Judith Martin, 20 years

**Salisbury, St. Joseph**  
 Larry & Joanne Gheens

**Taos, St. Francis Xavier**  
 Thomas & Joyce Lage, 55 years

**Wardsville, St. Stanislaus**  
 Donnie & Peggy Luebbert, 50 years

**Wien, St. Mary of the Angels**  
 Quintin & Michelle Yallaly, 20 years

## Marriages

Monroe City, Holy Rosary — **Paula Karr & Craig Spegal**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Simon Kempker & Frances Benson**

## Deaths

Ewing, Queen of Peace — **Fred Raleigh**

Hermann, St. George — **Chester Kleindienst**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Sandra Amend; Marjorie Prenger**

Richmond, St. Jude — **CSM (Ret.) Jacob E. Haller**

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Wilma Weimer**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Thomas Grothoff**

## Baptisms

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Anthony James Allen Shanks**, son of Christopher & Tiffany Shanks; **Cecilia Jane Snow**, daughter of Trevor Snow & Lauren Wieberg

Hermann, St. George — **Gray Steven Epple**, son of Bryce & Jamie Epple

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Tatum Seidt**, son of Brad & Keri Seidt

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Rhys Scott Kempker**, son of Jeremy & Megan Kempker

Osage Bend, St. Margaret of Antioch — **Briggs Lee Koelling**, son of Jacob & Lauren Koelling

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior — **Leo Banks Thompson**, son of Chad & Haley Thompson

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Chance Nathan Fitz Adams**, son of Amos Adams & Jordan Benward

## Birthdays

**Sister Joseffa Eveler, CCVI**, a Jefferson City native who served for many years at Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, her 91st on Apr. 26

Tipton, St. Andrew — **Virgil Koechner**, his 94th on Apr. 15

## SR. HOSEA

From page 9

Then relax and listen, letting God love and guide you.

### 3. Practice silence in your relationships.

The Letter of St. James says, "You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger" (James 1:19).

True, authentic communication begins with listening.

That means being silent so as to hear the needs of the other, whether those needs are expressed in words or not.

Pope Benedict XVI observed, "It is often in silence, for example, that we observe the most authentic communication taking place between people who are in love: gestures, facial expressions and body language are signs by

## ROGATION

From page 3

the people and the ground.

"In your goodness, protect our lands from wind and hail and let a rich crop grow from the seeds we plant," he prayed.

The people then processed back into church, knelt down and joined Fr. Schradler in asking God for mercy and pardon, for a spirit of repentance, for protection from all wicked things and for renewal of mind and body.

Several families remained in church for a while, kneeling in silent prayer.

## WEIGEL

From page 9

far from the warmth of stars, but who knows what alien skies it might traverse during some distant eon and what alien eyes will look upon its golden disc and wonder about us. If so, Voyager 1 could be one of our last marks on the cosmos and the measure mankind is judged by."

Judged by whom? Or what? And by what standards?

Whether or not life-forms "out there" will ever meet Voyager 1, I suggest that the very fact of this marvel of human creativity confounds despair: the despair that imagines the universe as an inexplicable accident, and that thinks of humanity as the random by-product of random, if fortuitous, cosmic biochemical processes.

The intelligence and imagination that created Voyager 1, and that has kept us in contact with our "most distant emissary," testify to the spiritual nature of human beings: creatures possessed of a reason that insistently probes the truth of things and a will to explore what has been discovered.

No merely material compound of atoms and cells could have imagined, built, and operated Voyager 1.

I confess that I have never been able to read the novels of William Faulkner. But I have read, more than once, his magnificent address on accepting the 1949 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Its peroration seems to me a fitting answer to the cosmic melancholy of David Whitehouse and those who, thinking about Voyager 1, are similarly doleful:

"I decline to accept the end of man. It is easy enough to say that man is immortal simply because he will endure: that when the last dingdong of doom has clanged and faded from the last worthless rock hanging tideless in the last red and dying evening, that then there will still be one more sound: that of his puny, inexhaustible voice, still talking. I refuse to accept this. I believe that man will not merely endure, he will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance."

An immortal soul, the Christian would add, that images the Creator, whose handiwork is not doomed to the cold death of entropy, but rather destined for the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:10-26).

*George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow and William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies Ethics and Public Policy Center. His column is distributed by the Denver Catholic, the official publication of the Archdiocese of Denver.*

## Crossword puzzle answers

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

## Lifting their voices at National Day of Prayer in Sedalia



The Choir of Sacred Heart School in Sedalia, directed by Mr. Darrin Hartman, attend and sing at the National Day of Prayer observance on May 2 outside the Pettis County Courthouse in Sedalia. The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance designated by the United States Congress and held on the first Thursday of May, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation."

— Photo from the Sacred Heart School, Sedalia, MO Facebook page

## "Bring flowers the fairest ..."



Families and fellow Cathedral of St. Joseph parishioners in Jefferson City observe as children who recently received their First Holy Communion honor the Blessed Mother during a traditional May Crowning in the Cathedral on May 3.

— Photo from the Cathedral of St. Joseph – JC Facebook page

## A peaceful poster



Representatives of the Jefferson City Host Lions Club honor Gracyn Prenger, a seventh-grader at St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City, for winning at the local level and then placing second statewide in the Lions Club Peace Poster Contest.

— Photo from the St. Joseph Cathedral School Facebook page

## Bible Accent

After Jesus returned to heaven — which is called the Ascension — his followers decided they needed to choose a replacement for Judas, the apostle who betrayed Jesus.

Beginning in Acts 1:15, we read that about 120 of Jesus' followers, including the apostles, were gathered together.

Peter stood up to speak. He reminded everyone how Judas had betrayed Jesus for money, and that Judas had died after using that money to purchase a piece of property.

Since it was written in the Psalms, "May another take his office," Peter said that Judas needed to be replaced.

"Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us, become with us a witness to his resurrection," Peter said.

Two men were suggested — Matthias and Joseph, called Barsabbas, who also was known as Justus.

After those gathered had prayed for guidance to make the right choice, the two men were given lots. The lot fell on Matthias, who was chosen as Judas' replacement and was counted as an apostle with the other 11.

## St. Eugene de Mazenod

St. Eugene de Mazenod was born in France in 1782. He and his family fled to Italy during the French Revolution. Eugene returned 11 years later and decided to become a priest when he saw the disastrous state of the French church. After ordination, he ministered to needy people in Aix-en-Provence. In 1816, he founded and was superior general of an order that eventually became known as the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate. In 1837, he became bishop of Marseilles, where he was a reformer and built new churches for those immigrating to France. Eugene died in 1861, and we honor him on May 21.



## Before ascending to heaven, Jesus tells of the Spirit's coming

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic Courier

After he resurrected, Jesus appeared to his apostles and other followers during a period of 40 days.

He spoke to Mary of Magdala at his empty tomb. He twice appeared in a locked room in Jerusalem where the apostles were staying. He walked with two followers who were traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus. And he waited on the shore of a lake while several of his friends were out fishing in their boat.

Whenever Jesus appeared to his friends, he talked to them about the kingdom of God.

He also told the apostles to stay in Jerusalem and wait for "the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

At the end of the 40 days, Jesus and the apostles gathered at the mount called Olivet. It was there that his friends asked him a question.

"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" they wanted to know.

"It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority," Jesus replied. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria,



Illustration by Linda Rivers

and to the ends of the earth."

As Jesus finished speaking to his friends, he was lifted up upon a cloud that took him from their sight.

They strained their eyes and craned their necks to get a better look at the sky where they last saw Jesus. As they did so, two men dressed in white suddenly appeared next to them.

"Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?" the men asked. "This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in

the same way as you have seen him going into heaven."

The apostles began walking back to Jerusalem. They returned to the upper room where they had been staying, and they prayed there with some of the other followers of Jesus.

### Read more about it... Acts 1

1. Why did Jesus want his friends to remain in Jerusalem?
2. How was Jesus taken up to heaven?

### Essay

Reading for  
May 12, 2024: Acts 1:1-11

How would you react if you saw the resurrected Jesus?

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## Puzzle

Using the hints provided from Acts 2 about the coming of the Holy Spirit, write T next to the sentences that are true and F next to the ones that are false.

1. \_\_\_ The Holy Spirit came to the apostles silently. (verse 2)
2. \_\_\_ The Holy Spirit appeared like tongues of fire. (verse 3)
3. \_\_\_ A large crowd gathered when they heard the Holy Spirit come. (verse 6)
4. \_\_\_ The Holy Spirit made it possible for the apostles to speak other languages. (verse 4)

Answers: 1. F; 2. T; 3. T; 4. T.

# Flannery O'Connor's enduring attraction on display in a film called 'Wildcat'

By Maria Wiering  
OSV News

Ethan Hawke knows "Wildcat," his film about the life and imagination of Southern writer Flannery O'Connor released May 3, is unlikely to attract general audiences.

"It's a difficult subject matter for a lot of people. They don't know what to make out of it,"

he said in a Q&A with media April 30.

The film weaves the narrative of the 20-something Catholic writer (portrayed by Hawke's daughter, actress and singer Maya Hawke) coming home to Georgia and to grips with having lupus — a debilitating disease that killed her father and would kill her, too, at age 39 — with scenes from her always strange and often unsettling short stories, whose characters are disfigured, uncouth and immoral.

Like O'Connor herself, her



Maya Hawke portrays Flannery O'Connor in the movie "Wildcat."

— OSV News photo/Oscilloscope

stories grapple with the nature of God's grace and fallen people's reception to it.

Although the film contains overtly religious themes, it neither proselytizes nor sensationalizes faith, unlike most religion-focused films on the market, said Hawke, its co-writer and director. Instead, he aimed to capture the mystery in faith, suffering and creativity.

"I wanted to make a movie that I wanted to see," he said. "I am a very spiritually minded person. It's the most important thing in my life. And I don't see much about it (in film)."

"Wildcat" — named for one of O'Connor's early short stories — is the latest in several recent contributions honoring O'Connor's legacy and promoting her writing, suggesting an enduring and even growing fascination with her work, despite renewed controversy about O'Connor herself.

In January, O'Connor scholar Jessica Hooten Wilson published *Flannery O'Connor's Why Do the Heathen Rage?*, a look at O'Connor's unfinished novel through the lens of her other work and influences.

Wilson told OSV News she hopes the culture is experiencing "a Flannery moment" be-

yond Catholic literary circles as next year's centennial of the writer's birth approaches.

She lamented that O'Connor, who produced two novels and 31 short stories, couldn't have lived as long as her cousin Louise Florencourt, co-trustee of the Mary Flannery O'Connor Trust, who died at age 97 in July.

"We could have seen so many amazing O'Connor novels and stories, so many essays and letters from the devout genius about how to understand what it means to faithfully follow Christ in our time and place," Wilson said. "We are all hungry for wisdom — wisdom we can see lived out in story so we can imitate it in how we too live — which is why we look back to O'Connor's work and bring her forward into 2024."

Wilson, the Fletcher Jones Endowed Chair of Great Books at Pepperdine University in California, plans to release lectures in the fall for "The Great Courses" on Audible "to share more about how to understand Flannery O'Connor and her scandalous faith," she said.

In 2015, the U.S. Postal Service issued a Flannery O'Connor stamp for its "Literary Arts" series, and 2019 saw the publication of *Good Things Out of Nazareth*, a compilation of O'Connor's correspondence with friends.

That same year, "Flannery" — the first feature-length documentary about her life, co-directed by Jesuit Father Mark Bosco of Georgetown University and Elizabeth Coffman, director of the film and digital media program at Loyola University Chicago — won the first Library of Congress

## Movie Ratings



Adults

The American Society of Magical Negroes (PG-13)  
Arthur the King (PG-13)  
Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire (PG-13)  
Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (PG-13)  
Irena's Vow (R)  
One Life (PG)  
We Grown Now (PG-13)  
Wildcat (not rated)



Limited Adult Audience

Civil War (R)



Morally Offensive

Abigail (R)  
Immaculate (R)  
The First Omen (R)  
Road House (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film.

"She's so unique because she brings so many things together," Fr. Bosco told OSV News of O'Connor. "I'm just fascinated that artists find in her a kind of muse, almost. These artists read her work, they experience her work, and they're taken on a journey as artists."

Angela Alaimo O'Donnell, a professor at Fordham University in New York who has taught O'Connor's work for four decades, said she "really is a writer who we keep coming back to."

"Even though she's writing about a very specific place and time, her native South in the 1950s and 1960s, there is a timeless quality to O'Connor stories, so that she always is relevant, always has application to the time when people are reading her," she said. "With all great writers, we're constantly in the process of re-assessing, 'Well, what does this writer have to say to us now?'"

O'Connor's frequent use of afflicted, disfigured and disabled characters "are indicators of brokenness in the person themselves," O'Donnell told OSV News. "In O'Connor, everyone is broken, it's just more obvious in some people than others, but it's part of the human condition. It's the inheritance of original sin. We're all broken and we're all in need of grace and mercy. So, I think people find that very com-

elling, even if they wouldn't necessarily use that theological language."

After writing a biography of O'Connor published in 2015, O'Donnell addressed, in her 2020 book *Radical Ambivalence*, O'Connor's complex and contradictory attitudes toward race as a writer in Georgia during the Civil Rights Movement, in light of some of O'Connor's previously unpublished letters. In *The New Yorker*, Paul Elie, a senior fellow at Georgetown University, criticized O'Donnell's work and other efforts to elevate O'Connor while downplaying her racist remarks. O'Donnell, who disagrees with Elie's view, said his criticism played a role in Loyola University Maryland removing O'Connor's name from a residence hall in 2020, a decision which O'Donnell publicly opposed.

"Wildcat" includes some of O'Connor's short stories that center on race and racism, and Hawke addressed the controversy in the April 30 Q&A.

"One of the challenges for Flannery in her personal life and one of the challenges to a contemporary audience is the fact that she grew up in a Jim Crow South," he said. "She was fed on the water and soil of a country that was rife with racism and she saw all of that. She never wrote about what it was like to be oppressed, because

See O'CONNOR, page 23

## On air

**Mustard Seed**  
Sunday Scripture readings  
and reflections

Sundays, 10:06 am, KWIX-AM 1230, Moberly  
Sundays, 8 am, KRLL-AM 1420, California

**EWTN and other**  
Catholic programming  
Covenant Radio Network  
broadcasts

KHJR 88.1 FM, Jefferson City  
KBKC 90.1 FM, Moberly  
KEFL 91.5 FM, Kirksville  
94.7 FM, Columbia  
103.3 FM, Fulton  
K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

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## COUNCIL

From page 14

was pretty cool.”

As for the festivities afterward: “It was awesome,” she said. “Everyone is dancing!”

### Hoping to stand out

Eighth-graders Layla Murphy, Ella Ricker, Natalie Vandiver and Addilyn Roach from Holy Family School in Hannibal enjoyed their trip to Jefferson City.

“It’s great to be able to worship together and be part of such a large community,” said Addilyn.

“Getting to be here and see all the priests and everyone together is really nice,” said Natalie.

None of the four had been to the Cathedral before.

“It’s really cool,” said Ella. “We used to watch videos of Mass going on here. It’s really cool to be inside it and actually experience it.”

Addilyn was impressed with the crown-shaped ceiling, Natalie with the colorful stained-glass windows.

All four have been going to school together since pre-kindergarten, and all four plan to go to Hannibal High School in the fall.

“It’s going to be very different,” said Ella.

“I think the biggest change is

going to be the number of kids in our classes,” said Adalyn.

As such, she’s looking forward to becoming friends with more people.

“I’m excited for the new opportunities and new stuff we can join in high school,” said Layla.

All four said they plan to stay active in the Church and continue putting their faith into practice.

They said they hope the way they behave and treat other people will help people know that they came from Holy Family.

### Cultivating community

Maggie Van Leer and Harper Cormley are eighth-graders at Sacred Heart School in Sedalia.

They’re both leaning toward continuing at Sacred Heart for high school next year.

“I love the community so I’m definitely going to be here,” said Maggie.

This was both of their first times visiting the Cathedral since it was renovated and expanded last year.

“It’s definitely fun meeting new friends and seeing new faces,” said Harper.

“It’s cool because we don’t usually get to see very many

other Catholic eighth-graders,” said Maggie. “So, it’s good to meet with people who have similar beliefs to ours.”

Both are hoping for a reasonably smooth transition to high school.

“It’s definitely going to be a lot more crowded,” Harper predicted, “and probably a little bit harder than eighth grade. And we’ll have to get more mature.”

“Prayers are very much appreciated,” said Maggie. “It can be a tough transition, so I’ve heard — so, for all of us, pray that we can stay focused on what’s important and have fun.”

### Take it to God

Nora asked for prayers for all graduating Catholic eighth graders to keep their faith, continue going to Sunday Mass and carry the Good News into the rest of the week.

Chloe asked for prayers for her classmates and her “not to be afraid to move on or be scared of change.”

Reese requested prayers for God to lead her and her classmates to great things in the upcoming year.

“Pray for us that we will have a successful time in high school and continue to be good Christians,” said Eli.

## O’CONNOR

From page 22

she didn’t know anything about that. But she wrote a lot about white hypocrisy, and she wrote about it very beautifully and with a sharp razor’s edge.”

Hawke’s inspiration came from his mother’s admiration for O’Connor’s writing.

“In our house, Flannery O’Connor was the most important Southern writer in American literature, because that’s what my mother thought,” he said.

Then, as a teenager, Maya fell in love with O’Connor’s writing. Her fascination led her to O’Connor’s prayer journal from the writer’s time at the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, and the question of whether creative endeavors, such as writing and other arts can also be acts of worship, and if personal ambition can rise above

self-centeredness to serve the greater good.

“I was so grateful as a father to have that conversational door opened,” Ethan Hawke said. “You could take a story like ‘Parker’s Back’ and talk about what does that mean? Why is it so upsetting? But I was so grateful to those stories and the writing because it just provoked real family discussion in a way that I wasn’t able to do on my own.”

When Maya approached her father about producing the film, he said it “seemed like a dream come to me, that your daughter would reach out to you about a subject matter that you care about.”

He said that he made the film for literary audiences and O’Connor devotees, devout Catholics and spiritual seek-

ers, and fans of his daughter’s work, which includes Netflix’s science-fiction horror drama “Stranger Things.”

In the final scene of “Wildcat,” O’Connor drags the furniture away from the wall of a room in her mother’s house, rearranging it into what Ethan Hawke described as “kind-of shrine,” to write in the middle of her room. She sits at her typewriter, her back to the window where she used to work.

For Hawke, that scene illustrates “a level of acceptance that ... she was trapped in this home, that she couldn’t have the life she imagined, that she wanted.”

“But once she accepted that, she realized it was OK,” he said. “She could bring the world to her, and not only did she not need to go to any fancy

## Daily Readings

### Sunday, May 12

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD  
Acts 1:1-11  
Ps. 47:2-3, 6-9  
Eph. 1:17-23 or 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13  
Mk. 16:15-20

### Monday, May 13

*Our Lady of Fatima*  
Acts 19:1-8  
Ps. 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab  
Jn. 16:29-33

### Tuesday, May 14

St. Matthias, Apostle  
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26  
Ps. 113:1-8  
Jn. 15:9-17

### Wednesday, May 15

*St. Isidore (USA)*  
Acts 20:28-38  
Ps. 68:29-30, 33-35abc-36ab  
Jn. 17:11b-19

### Thursday, May 16

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11  
Ps. 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11  
Jn. 17:20-26

### Friday, May 17

Acts 25:13b-21  
Ps. 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab  
Jn. 21:15-19

### Saturday, May 18

*St. John I, pope and martyr*  
Morning:  
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31  
Ps 11:4, 5, 7  
Jn. 21:20-25  
Pentecost Vigil:  
Gn. 11:1-9 or Ex. 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez. 37:1-14 or Jl. 3:1-5  
Ps. 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-30  
Rom 8:22-27  
Jn. 7:37-39

### The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for May:

We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

### Sunday, May 19

PENTECOST SUNDAY  
Acts 2:1-11  
Ps. 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34  
1 Cor. 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Gal. 5:16-25  
Jn. 20:19-23 or 15:26-27; 16:12-15

### Monday, May 20

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

### Tuesday, May 21

*St. Christopher Magallanes, priest, and companions, martyrs*  
Jas. 4:1-10  
Ps. 55:7-11a, 23  
Mk. 9:30-37

### Wednesday, May 22

*St. Rita of Cascia, religious*  
Jas. 4:13-17  
Ps. 49:2-3, 6-11  
Mk. 9:38-40

### Thursday, May 23

Jas. 5:1-6  
Ps. 49:14-20  
Mk. 9:41-50

### Friday, May 24

Jas. 5:9-12  
Ps. 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12  
Mk. 10:1-12

### Saturday, May 25

*St. Bede the Venerable, priest and doctor of the Church; St. Gregory VII, pope; St. Mary Magdalene de’ Pazzi, virgin*  
Jas. 5:13-20  
Ps. 141:1-3, 8  
Mk. 10:13-16

Sponsored by

place, she didn’t even need to look out the window.”

Coffman, the “Flannery” documentary co-director, thinks the film may have a powerful impact on viewers.

“I think,” she said, “the story-

telling they accomplished, with her (O’Connor’s) commitment to both her faith and writing, will end up converting people.”

*Maria Wiering is senior writer for OSV News.*

# Catholic Rural Life marks first century Bishop to offer Mass at Laurie national Shrine

OSV News

St. Paul, Minnesota

For the past 100 years, Catholic Rural Life has ministered to Catholics like Jim Glisczinski who live and work

in a rural setting.

As part of his involvement with the organization, Glisczinski, a member of Our Lady of the Prairie in Belle Plaine Parish, hosts seminar-

ians at his farm every fall to learn about farm equipment.

The St. Paul-based national organization receives support from 80 dioceses. It now has members in 45 states.

“Since 1923, the organization has been promoting Catholic faith in rural America,” said James Ennis, executive director of Catholic Rural Life, adding that the need to evangelize rural areas is “needed more now than it was 100 years ago.”

**DATE: May 20**  
**TIME: 6:30 pm**

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight will celebrate the feast of Mary, Mother of the Church, at the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church with a Mass on Monday, May 20, at 6:30 p.m.

The Mass will be celebrated at the outdoor Shrine, which

is adjacent to St. Patrick Catholic Church, 176 Marian Drive, off of Highway 5 in Laurie.

In 2018, Pope Francis bestowed the gift of a new feast-day on the Church: the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, to be celebrated each year on the day after Pentecost.

The title “Mother of the Church” dates back to the fourth century writings of St. Ambrose of Milan, though.

In 1968, Pope St. Paul VI gave official recognition of the title when he wrote:

“The Blessed Mother of God, the New Eve, Mother of the Church, continues in heaven her maternal role with regard to Christ’s members, cooperating with the birth and growth of divine life in the souls of the redeemed.”

For 35 years, the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church has welcomed faith-filled visitors from around the world seeking to celebrate and share the beauty of these truths.

### Summer season Masses begin Memorial Day weekend

With the summer season beginning Memorial Day weekend (May 25-26), all are invited to worship with the community of the Mothers’ Shrine on Saturdays at 8 p.m. and at Sundays 8:30 a.m.

More information can be found at [mothersshrine.com](http://mothersshrine.com) or by calling 573-374-MARY (6279).

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Confessions 12:30 pm  
Benediction 1 pm  
Outdoor Mass 2 pm

\*Fried chicken, roast beef, green beans, mashed potatoes, corn, slaw & dessert — \$15 adults, \$5 kids 6-12

Shrine & Valentine Hall handicap accessible.  
For info, visit [www.risensavior.diojeffcity.org](http://www.risensavior.diojeffcity.org) or call (573) 236-4390

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