

## Visionary leadership

Angelle Hall, director of campus ministry at the St. Thomas More Newman Center, is selected for a prestigious honor.  
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# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

May 24, 2024 • Vol. 67 No. 24

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## Diocese to host Eucharistic Pilgrimage events



**July 1-5 processions and walking  
between parishes along the Katy Trail;  
events in Sedalia, Boonville,  
Columbia, Jefferson City, Starkenburg**

By Jay Nies and Valerie Schmalz

Catholics in the Jefferson City diocese will play an important role for a few days this summer in making the case that Jesus meant what he said.

Namely: “This is my Body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me,” (Luke 22:19).

One of the four groups of perpetual pilgrims with the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will pass through the diocese July 1-5, bringing abundant opportunities for prayer and participation.

The groups began their eight-week odyssey on May 19, the Solemnity of Pentecost.

Each group includes priests, religious and laypeople processing on foot with the Most Blessed Sacrament.

They encourage people in each diocese to join them for a stretch as they make their way to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis.

People are encouraged to participate in Mass, Adoration, catechesis and fellowship in Sedalia, Boonville, Columbia, Jefferson City and Starkenburg, and to walk in procession with the Blessed Sacrament along the Katy Trail between several locales.

“My brothers and sisters, we are part of something at the national level to bring a better worship, awe and wonder of the greatest gift given to Humanity: the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ!” Father Joseph Corel told his parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County.

See EUCHARIST, page 17

People look on as San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone blesses the city and pilgrims after leading a procession across the Golden Gate Bridge May 19, 2024. The event was celebrated for the western route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, during which pilgrims from across the United States will travel with the Eucharist for the next eight weeks on their way to the National Eucharistic Congress, scheduled for July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis.

— OSV News photo/Bob Roller

## Rev. Mr. Christopher Hoffmann to be ordained to Priesthood June 1

By Jay Nies

Bishop Earl K. Fernandes needed a deacon to assist him at a Mass for the 10th anniversary of the Swahili Catholic Community in Columbus, Ohio.

“Why not?” said Rev. Mr. Christopher Hoffmann, a seminarian at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, and candidate for the Priesthood for the Jefferson City diocese.

He expected it to be a one-time engagement but wound up assisting at four or five more Swahili liturgies in the 12 months since he was ordained a transitional deacon.

“Linguistically, it’s not something I expect to be involved in very much back home,” he acknowledged. “But it was in the mode of saying ‘yes’ to those little opportunities to be a bridge-builder wherever God calls us.”

That’s an approach to ministry Rev. Mr. Hoffmann hopes to carry into the Priesthood when Bishop W. Shawn McKnight ordains him on Saturday, June 1.

“Once you’re ordained, it becomes your duty to be the presence of Christ in every situation and every aspect of life,” Rev. Mr. Hoffmann noted.

The bishop will also ordain seminarian Gregory Clever a transitional deacon for the diocese that day.

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

All are invited to attend in-person or to watch the livestream on the Diocese of Jefferson City Facebook Page.

People planning to attend should register online at: [diojeffcity.org/ordination-mass-2024](https://diojeffcity.org/ordination-mass-2024).

See ORDAIN, page 19

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**MOVING?** If you are moving or changing parishes, please fill out information below. Clip and mail to THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN, 2207 West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Or complete the online form at [diojeffcity.org/update-information](http://diojeffcity.org/update-information). Allow two weeks.

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## New Missouri law bars Medicaid funding for Planned Parenthood

OSV News

Jefferson City

Gov. Mike Parson, R-Mo., signed legislation May 9 that revives an effort to block Planned Parenthood from the state's Medicaid program.

The legislation, HB 2634, ends Medicaid reimbursements to any health care providers affiliated with abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood.

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's June 2022 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision that reversed its previous abortion precedent, Missouri banned abortion in most circumstances.

Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, states on its local affiliate website that it no longer performs abortions in Missouri; it instead directs people for abor-

tion to its clinics across state lines in Southern Illinois.

Supporters of allowing Planned Parenthood to receive Medicaid funds point to that group's involvement in cancer screening and prevention services — such as pap tests and HPV vaccinations — but critics argue the funds are fungible and could be used to facilitate abortion despite the state's prohibition.

Planned Parenthood's Medicaid funding has long been a target of pro-life advocates, and state lawmakers have previously attempted to block the organization from Missouri's Medicaid program — a move the Missouri Supreme Court found unconstitutional in February.

Pro-life groups applauded the new legislation, while Planned Parenthood vowed to continue to serve Medicaid patients "at no cost" while admitting the practice was unsustainable. The new law is scheduled to go into effect Aug. 28.

### The Catholic Missourian

Official newspaper — Diocese of Jefferson City  
Mailing address: 2207 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Phone: 573-635-9127

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

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight  
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THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN (ISSN 1083-6977 or USPS 556940), May 24, 2024, volume 67, number 24. Published biweekly at 2207 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65109. Subscription price \$14 a year through parish plan. Periodical postage paid at Jefferson City, Mo. and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to The Catholic Missourian, 2207 W. Main St., Jefferson City MO 65109-0914.

## Helias Catholic High School to break ground on campus expansion

Helias Catholic High School will officially break ground on its *Spirit of Excellence* campus expansion project during a ceremony at 10:45 a.m. on Wednesday, June 5.

The *Spirit of Excellence* project is a transformative initiative to complete Helias Catholic's campus master plan, constructing a new

performing arts center and on-campus baseball and softball complex, as well as expanding the existing Rackers Fieldhouse.

All members of the Crusader family and community are welcome to celebrate the groundbreaking ceremony, which will take place on the southeast side of the Helias Catholic campus, in the heart of Jefferson City.

The area will be accessible through the breezeway entrance from the front parking lot on Swifts Highway as well as from the Carter Street parking lots.

The new performing arts center will house an auditorium that seats up to 1,000 with academic and performance spaces for Helias Catholic's instrumental and vocal music, dance, and theater programs.

The baseball and softball complex, to be constructed southeast of the school building, will bring student-athletes in two major athletic programs home with the capacity to host up to 1,000 spectators.



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Added space in the existing James L. Rackers Fieldhouse will allow for needed updates to athletic and conditioning facilities.

Completing this final phase of Helias Catholic's campus master plan is a roughly \$30 million investment in the future of Helias Catholic and the community.

Combined with funds already pledged toward the project and up to \$7 million in committed support from The Foundation for the Benefit of Helias Catholic High School, the Spirit of Excellence campaign seeks to raise at least \$7 million to make this plan a reality for future generations of Crusaders.

For more information and to support the Spirit of Excellence campaign, visit [heliacatholic.com/spiritofexcellence](http://heliacatholic.com/spiritofexcellence) or contact Helias Catholic President Ron Vossen at [rvossen@heliacatholic.com](mailto:rvossen@heliacatholic.com) or 573-635-6139.



Father Ernest Dike, parochial administrator of St. Patrick Parish in Jonesburg and of Immaculate Conception Parish in Montgomery City, gives a blessing during the May Crowning celebration outside St. Patrick Church May 12. Avery Finke had the honor of placing the crown of flowers on the image of the Blessed Mother, a Catholic springtime tradition dating back to medieval times.

— Photo from the St. Patrick Catholic Church - Jonesburg, MO Facebook page

## 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).

## Teachers Needed - Westphalia



St. Joseph School in Westphalia, Mo., is seeking to fill the following teaching positions: **second grade, third grade, and music**. Teachers should be able to create a positive classroom environment with engaging lessons. Good communication skills with colleagues and parents are expected.

Applicants should hold the appropriate Missouri teaching certification, or its equivalent. Applicants for second grade must be practicing Catholics. If you are looking to join a positive educational team and to make a difference in the lives of students, search no further and contact the principal, Jeremy Horvath at [jhorvath@stjosephwestphalia.org](mailto:jhorvath@stjosephwestphalia.org).

# Pope declares ‘blessed’ a medieval Frenchman who started hospitals

Catholic News Service

**Vatican City**

Although a normal beatification process was not followed, Pope Francis has declared as “blessed” Guy de Montpellier, a 12th-century French knight and founder of the Hospitaller Order of the Holy Spirit.

“By Our Apostolic authority, We inscribe in the catalogue of the blessed Guy de Montpellier,” and decree that

his feast day will be celebrated Feb. 7 by the religious orders and institutes of the Holy Spirit in Sassia, the pope wrote in a document dated May 18.

Pope Francis said that Blessed Guy, “wishing to fulfill as faithfully as possible the ideal of mercy proclaimed by Jesus, outlined a very broad purpose for his work, which aimed to embrace people in their entirety, soul and body ... .”

**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.*



## Bishop McKnight’s Calendar

**MAY**

**May 28** Council of Deans meeting, 11 am; Presbyteral Council meeting, 1 pm, Chancery

**May 31** Ordination rehearsal, 3 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Rehearsal dinner, 5 pm, Bishop’s residence

**JUNE**

**Jun 1** Mass of Ordination of Rev. Mr. Christopher Hoffman and Mr. Gregory Clever, 10 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph

**Jun 2** Blessing of St. Boniface Chapel and Hall Renovations, 10 am, Koelztown

**Jun 3** Clergy Sports Day

**Jun 5** Helias Catholic High School Spirit of Excellence campus expansion groundbreaking, 11 am, Jefferson City

**Jun 7** Evening Prayer and diocesan Deacons gathering, 6:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph

**Jun 9** Mass of the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, diocesan patroness, 5 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph

**Jun 10** Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Board of Directors meeting, noon, virtual

**Jun 11** United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on National Collections, 1 pm, Louisville, Ky.

**Jun 11-14** United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Spring Meeting, Louisville, Ky.



## Official Decree of Appointments

*The Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City, hereby makes the following appointments to provide the most effective pastoral care of the Diocese of Jefferson City:*

**PRIESTS**

**Reverend Monsignor Gregory L. Higley**, from Sacred Heart Parish, Columbia to Pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Rolla, and as Dean of the Southeast Deanery, effective July 1, 2024.

**Very Reverend Daniel J. Merz, SLD**, to Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Columbia, effective July 1, 2024, and to continue as Pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbia, Vicar for Deacons, and Chair of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

**Reverend Joseph A. Abah, Ph.D.**, from St. Peter Parish, Fulton, and St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, Mokane, to ministry outside the Diocese of Jefferson City, effective July 1, 2024.

**Reverend Christopher M. Aubuchon**, from Parochial Administrator of St. Lawrence Parish, St. Elizabeth, to Pastor of St. Lawrence Parish, St. Elizabeth, effective July 1, 2024, to continue as Parochial Administrator of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, St. Anthony.

**Father Alexius Ekka**, from of Our Lady of Snows Parish, Mary’s Home, and Sacred Heart Parish, Eldon, pending further ministerial assignment, effective July 1, 2024.

**Reverend Alexander Gabriel**, from Holy Family Parish, Hannibal, and St. Joseph Parish, Palmyra, to Pastor of St. Peter Parish, Fulton, and Parochial Administrator of St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, Mokane, effective July 1, 2024.

**Reverend C. Paschal Iheodhamma**, from Sacramental Minister of Immaculate Conception Parish, Brookfield, to

Parochial Administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish, Brookfield, effective July 1, 2024, and to continue as Parochial Administrator of St. Bonaventure Parish, Marceline, St. Raphael Parish, Indian Grove, and the Mission of St. Joseph, Hurricane Branch.

**Reverend Simon Jude Kanyike**, from Associate Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Columbia, to Parochial Administrator of Our Lady of Snows Parish, Mary’s Home, and Parochial Administrator of Sacred Heart Parish, Eldon, with residence at Our Lady of Snows Parish, Mary’s Home, effective July 1, 2024.

**Reverend Walter Kispotta**, from temporary Sacramental Ministry at St. Mary Parish, Milan, and the Mission of St. Mary, Unionville, to Hospital and Nursing Home Ministry in Columbia, with residence at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, effective July 1, 2024.

**Very Reverend Gregory C. Meystrik**, from St. Patrick Parish, Rolla, to Pastor of Holy Family Parish, Hannibal, and Parochial Administrator of St. Joseph Parish, Palmyra, and acceptance of resignation as Dean of Southeast Deanery, effective July 1, 2024.

**Reverend Ignitius Nimwesiga**, from full-time Chaplain of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, Columbia, to part-time Associate Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Columbia, and part-time Chaplain of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, Columbia, with residence at Sacred Heart Parish, Columbia, effective July 1, 2024.

**Reverend Greiven Rodriguez**, to Parochial Administrator of St. Mary Parish, Milan, and the Mission of St. Mary, Unionville, with residence at St. Mary Parish, Milan, effective July 1, 2024.

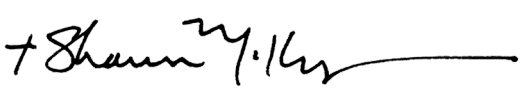
**DEACONS**

**Deacon John D. Weaver**, from Parish Life Collaborator of St. Mary Parish, Milan, and the Mission of St. Mary, Unionville, to diaconal ministry at St. Mary Parish, Milan, and the Mission of St. Mary, Unionville, effective July 1, 2024.


**RELIGIOUS**

**Sister Mary Rost SSND**, from Parish Life Collaborator of Immaculate Conception Parish, Brookfield, to Pastoral Associate of Immaculate Conception Parish, Brookfield, effective July 1, 2024.

Given at the Chancery in Jefferson City this 10th day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2024.



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



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



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# Michael and Cheryl Kelly of Columbia receive papal honors

By Jay Nies

Michael and Cheryl Kelly have been helping build up the Church in and around Columbia for decades.

Now, their efforts have garnered recognition from the highest echelons of the Church.

On behalf of Pope Francis, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight presented Mr. and Mrs. Kel-

ly, longtime members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, with the prestigious Knight of Pope St. Sylvester and Dame of Pope St. Sylvester award.

The honors were given "in recognition of your contributions to the well-being and growth of the Church and the Catholic Faith, as a sign of our gratitude," according to a proclamation from the Vatican.

The Kellys are only the second and third people of this diocese to receive this award in the diocese's 67-year history.

The order, established by Pope Gregory XVI in 1841, is an award bestowed by his papal successors to Catholic laymen who by their examples in business, the professions, the military and society have lived exemplary lives of charity.

"It is the least known of the papal orders, but one of the most cherished due to its rarity of bestowal, especially in the United States of America," noted Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki, vicar general of the diocese.

"The unique ribbon, however, immediately identifies it as one of papal knighthood and ladyhood," he stated.

Bishop McKnight conferred the honor on May 18 during the Saturday Vigil Mass of Pentecost in Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

"I am personally grateful (to the Kellys) for their presence in our local Church, and I have found them to be great examples of our Catholic faith in the flesh," the bishop stated.

## "Good role models"

Mr. and Mrs. Kelly met while studying at the University of Missouri.



Cheryl and Michael Kelly stand with Father Roberto Ike, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia, and Bishop W. Shawn McKnight on May 18, the day the bishop presented the couple with the Knight of Pope St. Sylvester and Dame of Pope St. Sylvester award at Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Columbia.

— Photo by Annie Williams

Mr. Kelly was raised as a member of St. Joseph Parish in Edina.

Mrs. Kelly grew up in Kansas City. She began attending Our Lady of Lourdes Church with her future husband and was received into the Church on her 21st birthday.

Together, the Kellys have been instrumental in the development of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, supporting the school financially, serving on the Tolton Catholic Advisory Council, and the Tolton Catholic Finance committee.

Father Christopher Cordes, who was pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish for eight and a half years, testified to the Kellys' commitment to the Catholic faith, generosity to the parish and diocese, and eagerness to help him at the parish whenever needed.

Mr. Kelly served as chairman for the fundraising campaigns when the present Our Lady of Lourdes Church was built in 1999 and when a major addition to Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School

See ST. SYLVESTER, page 21

**The Camino de Santiago and Fatima**  
with Fr. Matthew Flatley

**SEPTEMBER 9-22, 2024**

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Portomarín ✕ Palas de Rei  
Arzúa ✕ Lisbon  
Pilgrim Mass in Santiago de Compostela  
Candlelight Procession in Fatima  
Porto ✕ Chapel of Apparitions  
Daily Mass

To learn more, call Fr. Matt @ 573-202-3590 or email [mflatley@diojeffcity.org](mailto:mflatley@diojeffcity.org)

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**Memorial Day Mass**

**Monday, May 27**  
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**Resurrection Cemetery**  
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Jefferson City

In this special Mass, we remember all those buried in our Catholic Cemeteries, and especially those who have died since the last Memorial Day. It is also dedicated to all Veterans, alive and deceased, who have served our country.

# Pastor: New annex in Rich Fountain is response to urgent needs

By Jay Nies

Sacred Heart Parish's new St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Annex in Rich Fountain is a testament to hard work and fervent prayer.

The building on the Sacred Heart Parish property will provide much-needed classrooms for Sacred Heart School, abundant work space for the parish quilters, and a kitchen for cooking large quantities of food for parish events.

Father William Debo, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish and of Holy Family Parish in Freeburg, blessed and dedicated the school portion of the building during an outdoor, all-school Mass on May 14, the last day of the current academic year.

He dedicated the rest of the building after Sunday Mass on May 19, the Solemnity of Pentecost, followed by a reception and tours.

"We now have a beautiful fry kitchen for our picnics and a huge basement for storage, which we've been lacking," said Fr. Debo.

The new building includes a framed image of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a 17th-century French saint to whom Jesus spoke in apparitions, resulting in widespread popular devotion to Jesus's Sacred Heart throughout the world.

The priest noted that space has been tight at the school



**LEFT: Father William Debo offers Mass with the students and faculty of Sacred Heart School in Rich Fountain, outside the entrance to the newly completed St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Annex. RIGHT: Fr. Debo blesses the new annex with holy water.**

— Photos from the Sacred Heart School Facebook page

since a preschool division was opened in August 2021.

"We've just outgrown the space we had, primarily because of the preschool," said Fr. Debo. "We've had kids in the convent basement for classes, we have a permanent classroom in part of the cafeteria."

The annex also replaces two temporary portable classrooms that had reached the end of their usefulness.

"We decided to bite the bullet and say, 'This is no longer a want, it's a need,'" said Fr. Debo.

Parishioners selected the site and raised the money to build.

"It's mostly paid for already,

except for some pledges that are outstanding, and we're confident that those will be honored," the pastor stated.

Several grants also helped cover the project's cost.

Finishing touches are expected to be completed this summer, in time for the parish's annual picnic and the upcoming school year.

"The quilters are going to feel like they're moving into the Taj Mahal!" Fr. Debo stated. "Their new space is much larger than what they're used to."

The new quilting room was specifically designed for its purpose, including closets designed for holding large bolts of cloth.



The annual auction of the quilters' handiwork is one of the most popular and profitable aspects of the parish's annual picnic, he noted.

Fr. Debo was who suggested naming the building in honor of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, after noticing the beautiful stained-glass depiction of her in Sacred Heart Church.

The project had reached some significant roadblocks last spring when Fr. Debo went on a pilgrimage to France with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and fellow priests.

There, Fr. Debo visited the chapel where the saint's earthly remains await the Resurrection on the Last Day.

"I offered up a lot of prayers there, lit some candles and asked her to help us," he recalled.

By the time he got home, Fr. Debo could already see the difference the saint's intercession and God's intervention were making.

"The ball started rolling fast," he said.

A determined group of parishioners of all ages bought into the project, promoted it and helped shepherd the construction to completion.

"They worked very hard," their pastor stated. "Some local talents were also put into it."

Now, with grateful hearts to match Jesus's heart burning with love, Fr. Debo looks forward to seeing parishioners of all ages put the building to use and eventually wear it out.

"What a wonderful thing it would be if those who come after us have to build something even bigger," he said.

## Vatican norms for Jubilee indulgence include pilgrimage, penance, service

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pilgrims passing through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica during the Holy Year 2025, going to confession, receiving Communion and praying for the intentions of the pope can receive an indulgence, but so can inmates in prison and those who work to defend human life or assist migrants and refugees.

Fasting "at least for one day of the week from futile distractions" such as social media also can be a path toward a jubilee indulgence, according to norms published by the Vatican May 13.

Pope Francis said he will open the Holy Year at the Vatican Dec. 24 this year and close it Jan. 6, 2026, the feast of Epiphany.

But he also asked bishops around the world to celebrate the Jubilee in their dioceses from Dec. 29 this year to Dec. 28, 2025.

The norms for receiving an indulgence during the Holy Year were signed by Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, the new head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican court dealing with matters of conscience and with the granting of indulgences.

The basic conditions, he wrote, are that a person is "moved by a spirit of charity," is "purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by Holy Communion" and prays for the pope. Along with a pilgrimage, a work of mercy or an act of penance, a Catholic "will be able to obtain from the treasury of the Church a plenary indulgence, with remission and forgiveness of all their sins, which can be applied in suffrage to the souls in Purgatory."

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# High honor for campus ministry director at Newman in Columbia

By Jay Nies

Angelle Hall was leading a Holy Week pilgrimage to the Marian shrines of Wisconsin when she got the email.

It said she had been chosen to receive the Catholic Campus Ministry Association's (CCMA's) Rev. Charles Forsyth Award for excellence in ministering to college students.

"So, here I am, walking with Mary, focusing on Jesus, and that's when I find out!" marveled Mrs. Hall, director of Campus Ministry at the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia.

The honor has set forth in her a torrent of gratitude for all of her mentors and forbears in ministry.

"This is the kind of award that all the people I've looked up to in campus ministry and who helped me — this is the kind of award they get!" she said.

Mrs. Hall has been serving in her role at the Columbia Newman Center since June 2007.

"I knew from the very beginning that the Lord had taken all the things I love to do — which was teach and mentor and listen and walk with people and help them grow in their gifts — and tied them all up with a bow and said, 'I'm going to let you do this all

day,'" she said.

CCMA Executive Director Rosie China Shawver said Mrs. Hall's passion for accompanying others on their spiritual journeys and advocating for their growth is truly inspiring.

"Angelle's visionary leadership extends beyond the confines of her ministry, permeating every facet of campus life," Mrs. China Shawver stated in a letter to Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

At the University of Missouri, Mrs. Hall works to engage the breadth of campus life, including international students, Greek life, and the Newman Community.

She also collaborates with various ministry apostolates, including the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) and Evangelical Catholic.

She has forged strong bonds among Columbia's local colleges and universities, "uniting them in a shared mission of faith, service and solidarity," wrote Mrs. China Shawver.

"Her boundless energy and commitment to inclusivity have fostered a vibrant and diverse community where every student feels welcomed and valued regardless of back-



Angelle Hall

ground of affiliation," Mrs. China Shawver stated.

## "He took a chance"

Mrs. Hall, originally from New Orleans, found out that the Newman Center was looking for a campus ministry director while looking for a job in Missouri and preparing for marriage at Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia.

She had previously taught in an all-girls school and completed a master's degree in religious education. Her thesis was on ministry and leadership development of women.

Dominican Father Stephen Kuhlman, who was her pastor at Sacred Heart at the time, suggested that she apply for the campus ministry position at Newman.

She applied and waited.

Dominican Father Thomas Saucier, who was then the pastor of the Newman Center parish, eventually called and asked if she was interested in the position.

"We met and kind of interviewed each other," she recalled. "Then, he invited me

to interview formally with the search committee."

An hour after that interview, he called and offered her the job.

"I had been a high school teacher," she recalled. "I had done a lot of retreat work. I had worked a lot with sorority women, advising and mentoring them in my younger years. I loved walking with students and digging deep into questions with them."

"Fr. Saucier took a chance on me that all of that could translate into effective campus ministry," she said.

Catholic campus ministry in Columbia was on the verge of a powerful growth spurt, with the parish having two full-time campus ministers once Mrs. Hall was hired.

"We worked with Fr. Thomas and started to rock 'n roll a bit," Mrs. Hall recalled.

The staff has grown significantly since then.

"We have such a great staff at the Newman Center, year-in and year-out," said Mrs. Hall. "And we're so blessed with so many incredible students who love Jesus and love growing in their faith."

"So, as the director, I also get to care for, accompany and walk with the staff," she said. "I really enjoy doing that."

The first missionaries from FOCUS arrived on campus in 2014.

"They've been a real blessing

and we've learned a lot from each other," said Mrs. Hall. "We all have one mission together."

Thanks to the missionaries' hard work, more than 400 students are now engaged in Catholic Bible studies on campus, she noted.

## Holding on, letting go

Mrs. Hall enjoys working in an environment where the people can be responsive to current needs and the Holy Spirit's inspiration.

"I love how we at Newman can be attuned to what God is doing right now and can move in that direction pretty quickly if we want to," she said.

Students on campus come to her for advice, as do alumni who were active at the Newman Center a decade or more ago.

"I marvel that I get know them and how God makes them and how he gives the gifts that he gives to each of us," she said.

One of the most difficult parts of her ministry occurs when students move on to the next part of their lives.

"There's a grieving that comes with that," she said. "Obviously, the students are incredible and they go off into the world, and we could fill a whole book with the incredible things our alumni and our current students are doing."

## Passing it along

Mrs. Hall described campus ministry as "the intersection of higher education and the Church."

"We're called to take care of the students, but we're also called to be in the conversations on campus, part of advocating for what's true and good," she stated.

The CCMA ([ccmanetwork.org](http://ccmanetwork.org)) estimates that only 25 percent of college campuses in this country, including community colleges, have some sort of Catholic campus ministry presence.

"So, I care very much about forming campus ministers and supporting them," said Mrs. Hall.

See CAMPUS MINISTRY, page 21

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# Bishop at National Shrine in Laurie: 'Celebrate the unity among Jesus's earthly and heavenly families'

By Jay Nies

The moon rose up in broad daylight above the outdoor sanctuary of the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, in Laurie, as Bishop W. Shawn McKnight offered the second outdoor Mass of the season.

"This is the place of Mary," the bishop declared. "And where our mother is, there is home ... and there is the Church."

It was the day after Pentecost Sunday — the feast of Mary, Mother of the Church.

"We pray for our Church today and for her unity, and plead for the intercession and the assistance of our spiritual mother, Mary, the mother of Jesus," the bishop proclaimed.

Joining him at the altar were Father John Schmitz, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Laurie and the Mission of St. Philip Benizi in Versailles and rector of the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church; and Father Louis Nelen, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Moberly and chaplain of the diocesan chapter of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Rev. Mr. Christopher Hoffmann, whom Bishop McKnight will ordain to the Holy Priesthood on June 1, served as deacon.

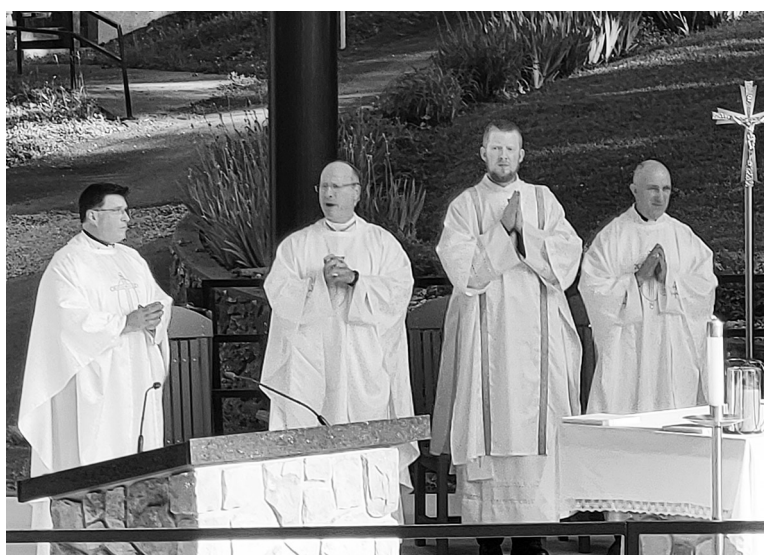
Other seminarians of the diocese, including Gregory Clever, whom the bishop will ordain a transitional deacon on June 1, assisted at the Liturgy.

The St. Patrick Parish Choir led the singing. Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus served as the honor guard, accompanied by a large contingent of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

## Mary's new vocation

A welcome breeze carried the essence of burning incense and spring blossoms to the congregants, many of whom found seating in the shade.

Choruses of "O Sanctissima" and "Immaculate Mary" harmonized with the songs of birds and the babbling water



**LEFT:** Bishop W. Shawn McKnight joins Father John Schmitz, Rev. Mr. Christopher Hoffmann and Father Louis Nelen in the outdoor sanctuary of the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, in Laurie during a Mass to celebrate the feast of Mary, Mother of the Church, on May 20. **RIGHT:** Bishop McKnight elevates the Most Blessed Sacrament during the Mass at the Shrine.

— Photos by Jay Nies

in the nearby fountains.

Bishop McKnight joked about "Brood 17 of the cicadas that are singing louder than we are."

In his homily, the bishop talked about how from the cross, Jesus, united his earthly family with his heavenly family through Mary.

"You could say, the Lord gave a special mission, perhaps even a special calling or vocation, to his mother to look out

concern for us," said the bishop. "And she will always show us the way to her Son."

Praying the Rosary is a great way of "checking in with our mother," thereby staying connected with the rest of the Church "and our whole spiritual family."

"And we allow Mary, the mother of Jesus, to tell us about her own son," said Bishop McKnight.

The bishop thanked Fr. Schmitz and the members of the board of the National Shrine for inviting him to offer the feastday Mass.

"May you who have devoutly gathered on this day carry away with you the gift of spiritual joy and heavenly reward," he prayed.

The celebration concluded with an informal reception in the parish hall.

## "Most loving mother"

Pope Francis in 2018 instituted Mary, Mother of the Church as a universal memorial to be celebrated each year on the Monday following Pentecost.

Pope St. Paul VI, at the conclusion of the Third Session of the Second Vatican Council in 1964, formally declared the Blessed Virgin Mary as "Mother of the Church — that is to say, of all Christian people, the faithful as well as the pastors, who call her the most loving Mother."

An estimated 50,000 people each year visit the National



Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church and enjoy the scenic, well-manicured grounds that include the avenue of flags, a prayer path, fountains and a larger-than-life image of the Blessed Mother.

The Shrine was dedicated in 1992, having been conceived in the mid-1980s in what was once a drainage ditch at the rear of the St. Patrick Parish property in Laurie.

Longtime pastor Father Fred Barnett, now deceased, had the idea of developing the 6,000-seat outdoor Shrine in the form of a grotto to make room for more weekend communicants each summer.

The centerpiece is a 14-foot, 2,840-pound stainless steel sculpture of the Blessed Mother on a revolving pedestal above a reflection pool.

Sculptor Don Wiegand, who created the sculpture, described his subject as "an ageless lady, depicting love, balance and grace."

Weather permitting, Sunday Mass is celebrated at the Shrine each Saturday at 8 p.m. and on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. between the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

The Shrine also contains the Mother's Wall of Life, a series of polished black granite panels inscribed with the names of mothers from all over the world, out of gratitude for the gift of life.

Bishop John R. Gaydos, bishop emeritus of Jefferson City, dedicated the Mother's Wall on Mother's Day in

1999.

Fr. Barnett emphasized repeatedly that the Shrine's purpose is to honor the Blessed Mother and to help promote a deeper overall appreciation of motherhood, the preciousness of human life and the integrity of the family.

Calling it a "wonderful tribute to motherhood," Fr. Barnett said the Shrine honors all mothers, living and deceased, and of every race, creed and skin color.

## For all humanity

St. Patrick Parish was founded in 1868 in what was then the heart of the Osage River Valley.

Since the completion of the Bagnell Dam in the 1930s, the area now lies on the west side of the Lake of the Ozarks, a popular tourist destination.

In May 2003, the U.S. Catholic bishops granted the Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church the rare designation of a national shrine.

In doing so, the bishops acknowledged that the Shrine was already a pilgrim destination for people from all over the United States, and encouraged even more people to seek spiritual refreshment at this holy place.

"This," Fr. Barnett stated in 2003, "will enable us to reach more people with the message of Mary's universal motherhood — not just of the Catholic Church her Son started, but of the whole world."

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

**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.**

## QUESTION CORNER

## What is the Church's position on the treatment of animals?

By Jenna Marie Cooper  
OSV News

**Q: What is the Church's position on the treatment of animals? My vegetarian friend believes it is immoral to kill animals even for food. We recently hired an exterminator to eliminate rodents. This friend implied we should humanely capture them and release them, instead of killing them. This is not the company's way, and it has not worked in the past. Is there a moral issue here, or just someone's opinion?**



**A:** The short answer to your question is that while we are morally obliged to treat animals decently and avoid animal cruelty, it is morally licit to kill animals for food or certain other legitimate purposes.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* addresses this issue in paragraph 2417: "God entrusted animals to the stewardship of those whom he created in his own image. Hence it is legitimate to use animals for food and clothing. They may be domesticated to help man in his work and leisure. Medical and scientific experimentation on animals is a morally acceptable practice if it remains within reasonable limits and contributes to caring for or saving human lives."

As we read in Genesis 1, God created everything that lives, including animals, and God's creation is fundamentally good and worthy of respect. But unlike animals, human beings were created as rational beings (that is, capable of intellectual thought and abstract reasoning) endowed with free will. In this way, humanity was made in God's image; and God has given us the honor of being "co-creators" with him in several respects.

As we read in Scripture: "God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth ... God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth" (Gn. 1:26, 28).

Among other things, God calls humanity to be stewards of his creation, which means that we are to actively care for creation and be concerned for the flourishing of even the nonhuman life around us. As the catechism notes: "Animals are God's creatures. He surrounds them with his providential care. By their mere existence they bless him and give him glory. Thus men owe them kindness" (CCC 2416).

But at the same time, we believe that all of nonhuman creation is ultimately meant to serve humanity, which is why we are permitted to kill animals for food and to meet other reasonable needs. While a Catholic is certainly free to adopt a vegetarian diet — either out of concern for animal welfare or for other reasons — the Catholic Church does not teach that vegetarianism is required. So, a Catholic who argues that you should become a vegetarian is simply expressing an opinion.

With respect to your question about exterminating rodents, I think in principle this kind of pest control is morally licit. Rodents can cause some serious and troublesome issues when they infest a home, such as the potential for spreading disease or damaging the infrastructure of a house. Although pest control is not the scientific research mentioned in paragraph 2417, pest control can still be considered part of "caring for or saving human lives."

If a "catch and release" system is not effective or practical in

See QUESTION, page 23



## Papal Audience May 22, 2024

Brothers and Sisters,

We now conclude our cycle of catecheses on the virtues by reflecting on the virtue of humility, by which we acknowledge that we are creatures of God and strive to live accordingly. Humility is in fact the door to the other virtues and, with poverty of spirit, the first of the Beatitudes. We see this in a partic-

ular way in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her humility is seen not only in joyful acceptance of the Lord's will, but also in charity toward her cousin Elizabeth, in perseverance beneath the cross, and in her prayerful presence among the Apostles in the Upper Room, as they awaited the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. May her example and powerful intercession help us to overcome our temptations to pride, to follow humbly in the footsteps of Jesus, and to bear witness to the joy and peace of his Kingdom.

Let us pray for peace. We need peace. The world is at war. Let us not forget tormented Ukraine, which is suffering a great deal. Let us not forget Palestine and Israel: may it stop, this war. Let us not forget Myanmar. And let us not forget the many countries at war. Brothers and sisters, we must pray for peace in this time of war all over the world.

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's audience, especially the groups from South Africa, Hong Kong, India, South Korea, the Philippines, and the United States of America. I invoke upon you and your families the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!

## Pope Francis' CBS interview addresses women deacons, war, migrants, climate change and hope

By Gina Christian  
OSV News

Pope Francis said he is not open to the possibility of ordaining women as deacons, weeks after authorizing several Vatican study groups to look into that issue and others as part of the Synod on Synodality — although "women have always had ... the function of deaconesses without being deacons," and that "making space in the Church for women does not mean giving them a ministry."

In addition, Pope Francis said his health is "fine," and that "it has never occurred" to him to retire, noting that his "only infirmity" — an inflamed knee ligament that has seen him use a walking stick or, more frequently, a wheelchair — is "getting much better."

He also said that along with his planned trips this year to the Far East and Belgium, there is a "possibility" he may travel to the U.S. to speak at the United Nations about peace.

The pope shared his thoughts during a wide-ranging interview with CBS news anchor Norah O'Donnell, his first sit-down interview with a U.S. broadcast network.

Throughout the exchange, Pope Francis underscored his soft-spoken but energetic responses — delivered in his native Spanish through an interpreter — with emphatic gestures, shifting occasionally in his chair and appearing vibrant despite a bout with bronchitis earlier this year that saw him taken to the hospital for tests.

He met with O'Donnell April 24 at his residence, Casa Santa Marta. A roughly 13-minute portion of the interview aired May 19 on CBS' "60 Minutes" program, with the balance of the

session broadcast in a one-hour primetime special May 20 on the network and its Paramount+ streaming platform.

The pope and O'Donnell were seated beneath a large image of Our Lady Undoer of Knots, a Marian devotion from 18th-century Germany that is a favorite of Pope Francis, who learned of it some 40 years ago from a nun he had met while he was completing his doctoral thesis in that nation.

Along with the papal interview, the full-length CBS special also aired May 20 archival footage as well as supplemental segments without the pope, filmed at Holy Family Parish in Gaza and at the Catholic nonprofit Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas, where O'Donnell spoke with El Paso Bishop Mark J. Seitz about the charity's work in sheltering migrants amid a crackdown on such efforts by Texas officials. Some of the footage in the Gaza Strip — which did not include O'Donnell — appeared to have been filmed during the parish's Palm Sunday liturgy.

Over the course of the May 20 broadcast, O'Donnell asked Pope Francis about key issues that have dominated his 11-year papacy: migration, climate change, clerical sexual abuse, the role of women in the Church, ministry to persons who identify as LGBTQ+, and outreach to children and youth who have been profoundly impacted by rapidly evolving and increasingly toxic social media platforms.

**War, genocide and antisemitism**

She also questioned him about the Isra-

See POPE, page 12

# Let's cut graduates a break

By Sarah Robsdottir  
OSV News

Last year, my oldest son graduated high school with flying colors. He received a great college scholarship and had a lot to be proud of. So, you'd think he wouldn't look utterly fatigued each time an aunt, uncle, hairdresser, Sunday School teacher, the guy at the deli, our priest, the trashman — literally everyone — asked him: "What's next in your life?"

I chalked up my first-born's conversational reticence to the fact that he's quiet by nature, which is why I'm finding it curious that the same exact phenomenon is now happening with my second

son who's a total extrovert. This graduate is following in his big brother's footsteps. He has a great GPA and a few college scholarships lined up in the fall, and yet he grimaces at the "what's next?" question, too.

"I just get sick of it," he explained when the subject came up at the dinner table the other night. He had a few friends over and they chimed in as well.

"It's nerve-racking," one of the girls said, "I mean, I think I know what I'm doing after graduation, but that might change. Also, I don't want to go to college and lots of people find that disappointing."

My oldest son who was home for the

weekend added his voice to the mix: "All this focus on what we plan to do next gets old. I know everyone means well — they're genuinely curious and just want to show they care. But yeah, it gets old."

The teens and my husband launched into a meaningful conversation about how as Christians we should find our true value in who we are — children of God — not in what we do, or how much (or how little) we accomplish. This dinner-time chat brought St. John Paul II's wisdom to mind, specifically from times when he was addressing teens at World Youth Day.

"Only in Christ can [we] fully understand [our] dignity as persons created

and loved by God," he said at the 1993 gathering.

"We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son," he reminded young people in 2002.

I'd wager that this late, great pope would agree that we are not the sum of our successes either, but again, "we are the sum of the Father's love for us."

I'm certain my teens and their friends aren't the only ones struggling with this issue of being questioned ad nauseam about their future plans by well-meaning

See ROBSDOTTIR, page 23

# The ones in the back of church

By Laura Kelly Fanucci  
OSV News



When you are a parent, you clock many hours in the back of churches. Pacing with fussy babies. Corraling rambunctious toddlers. Calming down restless children.

But the hidden beauty found at the back of church?

You get close to the ones Jesus loves.

Jesus loves all of us, of course. Make no mistake about the wild love which God lavishes upon every human being — each unrepeatable sacred soul, each *imago dei* that bears the imprint of our Creator, each beloved child loved by the Father.

But when you read the Gospels, you can't help but realize how Jesus has a particular affinity for those left on the sidelines, the margins and the back of the crowd. Sinners, lepers, prostitutes, tax collectors, widows, orphans, children, the poor, the sick, the disabled, the suffering — he draws each outsider close and draws them out of themselves, embracing them into the abundant love and mercy of God.

Little wonder that I sometimes feel closer to the kingdom of God at the back of church than in the front pew.

Parishes often have a practice of bringing the Eucharist first to those who cannot come forward to receive. This simple act makes manifest Christ's words that "the last will be first and the first will be last" (Mt. 20:16). Surely the Good Shepherd who leaves behind the 99 to seek out the one lost sheep would not hesitate to walk to the back of church and welcome anyone who felt uncertain if they belonged.

Dioceses around the country have long-standing traditions of televising Masses for those who are homebound. Many parishes continue their pandem-

ic-era practice of streaming Mass online. A small but growing number of dioceses are now offering sensory-friendly liturgies with softer lights, quieter music, shorter homilies and the freedom to participate in the Mass free from judgment about noise or movement — simple accommodations that can make it possible for families, caregivers and all members of the Body of Christ to be included in the Mass.

Once I attended a workout class where the teacher would welcome late-comers with a smile, far from the sneers often side-eyed toward the tardy. "I always figure the last people here are the ones who need it most," she'd remind us as she'd make room for each person who showed up — especially first-timers or late arrivals.

Couldn't our churches strive to do the same, since we are the hands and feet of Christ here on earth?

As my children have grown, I have been blessed with a few remarkable friends who have taught me what it means to welcome the ones in the back. They cheer for the teammate who needs extra encouragement, invite the classmate who gets overlooked for birthday party invitations, and strike up conversations with new faces at church or school. In ordinary ways, they model Christ's inclusive love, seeking out the sidelined first.

In his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul reminds us of the essential welcome — even inverting the world's expectations — that is demanded of Christians: "We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves; let each of us please our neighbor for the good, for building up ... May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God"

(Rom. 15:1-2, 5-7).

Whenever we get the chance to welcome another in the name of Jesus, we widen our embrace of the people Jesus loves.

Even and especially the ones in the

back.

*Laura Kelly Fanucci is an author, speaker, and founder of Mothering Spirit, an online gathering place on parenting and spirituality.*

## REFLECTION

## Wandering out loud

By Mark Saucier

At first, I thought that it was someone out for a walk, but the hill was long and the rise steep, so unless they were in training, they could have picked an easier route.

As I drove closer, I could soon tell that this wasn't just someone out for steps or a stroll.

The walker had on a coat too heavy for the warm morning sun. A backpack lay humped over that coat.

The figure stopped, perhaps to catch a breath. As I passed, I could see that it was a woman. She carried another, smaller pack strung over her chest. Large, blue-rimmed glasses framed a flushed face.

Catching me gawking, she waved. I waved back and went on.

Finishing my business at the post office, I soon spotted her on my return.

Again, she wasn't walking. She had made little progress and was now bent over, holding on to the guard rail.

After our first encounter, I felt I should stop. I made a U-turn and parked on the apron of a driveway.

As I hurried down the hill toward her, I shouted, "Are you okay?"

She looked up at me and said something that I could not make out in the noise of the traffic.

When I got closer, I asked again, and this time I could hear her respond, "Oh I'm fine."

I asked her if I could take her somewhere and she graciously declined. "I'm just going up the road a bit and I don't mind the walk."

She bent over again, and I was beginning to doubt her words until I saw that she was staring at something.

It was a little blue violet growing between the guardrail post and the surrounding asphalt.

"Everything wants to live," she said.

"That's the advantage of walking uphill," she continued, "you tend to look down more and see things others might miss."

"I almost stepped on this a while ago," she said, reaching into her pocket and pulling out an old, battered and blackened penny.

"I know it's probably not worth anything, but of all the people who pass by here, I'm the one who found it, so it kind of makes me special."

I asked her again if she wanted a lift, but she just took one last look at the violet, readjusted her packs and glasses, and started walking again, head down, waiting for treasure.

"Have a blessed day!" she yelled back with a smile.

I already had.

# Encounter

## Happy Arthritis Awareness Month!

### AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



By Diane Elam

Did you know that arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the United States?

It affects millions of people, but the good news is that there is a program that can help improve flexibility, strength, and balance — Walk with Ease!

Walk With Ease is a national program with an evidence-based curriculum developed by the Arthritis Foundation experts.

This six-week program, offered in partnership with Catholic Charities, the Arthritis Foundation, and the University of Missouri Extension, is designed to help those with arthritis manage pain and learn more about the condition and exercise.

Catholic Charities has been involved with this program since the year we don't like to talk about (2020).

This program can be facilitated at no cost to the community.

I have been involved with this program as a participant and substitute session leader.

I participated in the summer of 2020, during which the program had to be adapted to fit the world during the pandemic.

The sessions were via Zoom, where the educational component was presented, but there would also be time to reflect with our classmates on what does and doesn't work, share ideas, process what we have learned, and the list goes on.

It is a great opportunity for like-minded people to come together over a simple subject.

Our "homework" was to take what we had learned and apply it to our daily routine.

When the groups resumed in-person meetings, the sessions took on a new dynamic.



A significant portion of the session was dedicated to group walks, fostering camaraderie and allowing participants to enjoy the outdoors.

The educational components remained unchanged, but the added benefit was the sense of community.

The curriculum's intended

format is for sessions to take place three days a week for one hour.

The sessions consist of an established curriculum on topics such as the basic facts about arthritis, exercise, anticipating and overcoming barriers, and self-assessment to complete before and after

to help accurately track the progress you have made.

The things you learn from attending these sessions can benefit you beyond completing the program.

The biggest takeaway from the program for me is to always stretch before walking or exercise of any kind and to cool down after exercise to help yourself recover.

While Walk with Ease is intended for those who struggle with common conditions such as arthritis, I am here to tell you firsthand that anyone can benefit from the program.

Catholic Charities is looking forward to future sessions, so be on the lookout.

*For more information on Walk with Ease classes, please contact Catholic Charities at 573-635-7719 or visit [ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/walk-with-ease](http://ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/walk-with-ease).*

## How SEEK24 in St. Louis set the stage for the upcoming National Eucharistic Congress

By Jonah McKeown  
St. Louis

The SEEK24 Catholic conference, put on by the Fellow-

ship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), attracted some 24,000 people to the America's Center in St. Louis for talks, workshops and worship, including a massive session of Eucharistic Adoration.

As impressive as it was to have a group that size gathered to adore the Eucharistic Jesus, a new event this summer promises to up the ante.

The National Eucharistic Congress, the culmination of the U.S. bishops' multiyear project of promoting belief in and reverence for the Eu-

charist, is expected to attract 80,000 people to Indianapolis July 17-21.

In addition, leading up to the congress is the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage — four Eucharistic processions starting from differing points in the country and finishing in Indianapolis for the start of the congress.

The National Eucharistic Congress was promoted throughout the SEEK conference, particularly with a large booth in the marketplace hall.

Speakers associated with the Congress, including Bishop Andrew Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, who is spearheading the bishops' initiative, gave addresses at the conference.

FOCUS, which celebrated its 25th anniversary this year, has been sharing information with the organizers of the Eucharistic Congress on how to put on a successful large-scale Catholic event.

Tom Bruner, vice president

of formative enterprises for FOCUS, told Catholic News Agency (CNA) that he has been offering advice and "comparing notes" with Tim Glemkowski, CEO of the National Eucharistic Congress, throughout the planning process from the congress.

"We've benefited so heavily from other groups over the last 25 years showing us the way, so any time we can kind of open up and say, 'Hey, here's what works for us. Here's who we talk to. Here's the programs or systems we use,' we're always happy to share that," he said.

"There's no competition here. The more people we can get to come, it just builds and builds."

Bruner said the fact that Eucharistic adoration features so prominently during the SEEK conference makes SEEK "completely complimentary" to the upcoming congress. He encouraged those who have encountered Jesus in a deep-

er way at SEEK to encourage their friends and family to attend the upcoming congress.

"If you're at SEEK and you're getting something out of it, the question is: What difference did this make in your life? It's not supposed to now be that you have this great but quiet and private prayer life. You're supposed to share it," he stated.

"And the next best opportunity to bring other people to have that same encounter that you had here will be the congress. So go home, talk to your friends, talk to your families, talk to your neighbors, talk to your co-workers, whoever it is, and invite them to come with you," he said.

*Jonah McKeown, a native of Mexico, Missouri, and graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, is a staff writer and podcast producer for Catholic News Agency (CNA). This article is published here with permission.*

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# Retired school cook returns to teach kids breadmaking

**Darlene Aubuchon —  
Fr. Aubuchon’s mother —  
is a familiar face at St.  
George School in Hermann**

By Benjamin Herrold

Growing up on a farm in Hermann, Darlene Aubuchon had plenty to do outside to keep her busy, but she did pick up some cooking skills along the way.

“I was a pure farm girl,” she said. “I spent more time outside on the tractor doing this and that. But my mom was a good cook, and I learned some from her. I also learned from my grandmother, who was a good cook.”

Mrs. Aubuchon — mother of Father Christopher M. Aubuchon, parochial administrator of St. Lawrence Parish in Elizabeth, and of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in St. Anthony — said she really learned about successful cooking when she was offered a job as a cook for St. George School in Hermann, where she worked for 30 years.

“You learn a lot fast when you’re cooking for 200 kids,” she stated.

Mrs. Aubuchon is now retired, but she still returns to the school each year to teach the second graders about breadmaking, and she has many fond memories from her time as the school cook.

Each year, the second-graders would have their First Holy



**LEFT:** Darlene Aubuchon is a retired school cook who returns to St. George School each spring to teach the students about breadmaking. **RIGHT:** Students make bread under Mrs. Aubuchon’s guidance.

— Photos submitted by St. George School

Communion in the historic church in nearby Starkenburg, and the students got to pick the menu for the accompanying meal, often classic kid favorites such as pizza and cinnamon rolls.

“I would cook it and haul it over there,” said Mrs. Aubuchon.

She also remembers special meals on the last day before Easter break, Grandparents Day meals, and a final sendoff meal for the eighth-graders on their last day at the school.

“I wanted them to go out knowing they were especially loved,” said Mrs. Aubuchon. “On their last meal, we would decorate the tables. I just

cleaned out the freezer on them. Whatever they wanted, we got and made.”

She started her tradition of teaching kids to make bread back when she worked at the school, and she continues to return to the school to teach it.

She tells the students they are individuals, but together they make a class, and likewise, the individual ingredients together make bread.

Students take turns mixing the ingredients, and then after the dough rises, they each get some to knead.

After the bread is baked, the students get some to take home





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## POPE

From page 8

el-Hamas war and Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine.

In particular, O'Donnell asked Pope Francis about the children of Gaza ahead of the Catholic Church's inaugural World Children's Day May 25-26, an observance instituted by the Vatican's Dicastery for Culture and Education.

When O'Donnell, citing the United Nations, said that more than a million in Gaza, mostly children, would face famine on World Children's Day, Pope Francis replied, "Not just in Gaza. Think of Ukraine."

He said that many of the Ukrainian children who come to the Vatican "don't know how to smile ... they have forgotten how to smile. And that is very painful."

Noting "there are now pictures of starving children coming out of Gaza," O'Donnell then asked the pope for his response to "those that call that a genocide."

The pope looked down briefly, then up at O'Donnell, and simply repeated the word, "Genocide."

He added that he phones Holy Family Parish in Gaza "every evening at 7 p.m." to check on the "600 people" who have taken shelter in the parish compound.

"It is very tough, very tough," said Pope Francis. "The food arrives, people rush to get it, and prrrfff," he said, indicating with an accompanying hand gesture that the aid is rapidly depleted.

"I listen (to them)," he said. "The other day they were happy because they managed to eat some meat. The rest of the time they eat things made of flour. Sometimes they go hungry. There is a lot of suffering."

O'Donnell asked the pope how to address international division over the Israel-Hamas war, which has sparked "big protests on college campuses and growing antisemitism."

"All ideology is bad, and antisemitism is an ideology, and it is bad," said Pope Francis. "Any 'anti' is always bad. You can criticize one government or another, the government of Israel, the Palestinian government. You can criticize all you want, but not 'anti' a people. Neither anti-Palestinian, nor antisemitic. No."

Noting that the pope has repeatedly called for a ceasefire, O'Donnell asked, "Can you help negotiate peace?"

The pope sighed and replied, "What I can do is pray. I pray a lot for peace. And also, to suggest, 'Please, stop. Negotiate.' A bad deal is always better than an ugly defeat, is it not? ... The white flag is for negotiating, not for surrendering, but for negotiating. And wars are resolved through negotiation. Think of the dead."

O'Donnell asked if the pope had a message for Russian President Vladimir Putin, who ordered the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

"Please, warring countries, all of them, stop. Stop the war," replied Pope Francis. "You must find a way of negotiating for peace. Strive for peace. A negotiated peace is always better than an endless war. War always serves to destroy. Always."

With Russia's invasion of Ukraine marking Europe's biggest land war since World War II, the pope lamented that "at the Normandy landing -- it was the beginning of the liberation of Europe, but 20,000 lay dead on the beach. ... The mother says in her heart ...

'I don't want a hero. I want my son.'"

### Migrants, indifference, climate change

O'Donnell then focused on the plight of migrants, especially those at the U.S.-Mexico border, many of whom are "mothers with children who are fleeing violence."

"The solution is ... to open the doors to migration,"

**"You see tragedies, but you also see so many beautiful things ... heroic mothers, heroic men, men who have hopes and dreams, women who look to the future. That gives me a lot of hope. People want to live. People forge ahead. And people are fundamentally good. We are all fundamentally good. Yes, there are some rogues and sinners, but the heart itself is good."**

said Pope Francis, citing "four things" necessary — enumerated in his 2018 message for World Migrants Day — for a good immigration policy: "for the migrant to be received, assisted, promoted, and integrated."

When O'Donnell noted that her home state of Texas was allegedly attempting to shutter Annunciation House, the pope said, "That is madness. Sheer madness," adding that Bishop Seitz, whom he described as "a great bishop," does "the impossible to help the migrants."

The special then cut to a CBS interview (in which O'Donnell did not appear) at Annunciation House with Bishop Seitz, who said Texas' claims that the charity is shielding unauthorized migrants from law enforcement "puts puts fear into the hearts of anyone who generously gives of their time because of the Christian concern for people who are truly the poorest of the poor among us, people who have no place to go, nothing to eat, no clothes."

Recalling the pope's July 2013 visit to Lampedusa — the Italian island to which thousands of migrants have fled, with thousands more perishing while crossing the Mediterranean — O'Donnell asked Pope Francis to speak about "the globalization of indifference."

"People wash their hands!" he answered. "There are so many Pontius Pilates on the loose out there ... who see what is happening, the wars, the injustice, the crimes ... (They say), 'That's OK, that's OK' and wash their hands. ... That is what happens when the heart hardens ... and becomes indifferent."

"Please, we have to get our hearts to feel again," Pope Francis implored. "We cannot remain indifferent in the face of such human dramas. The globalization of indifference is a very ugly disease. Very ugly."

Asked by O'Donnell about his fears regarding climate change, the pope said, "Unfortunately, we have gotten to a point of no return. It's sad, but that's what it is. ... Climate change at this moment is a road to death. ... And it is an artificial climate change, no? Something provoked, not the normal climate change, right?"

He said that wealthy nations "in great measure" bear responsibility for the problem — which has seen the Earth's temperature increase by two degrees —

since "they are the ones that have more of an economy and an energy based on fossil fuels that are creating this situation."

Deniers of climate change are "foolish people" who remain unconvinced "even if you show them the statistics," due to incomprehension or "vested interest," the pope said.

### Women in the Church, surrogacy, blessings

While he firmly rejected the idea that women could be ordained to the permanent diaconate, Pope Francis told O'Donnell that in the life of the Church "women are the ones who move changes forward, all sorts of changes."

"They are braver than the men. They know how best to protect life," he said. "Women are masterful custodians of life."

The Church is itself a mother, and "women in the Church are the ones who help foster that motherliness," said the pope. "Don't forget that the ones who never abandoned Jesus were the women. The men all fled."

In a particularly poignant moment in the interview, O'Donnell asked the pope about the Church's rejection of surrogacy, saying she knows women who are cancer survivors for whom the practice has become "the only hope" for having a child.

Pope Francis reaffirmed Church teaching on the point, saying that surrogacy has sometimes "become a business, and that is very bad."

He also said that for infertile women, "the other hope is adoption," and stressed that "in each case the situation should be carefully and clearly considered, consulting medically and then morally as well."

The pope commended O'Donnell for her sensitivity toward people that "in some cases (surrogacy) is the only chance," saying with a smile, "it shows that you feel these things very deeply. Thank you."

O'Donnell, in turn, said the pope has inspired hope among many "because you have been more open and accepting perhaps than any other previous leaders of the Church."

On "*Fiducia Supplicans*," the controversial declaration issued by the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith in December 2023 that includes guidelines on what it calls the "blessings of same-sex couples," Pope Francis clarified that he didn't allow blessings of "the union" but of "each person."

"What I allowed was not to bless the union," the pope said, correcting O'Donnell on the wording of her question, in which she stated that the pope had "decided to allow Catholic priests to bless same-sex couples."

"That cannot be done because that is not the sacrament. I cannot. The Lord made it that way," said Pope Francis, according to the English translation provided in voiceover by CBS. "But to bless each person, yes. The blessing is for everyone. For everyone."

The May 19 edit of the interview included additional comments by the pope on the point: "To bless a homosexual-type union, however, goes against the given right, against the law of the Church. But to bless each person, why not? The blessing is for all. Some people were scandalized by this. But why? Everyone! Everyone!"

The Spanish-language video of the May 19 segment, however, reveals that instead of "given right,"

# MESSENGER

May 2024

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## IN VITRO FERTILIZATION (IVF)

### AND THE ALABAMA SUPREME COURT RULING

By Kathleen Lavery

#### THE FIRST IVF BABY

It is hard to believe in this day and age, but in 1978, I was the first person in my family to attend college. One of the most important lessons I learned was critical thinking and not to believe everything I was told. The class on Ethics was particularly enlightening.

In 1978, Louise Brown was the first baby born through in vitro fertilization (IVF) in Manchester, U.K. Controversies surrounding her birth ranged from the argument that she wouldn't be a "normal" child to claims that she didn't have a soul.

One night while watching the news broadcasts about Louise Brown, my

mother turned to me and asked why IVF was so controversial. After all, it provided childless couples with the child(ren) they so desperately wanted and as children were a gift from God. How could this be wrong? We were discussing the very subject in my Ethics class and I shared what I knew with her. The primary concern at that time was that it wasn't one child that was created through IVF in order for the couple to have a child, but that several children had to be created in the laboratory. More than one child was implanted into the woman's womb in the hopes of one child coming to term and being born. The other children were subsequently discarded as they were of no use. Or if they were deemed healthy

and viable, they could be frozen for future use.

I remember the look of utter shock and disgust on my mother's face when she heard this. "But these are children," she stated. A brief discussion followed with her wondering why science just couldn't create one embryo at a time. The other children created through IVF were still children and just as important as the one that was born. What right did we humans have to create children that we would kill or set aside until it was convenient for the parents for the child to be born? We did not discuss the myriad of other ethical issues surrounding IVF.

Since that time, more than

twelve million children have been conceived and born through IVF while millions more wait in a frozen wasteland for their chance to be held, loved and have a meaningful life of their own.

The science of IVF has been around since the 1960's. By the time Louise Brown was born, there had been 282 previous failed attempts in England.

Ciara Nugent wrote in a *TIME* magazine article in 2015: "Many were jubilant about the first successful IVF birth. Stuart Kunkler from Columbus, Ohio, wrote to the magazine that it would be 'a glorious day for women afflicted with the type of sterility Mrs. Brown

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has overcome,' while Margaret Wood Milan from New Hampshire wrote that, as with abortion rights, the arrival of IVF was a boon for those who share 'the same basic belief: that parenthood should be a matter of choice.'

"Others were terrified of what Louise would mean for humanity. Religious groups were opposed to the idea of 'playing God' with reproduction, and to a process in the course of which many embryos often died. But even secular society found the idea alarming. Newspapers and readers made regular comparisons to Aldous Huxley's 1934 novel *Brave New World*, in which natural sexual reproduction is banned and humans are grown in labs through a process similar to what happened before the embryo was placed inside Lesley's womb. 'We're on a slippery slope,' British Geneticist Robert J. Berry told *TIME* in 1978. 'Western society is built around the family; once you divorce sex from procreation, what happens to the family?'"

Over the years, IVF became accepted throughout the world and the unborn children were no longer considered children, but property to be stored and used at the discretion of the parents. Children in their earliest stage of development were now only referred to by the scientific term of embryo. Children as property was now the status quo.

IVF was now turning into a business with egg and sperm banks opening up around the world. As with any business, IVF clinics answered frequently asked questions and offered suggestions to put their clients at ease.

An example is Donor Nexus, an egg donor agency and egg bank located in Newport Beach, Southern California, which offers the following suggestions on what to do with unused embryos:

"Couples or individuals faced with decisions about their excess embryos typically have six options:



1. Preserving the embryos for future transfer attempts
2. Offering the embryos to other hopeful parents
3. Contributing them to scientific research
4. Allowing them to thaw and then discarding them
5. Some clinics offer 'compassionate transfer,' where embryos are transferred into the uterus during a non-fertile period
6. Opting for continued storage"

### ALABAMA SUPREME COURT

IVF was a private decision between the business and the client until an incident at an Alabama clinic in 2020. A patient entered the fertility clinic's unattended cryogenic storage center, opened one of the tanks, and removed some of the embryos. The embryos of three different couples were destroyed when they were accidentally dropped on the ground.

The three couples filed a wrongful death suit against the clinic. The

circuit court judge initially ruled in favor of the clinic arguing that embryos are property and not persons. The couples appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court. In an 8-1 decision (February 2024), the Court ruled that human embryos preserved cryogenically in in vitro fertilization (IVF) clinics are "extrauterine children," and are therefore protected under the state's "wrongful death" law.

The ruling has sent shockwaves throughout the IVF industry. At the moment, the ruling only affects Alabama. The Alabama legislature quickly passed a bill that was signed into law that provides criminal and civil immunity to providers and patients of IVF services for the destruction or damage to embryos. Many states are likely to enact their own legislation to protect the IVF industry.

The new Alabama law, however, does not address the heart of the Alabama Supreme Court decision: That an embryo is a human being who deserves life, a concern that

the Catholic Church has expressed since IVF came into existence.

### CHURCH TEACHING

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, MDiv, MSBe, EOHSJ, President of Human Life International, wrote the following:

*"Rather than running frightened from this decision, so-called 'pro-life' American politicians should be asking themselves how it is they missed something so glaringly obvious, i.e. that IVF involves the industrialized commodification and destruction of human life in a way that clearly violates fundamental pro-life principles.*

*It may come as a surprise to some people (though it certainly shouldn't), but the Catholic Church has consistently maintained and taught that IVF is a grave evil, precisely because it distorts human procreation by assaulting the ends of marriage (Humanae vitae, no. 12) and ignores the right of the child to be begotten through a mother and father's act of love (i.e., marital act),*

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failing to see the child as equal in dignity to his or her parents.

The Church is despised by so many people not because it is imposing a religious view on the science, but rather because it is the only institution that acknowledges the science, and then consistently applies fundamental ethical principles to the science. 'We all say we agree that all human beings have human rights,' states the Church. 'But we alone have the courage of conviction to be consistent and to apply this in all cases.'

In the Declaration on Procured Abortion, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) states that, 'from the time that the ovum is fertilized, a life is begun which is neither that of the father nor the mother; it is rather the life of a new human being with his own growth. It would never be made human if it were not human already. This has always been clear, and ... modern genetic science offers clear confirmation...'

In *Donum Vitae*, the CDF draws out the sweeping ethical implications of this scientific fact:

Thus, the fruit of human generation, from the first moment of its existence, that is to say, from the moment the zygote has formed, demands the unconditional respect that is morally due to the human being in his bodily and spiritual totality. The human being is to be respected and treated as a person from the moment of conception; and therefore, from the same moment his rights as a person must be recognized, among which in the first place is the inviolable right of every innocent human being to life.

Unfortunately, the public debate on IVF is often extraordinarily shallow and uninformed. As we saw above, many people, including self-proclaimed 'pro-life' politicians, view the Church's position as self-contradictory. 'You say you're pro-life,' such people will say, 'and yet you are opposed to infertile couples being given the gift of having children through this marvelous technology.'

Even more dishonestly, some people will suggest that by opposing IVF, the Catholic Church is somehow rejecting the children who are born through IVF.

It can be infuriating dealing with such grotesque misrepresentations of the Church's position. In many cases, these misrepresentations seem to be motivated by nothing other than a perverse desire to confuse and mislead. However, in other cases it stems simply from ignorance, and our own failure to teach clearly.

In responding to the kind of misrepresentations we saw above it is important that, in the first place, we emphasize that children who are born through artificial reproductive technologies are, in every single respect, as worthy as any other human being. After all, the children conceived through IVF had no part whatsoever in the choice of the mode of their conception. They bear no guilt, and the mode of conception clearly has no bearing whatsoever on their dignity and worth.



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet,  
President of Human Life International

The Vatican clearly affirmed this principle in *Donum Vitae*, writing, 'Although the manner in which human conception is achieved with IVF ... cannot be approved, every child which comes into the world must in any case be accepted as a living gift of the divine Goodness and must be brought up with love.'

Secondly, it is important that we emphasize the ethical principle that a good aim or intention does not make an evil act good. Yes, many couples who resort to IVF desperately desire children — a desire that is, in and of itself, a good thing. The children that come about through IVF are also good. However, the means that the parents have chosen to pursue the good aim of having children is evil, regardless of their intentions. As such, it must be opposed.

Right now, it is estimated that over one million embryonic human beings are in cryogenic suspended animation in U.S. IVF clinics. Many millions more are preserved in clinics elsewhere on the globe or are being created and experimented upon (and destroyed) in many universities. Tragically, our consciences have been dulled to this industrialized destruction of human life.

Let us pray that the Alabama Court's decision will provide an occasion for some serious soul-searching about our society's premature and unjustified acceptance of IVF. And in the meantime, let us educate ourselves on these complex issues by reading the Church's rich teaching documents, so that we are better equipped to respond to the many distortions on this topic in the media and popular culture."

### What is In vitro Fertilization (IVF)?

According to Yale Medicine: In IVF, an individual's eggs are fertilized with sperm "in vitro." In vitro is a Latin phrase that means "in glass." IVF means that fertilization occurs outside the body, in a laboratory dish under controlled conditions. IVF is the most common type of assisted reproductive technology (ART).

### What is the process of in vitro fertilization (IVF)?

Females are given hormones to stimulate their ovaries into producing a larger quantity of mature eggs that can be retrieved and used during IVF.

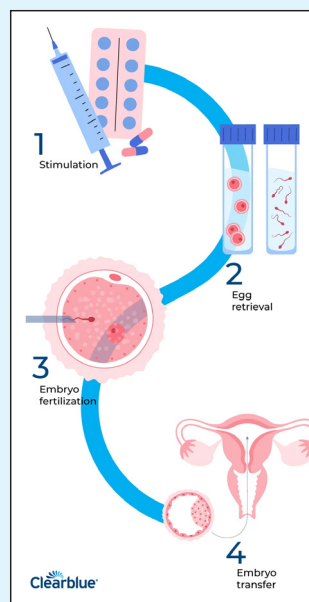
Once the eggs are removed from the female, the eggs are then fertilized with sperm in a laboratory. The fertilized egg, now referred to as an embryo, is allowed to grow for three to five days in the laboratory. Doctors observe the growth of the embryos and determine which embryos will continue to develop into viable pregnancies.

The doctor and patient determine the number of embryos that will be implanted into the uterus in hopes of achieving a successful pregnancy. Embryos that have not been implanted can be frozen for future use, discarded, donated for scientific research or made available to other infertile couples.

### Are there side effects associated with in vitro fertilization (IVF)?

Potential physical side effects to the woman can include: Blood clots; infection; abdominal bleeding; twisting of the ovary and, in some cases, the fallopian tube, disrupting blood flow; allergic reaction to medications; ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome where the ovaries swell and leak fluid into the abdominal cavity and chest area.

There can also be the risk of increased pregnancy complications for someone who conceives through IVF: a multiple pregnancy that can result in selective abortion of one or more of the unborn children; high blood pressure; heterotopic pregnancy, when one embryo attaches to the lining of the uterus and another embryo attaches to a site outside of the uterus.



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# Parental Desires, Children and IVF

By Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

Whenever I give talks on in vitro fertilization, I try to explain to my audiences how new human life must be procreated in the warmth of the marital embrace and in the protective hearth of the maternal womb, not in the icy, impersonal world of the research laboratory, or the manipulative setting of a Petri dish.

On one occasion, after finishing up a talk, a married couple approached me. They had done in vitro fertilization and had several children from the procedure. They appeared to be struggling in conscience, and posed a searing question: "If in vitro fertilization is wrong, are you suggesting it would be better that we didn't have our beautiful children? We can't imagine our life without them."

Imagining a world different from the one we have constructed through our own personal choices is difficult. This is often because of our innate tendency to validate our decisions, even erroneous ones, by focusing on "desirable outcomes" and "good intentions."

I recall once speaking with a woman who had given birth to a little boy out of wedlock. She was raising him as a single mom. He was a source of endless joy and blessing to her and to her extended family of brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles. Yet in a moment of candor, she admitted,

*"Although I love my son dearly, and I can't imagine my life without him, I've also come to see how it would have been better if I had chosen not to have sex before marriage. I could have, and should have, followed another path."*

By giving herself to the man she hoped might one day be her husband, she supposed she was entering onto a path towards fulfillment. She soon came to realize, though, that her son would be deprived of the presence of a father figure, and that he was subject to various other difficulties as he grew up because of the choice she had made.

Whenever we choose to follow a path that involves intrinsically immoral choices, we necessarily mislead ourselves about the best total state of affairs that could have been ours. We usually also bring harm to others because of such choices.

For the intrinsically disordered choice of in vitro fertilization, it can be doubly difficult to see the harmful nature of the decision we are making because we direct our attention so intensely towards the baby we yearn for. Couples who do in vitro fertilization are doubtless convinced that the best total state of affairs for them would be to have a child, regardless of the steps it might require.

In the conversation with the husband and wife who attended my talk, they admitted that their own strong parental desires had gotten the upper hand in their decision-making process. They also admitted they were beginning to see a bigger picture: how a third party, an anonymous laboratory technician



in the back room of the clinic, had actually produced their kids, reducing their parental and procreative role, in effect, to mere donors of sex-cells; how pornography and masturbation impinged on the origins of their own children; how they had produced a plethora of children, with some frozen, and others discarded along the way.

The attraction for children can be so strong that it can prevent us from acknowledging honestly the evil aspects that may be interwoven into certain choices we make. We can mislead ourselves into thinking that our desires are worthy to be achieved at any cost. It is but a short step to ruin if our own desires become the final arbiters of right and wrong, and if we suppose that it's really up to us to determine what constitutes the best state of affairs for our lives. By granting our own willfulness center stage, we end up undermining the very blessings we seek for our life and for those around us.

Infertile couples may believe they have a right to children, when in reality they possess no such right, because the deeper truth is that children are always meant to be a gift, freely given by the Giver of gifts. Marital acts are a way of "petitioning the Giver for his gifts." By insisting on or demanding the gift (through in vitro fertilization), the child is no longer that "gift" but a kind of entitlement or project to be realized. After all, if we demand and force a "gift," is it still truly a gift?

Infertile couples too often may not have paused to reflect on the possibility of another path, nor fully considered the various other important and humanly fulfilling ways of expressing their marital fruitfulness, ways that might include foster parenting, teaching, becoming a "Big Brother/Big Sister" to needy children in the community, or the generous decision to adopt a child.

Reprinted with permission. Rev Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org) and [www.fathertad.com](http://www.fathertad.com).



# EUCHARIST

From page 1

During those stops, events will be planned at various parishes to include dinner, talks on the Eucharist, and Adoration with praise & worship music.

"We hope that this will be an opportunity for everyone to encounter the abundant love of God and grow in their relationship with him," said Mary Madelyn Mertes, assistant director of catechetical formation for the Jefferson City diocese.

The full schedule of events planned in the diocese can be found online at: [diojeffcity.org/eucharisticrevival](http://diojeffcity.org/eucharisticrevival).

"You don't have to try to take on the whole thing," Maureen Quinn, diocesan director of religious education and youth/young adult ministry, noted. "Pick one event, and plan to be a part of it."

People are strongly encouraged to sign up for whichever events they hope to take part in, to help with planning.

The ambitious foot pilgrimage (*eucharisticpilgrimage.org*) is part of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative launched in 2022 by the U.S. bishops to inspire a deeper love and reverence for Jesus in the Eucharist.

It came in response to a Pew Research Center survey's findings that only one-third of U.S. Catholics believe the Church's teaching of Jesus being truly present in the Eucharist.

All four arms of the pilgrimage trace what organizers call "a sign of the cross over the nation," as pilgrims traverse a combined 6,500 miles across 27 states and 65 dioceses, through small towns, large cities and rural countryside — often on foot, always with the Eucharist.

The group that will pass through Missouri began its more-than-2,200-mile evangelizing pilgrimage in San Francisco, led by that city's archbishop carrying Jesus in the Eucharist, traveling across the Golden Gate Bridge.

The other three routes start in Brownsville, Texas; New Haven, Connecticut; and Lake Itasca, Minnesota.

The pilgrims on the longest arm of the pilgrimage will be seasoned and well acclimated to the rigors of their daily

walking by the time they arrive in Missouri.

## Walking and worshipping

The July 1-5 events in this diocese fall into the categories of walking and worshipping.

From 6 to 9 p.m. on Monday, July 1, St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia will host a pot-luck dinner, bilingual programming at Sacred Heart School, and a solemn Eucharistic Procession to St. Patrick Chapel for Adoration and Confession.

"Being chosen as a host parish along the pilgrimage route is an honor and a blessing," said Fr. Corel. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime event to renew not just our faith, but to allow us to help those outside our parish experience this renewal along with us!"

Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Boonville will host a dinner, talks on the Mass and the Eucharist, and Adoration and Confession from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, July 2.

St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia will host Mass, Adoration, Confession and lunch from noon to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3.

That evening from 6 to 9 p.m., Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City will host a dinner, talks in English and Spanish on the Mass and the Eucharist, bilingual Adoration and Confession.

Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 4, in the Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter, near the Capitol in Jefferson City, followed by Adoration until 6 p.m.

Adoration and lunch, talks on the Mass and the Eucharist,

and a pilgrim send-off will take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, July 5 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg.

Individuals are invited to join the 12 perpetual pilgrims as they process with the Eucharist along the Katy Trail from parish to parish:

•July 2 — Mass at 6:30 a.m. in St. Patrick Chapel in Sedalia, followed by a Eucharistic procession to Sacred Heart Chapel in Sedalia. Then, walk from St. Joseph Church in Pilot Grove to Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Boonville along the Katy Trail (about 12.5 miles).

•July 3 — Mass at 6:30 a.m. in Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Boonville and a Eucharistic procession to the Katy Trail. Then, walk to New Franklin on the trail (about 3.6 miles), and continue to walk along the trail from the outskirts of Columbia to the St. Thomas More Newman Center (about 4.7 miles). Finally, walk from the outskirts of Jefferson City to the Cathedral of St. Joseph (about 4 miles).

•July 5 — Mass at 8 a.m. in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, followed by a Eucharistic Procession to the Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter (about 2 miles).

## Grace and nature

Ms. Mertes spoke of a Eucharistic procession — especially one that moves through nature and the countryside — as "all creation participating in the glory of God."

"There's something so powerful about seeing the Blessed Sacrament outside of a church — actually, going out into creation with the Creator," she

said.

All who receive Jesus in Holy Communion and who adore him in the Most Blessed Sacrament are necessarily sent out to make his presence visible and recognizable in the world.

"A Eucharistic procession is such a tangible experience of that sending, and of actually following the Lord out into the world," Ms. Mertes stated.

She said people's witness to the power of Christ in the Eucharist in their own lives is the most effective evangelization.

"It's one thing to tell someone we believe in the Eucharist, it's another thing for them to ask us what we believe in the Eucharist after they see us following it down the street," she said.

## Common journey

Monsignor Joseph Malagrec, pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Brooklyn, will give talks on the Eucharist in English and in Spanish and will lead a bilingual Holy Hour during Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament on July 3 in the Cathedral.

He is one of 57 Eucharistic preachers specially commissioned to help bring the Eucharistic Revival to parishes throughout the country.

He hopes people who are within driving distance of any of the events in the diocese will make it a priority to take part with their families.

He also adamantly encourages people to personally invite Catholic friends who are lukewarm in their faith or lax in their participation in the Sacraments.

Msgr. Malagrec is the national spiritual director for the Hispanic Catholic Charismatic Renewal in this country and is coordinator for the National Service of Communion, which fosters unity among the various groups within the Charismatic Renewal.

The Charismatic Renewal, thoroughly rooted in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and in worshipping Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament, has a vigorous presence in parts of Central and Northeastern Missouri, especially in parishes with large Hispanic populations.

Having organized numerous Eucharistic processions, Msgr. Malagrec is amazed at the thought of one so large taking place in four parts across the United States.

"It's very powerful," he said. "Because a Eucharistic procession has lots of wonderful things going on with it."

It brings countless people together on a common journey.

"In that way, it imitates life," said Msgr. Malagrec. "It makes you very aware of Jesus in the midst of the countryside."

It also serves as a communal proclamation of faith in a country that is becoming more secular and focused on things other than God.

The priest said many of the parents of the more than 200 babies he baptizes in his parish each year know little about their faith.

Many are unaware that Christ makes himself fully present — Body, Blood, Spirit and Divinity — on the altar at every Mass and in the tabernacle of Catholic churches throughout the world.

"Anything to wake up people's awareness of this is a good thing," he said. "We're not just trying to reach people who are already active in the Church, but also all the unchurched, secularized Catholics who still have some connection to the Catholic life."

He noted that true belief in the Eucharist alters the course of every person's life.

He predicted that a more Eucharist-centered Church

See PILGRIMAGE, page 23

## INTERVIEW

From page 12

Pope Francis said “natural law,” which, as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches, “states the first and essential precepts which govern the moral life.”

### Abuse, social communication, and hope

Asked by O'Donnell if the Catholic Church had “done enough” to reform and repent of clerical sexual abuse, Pope Francis said “it must continue to do more” since “the tragedy of the abuses is enormous.”

He also stressed the need to “not only ... not permit it but to put in place the conditions so that it does not happen.”

“It cannot be tolerated,” Pope Francis said. “When there is a case of a religious man or woman who abuses, the full force of the law falls upon them. In this there has been a great deal of progress.”

O'Donnell, however, did not ask Pope Francis about Father Marko Rupnik, the Slovenian-born priest who

was expelled from the Society of Jesus in June 2023, and who has gained international recognition both for his liturgical art and for the numerous accusations of sexual, spiritual and psychological abuse leveled against him in the course of his career.

Toward the end of the interview, O'Donnell asked the pope about the impact of social media on the world and its children.

While some communication media exhibit “a conscience,” other platforms “alienate young people” by peddling propaganda and gossip, said Pope Francis, stressing that “the media has a serious responsibility.”

“We need to walk beside our teenage kids, we have to be there for them and guide them with intelligence, with love, we have to listen to them,” he said. “Listening to them is very important.”

He warned against developing a “closed heart,” which “hardens and gets sick” while depriving a person of the “great happiness” of “going forward with an open heart” in life.

### Reasons for hope

O'Donnell asked the pope what gave him hope.

“Everything,” Pope Francis said. “You see tragedies, but



Pope Francis sits down exclusively with “CBS Evening News” anchor Norah O'Donnell at the Vatican April 24, 2024, for an interview ahead of the Vatican's inaugural World Children's Day. The CBS interview marked the first time a pope has given an in-depth, one-on-one interview to a U.S. broadcast network, according to CBS. A roughly 13-minute portion of the interview aired May 19 on the CBS program “60 Minutes,” with the balance of the session broadcast in a one-hour primetime special May 20.

— OSV News photo/Adam Verdugo, courtesy, 60 minutes, CBS NEWS

you also see so many beautiful things ... heroic mothers, heroic men, men who have hopes and dreams, women who look to the future. That gives me a lot of hope. People want to live. People forge ahead. And people are fundamentally good. We are all fundamentally good. Yes, there are some rogues and sinners, but the heart itself is good.”

Asked what he hoped his legacy would be, Pope Francis admitted he “never really thought about it,” since “the Church is the legacy, the

Church not only through the pope, but through you ... every Christian ... everyone.”

“You mean that the Church is for everybody?” O'Donnell inquired.

“Yes, for everybody. And in particular for the privileged,” Pope Francis replied. “Do you know who are the privileged in the Church? ... We, the sinners, are the privileged ones, because Jesus came to call upon us sinners, all of us.”

Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News.

## BREADMAKING

From page 11

to enjoy.

Mrs. Aubuchon said this was her favorite part of working in a school — interacting with the students, providing them a welcoming place to eat good food.

“Getting to know the kids,” she said was her favorite part of the job. “... I wanted them to know they were special.”

M. Herrold is the field editor for *Missouri Farmer Today* ([agupdate.com/missourifarmertoday](http://agupdate.com/missourifarmertoday)), which published a version of this article on April 26. This slightly revised version is printed here with permission.

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# ORDAIN

From page 1

Rev. Mr. Hoffmann is relying on God's constant help in conforming him to the likeness of Christ.

"When someone meets a priest, that ultimately should mean meeting Christ in the particular form of who that priest is," said Rev. Mr. Hoffmann.

"The priest doesn't lose his individual personhood or his particular traits or likes and dislikes," Rev. Mr. Hoffmann explained. "But really, the underlying features of every priest should be Christlikeness."

He realizes that that's an incredibly tall order.

"That's where grace comes in," he said, "and the Holy Spirit and the strength of the sacraments."

## In the affirmative

Rev. Mr. Hoffmann describes his journey to Priesthood as "a steady stream of yeses."

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

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

He was active in sports and Scouting.

He was an altar server and later an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion.

While studying agricultural engineering and minoring in Spanish at Iowa State University in Ames, he became active in a variety of student organizations around campus and at the Catholic Student Center.

He got to know the university's Catholic chaplain, whose humor and zest for life helped him relate to young people.

Rev. Mr. Hoffmann got to study in Brazil twice, including during World Youth Day — Pope Francis's first — in 2013.

Attending Mass with the new pontiff and an estimated 3.5 million young people from all over the world substantially broadened Rev. Mr. Hoff-

mann's perspective on the Church's universal nature.

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

Rev. Mr. Hoffmann was studying in Iowa State's Catholic Student Center one day when the chaplain invited him to join a Sunday evening Priesthood discernment group.

He joined fellow students in discussing articles and chapters from books, going on retreats and visiting a seminary.

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

He found out that seminaries are for men who are not necessarily certain of a priestly calling but are open to actively



Rev. Mr. Christopher Hoffmann and Bishop W. Shawn McKnight elevate the Most Blessed Sacrament during the Mass at which Rev. Mr. Christopher Hoffmann was ordained a transitional deacon on June 3, 2023.

— Photo by Jay Nies

pandemic hit full-force, confining many people to their homes and causing one of the largest disruptions in the sacramental life of the Church in 100 years.

"It was nice to not be in an academic setting when COVID hit — for my mental stability as much as my discernment of the Priesthood," he said.

The situation required persistence and creativity to help people

who could not worship together in person remain connected to one another and the Church.

"It's easy in some ways to see the person in front of you and to minister to that person," he noted. "But, how do you minister to those who can't be in front of you?"

He worked with the parish youth group and young adult group to find ways to help the whole parish stay connected throughout the pandemic.

"For me, that was a very good, informative, formational experience," he said.

It reminded him that there's no way in this life to know the full impact of one's own efforts to help people get closer to God.

"Sometimes, you get great feedback or a thank-you, or you see a change in some person," he stated.

"Sometimes, you're just

"For me, it's back to 'How can I be less and less of an obstacle to people's relationship to God through my ministry?'" he said.

Getting better at speaking and understanding Spanish is only part of the equation.

"It's also the experience," he said. "Being honestly interested in others and trying to learn more about them and their experiences and how their culture has contributed to their relationship with the Lord and how they learn, how they worship, how they pray."

## Promoting reconciliation

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight ordained Rev. Mr. Hoffmann a deacon on June 3, 2023.

Being a deacon has made his past year of seminary formation unique.

"You're still in formation, still taking classes, still helping out at a parish," he said. "But your intentionality has increased — that it's not only helping others as a person, but helping others as Christ the Servant."

He's also gotten to preach

See FR. HOFFMANN, page 27

## Masses of Thanksgiving, Eucharistic procession, June 2, Sedalia

Father Christopher Hoffmann will offer two Masses of Thanksgiving on Sunday, June 2, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), in Sedalia, his hometown.

He will preside at the 10 a.m. Mass in English in the Sacred Heart Chapel, 421 W. Third St., and at the 11:30 a.m. Mass in Spanish in the St. Patrick Chapel, 415 E. Fourth St.

Immediately following the 11:30 a.m. Mass, Fr. Hoffmann will lead the Corpus Christi Procession through downtown Sedalia from St. Patrick Chapel to Sacred Heart Chapel.

discerning God's will for them.

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

## Planting seeds

Rev. Mr. Hoffmann began the application process several months after graduating from Iowa State.

Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos welcomed him as a candidate for Priesthood and sponsored his enrollment into Conception Seminary College in Northwestern Missouri.

Rev. Mr. Hoffmann completed the pre-theology program there in two years.

Shortly thereafter, he entered a seven-month pastoral internship at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia, the largest parish in the diocese.

He had been there a short while when the COVID-19

planting a seed and letting the Holy Spirit work that encounter, and being okay with being just a little part to that," he said.

## Bridge-building

Rev. Mr. Hoffmann enjoyed studying Spanish in high school and college.

"Then, it kind of lay dormant for a few years until I entered seminary, and the need for Hispanic ministry in our diocese became clear and very relevant to me," he said.

Picking up where his formal studies had left off, he set about learning a more pastoral approach to Spanish and working toward the day when he'll celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in Spanish.

He spent a summer completing a Spanish-immersion program in Wichita, and helped out on weekends during the academic year in a parish where almost all parishioners are Hispanic.

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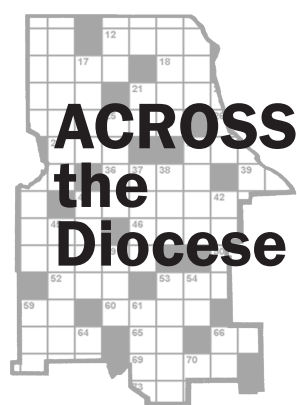
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By Father Donald Antweiler

## ACROSS

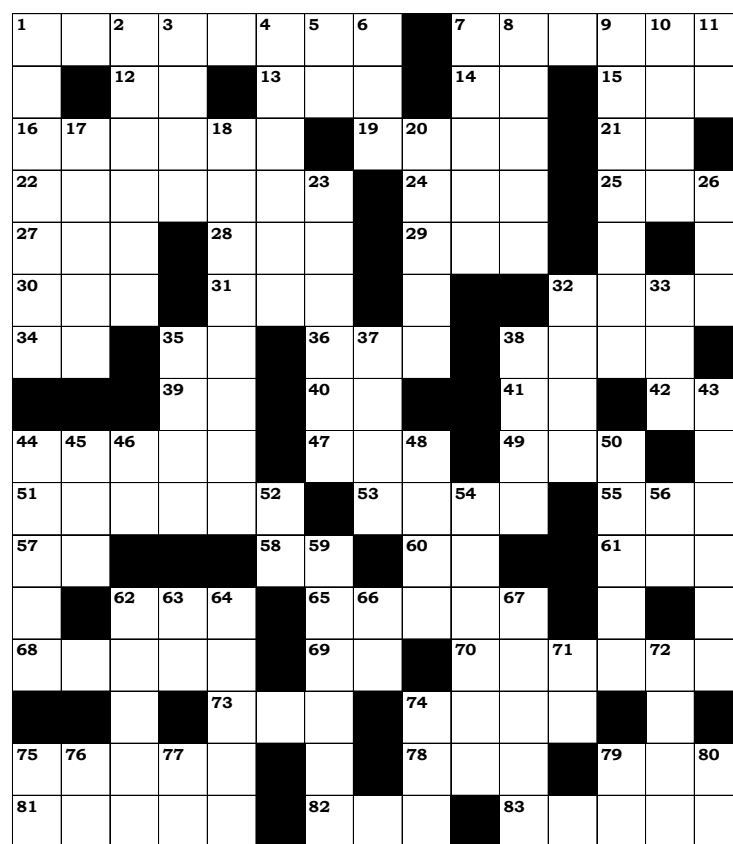
1. This puzzle focuses on the musical instruments in the Bible that provided the \_\_\_\_ and accompanied the songs and chants of the Hebrew people.
7. Island country off the coast of China.
12. Twelve months (abbr.).
13. "Arriving in Kentucky in 1821, Jesuits went west to Mo. in 1823 and began, in Florissant, the great Jesuit mission in the Midwest. St. Louis Univ. (\_\_\_\_) is only one result of their activities," —*Religion in Antebellum Kentucky*, John B. Boles.
14. Prefix for reverent or relevant.
15. "God is very likely to be unforgiving with the unforgiving, since the \_\_\_\_ thing that makes us unworthy is to enter God's presence with a closed heart," —*The Lost Art of Walking on Water: Reimagining the Priesthood*, Michael Heher.
16. "I think everyone should experience defeat at least once during their \_\_\_\_." You learn a lot from it," —Lou Holtz.
19. "Nor — an appalling lapse — did (FDR) brief his successor on the existence of the atomic \_\_\_\_." When asked about it later "Truman generously replied, 'Roosevelt did all he could,'" —*Leadership in Turbulent Times*, Doris Kearns Goodwin.
21. A professional caregiver.
22. The \_\_\_\_ Trophy is annually awarded to the most outstanding player in college football.
24. "Then I saw an angel come down from heaven, holding in his hand the \_\_\_\_ to the abyss," (Revelations 20:1).
25. "Look at the birds in the sky; they do not \_\_\_\_ or reap..." (Matthew 6:26).
27. Rainbow shape.
28. \_\_\_\_ culpa.
29. "You shall not plow with an

- ox and an \_\_\_\_ harnessed together," (Deuteronomy 22: 10).
30. Letters for Environmental Impact Statement.
31. The Audio-Lingual Method (\_\_\_\_) of teaching language is to do so directly without the help of a student's native language to understand.
32. Detergent brand.
34. \_\_\_\_ Havre, a French city on the English Channel with a rock beach from which Monet painted and with beautiful St. Josph Church designed by an atheist.
35. The only instruments \_\_\_\_ the NT that are specifically mentioned as being played are flutes at Jairus's daughter's funeral (Matthew 9:23); harps by the 24 elders (Revelation 5:6); and trumpets at the end of time (1 Corinthians 14:7-8).
36. Tax collector.
38. "A nation that kills its own children is a nation without \_\_\_\_," —Pope St. John Paul II.
39. Northwestern Univ. (\_\_\_\_) is a prestigious elite univ. north of Chicago on Lake Michigan.
40. Periodic Table letters for sodium.
41. First Testament (abbr.).
42. Letters for parishes in Macon, Loose Creek and Montgomery City.
44. "As a journalist covering politics, most of us are \_\_\_\_ of the necessity to try to be sure we're unbiased in our reporting," —Walter Cronkite, Mo. native.
47. Miracle-\_\_\_\_ Plant Food.
49. Harps/lyres were probably plucked (like today's harp) or/also possibly played with a \_\_\_\_ (like a violin).
51. The pipe is a type of reed instrument, like a clarinet or oboe (e.g., Genesis 4:21; Job 21:31). Pipe probably refers to a \_\_\_\_ of instruments. A flute is probably a type of pipe (e.g., 1 Kings 1:40; 1 Samuel 10:5; Job 21:12).
53. \_\_\_\_ Bluff State Park near Eminence, Mo. not only has beautiful scenery but has rental cabins and a nice lodge.
55. Alley \_\_\_\_; comic strip caveman.
57. Letters for a Mt. Rushmore president.
58. A possible degree from Mo. S&T.

60. "Aslan is not the slave of the stars but their Maker. Is it not told in all the stories that \_\_\_\_ is not a Tame Lion?" —*Last Battle*, C.S. Lewis.
61. "Who can \_\_\_\_ out the various forces at play in one soul?" —St. Augustine.
62. Two of these make a cheerleader's accessory.
65. Some of the best \_\_\_\_ streams in Mo. are the Current, Niangua, Gasconade and Huzzah.
68. "(Abraham) reasoned that God was able to \_\_\_\_ even from the dead..." (Hebrews 11:19).
69. Fee-Fi-\_\_\_\_-Fum; from Jack & the Beanstalk fairy tale.
70. Even more proud of one's appearance.
73. "After Jesus came the \_\_\_\_ thieves, who were likewise led, the arms of the crosses being placed upon their backs, and their hands tied tightly to the ends," —*The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ*, visions of Sister Anne Catherine Emmerich, 1774-1824, mystic, stigmatic, visionary.
74. Osage Co. town that is heritage home of Diamond Pet Foods.
75. She joined \_\_\_\_ class on her way into the Catholic Church (2 wds.).
78. Dir. from St. Peter Parish in Marshall to Queen of Peace Parish in Ewing.
79. Money machine.
81. The trumpet was long and straight, with \_\_\_\_-shaped flare at the end. It was used as an alarm for war (e.g., Numbers 3) and blown to announce the Sabbath and for festivals (2 wds.).
82. "I assure you, King George is willing to wage war on your soil for \_\_\_\_ years to achieve his aims," —*The Glorious Cause*, Jeff Shaara.
83. "The clouds poured down their \_\_\_\_; the thunderheads rumbled..." (Psalms 77:18).

## DOWN

1. The Archangel that drove Satan and his angels out of heaven (Revelation 12:7-9).
2. All the psalms are considered song \_\_\_\_ (e.g., Psalms 45:1; 46:1; 65:1; 87:1, 120-134; etc.).
3. Mines produce them.
4. Stringed instruments were central to the musical cul-



- ture of the people of \_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_ Paso, TX.
6. A type of sandwich.
7. The harp was by far the most utilized instrument, referred to 42 \_\_\_\_, spanning many centuries.
8. Fast food chain specializing in meaty sandwiches.
9. Twenty-four psalms mention the use of instruments in \_\_\_\_ (e.g., Psalms 33:2; 149:3). Many are named in the psalm's heading (e.g., Ps. 54:1; 55:1; 61:1, etc.).
10. Part of A.D.
11. Mo. border State called the Cornhusker State (abbr.).
17. Eagle's nest.
18. O Come, O Come \_\_\_\_; Advent song.
20. When the boss \_\_\_\_ the project, then we will start to build.
23. The best source for \_\_\_\_ biblical instruments is the Book of Psalms (e.g., Psalms 81:3 and esp. 150:3-5).
26. "\_\_\_\_ to you, scholars of the law! You have taken away the key of knowledge," (Luke 11:52).
32. Dorothy's dog.
33. *Mater* \_\_\_\_; Mother of God.
35. Cross letters.
37. Descriptions of biblical musical instruments are \_\_\_\_ and so are often a matter of conjecture (e.g. the lyre was possibly a type of harp); some lyres/harps were apparently portable; some had 3 or 7 or 10 strings or more.
38. Knight of the road.
43. Cymbals are mentioned in

- 13 places, made of \_\_\_\_ or bronze, commonly struck with hard mallets or perhaps worn on the fingers; they perhaps sounded more like a tuned bell than frenetic clanging.
44. "Anti-guerilla feelings in Mo. had grown so bitter that it was not uncommon for Union officers to execute Confederate irregulars \_\_\_\_ they surrendered," — "Major Wilson, Major Wolf, and Union Retaliation in Civil War St. Louis," Brooks Blevins, Mo. Historical Review, vol. 118.
45. Translations differ but many believe horn refers to the shofar, a literal ram's horn; was used for a range of purposes, e.g. a warning alarm, a call to Sabbath and to festivals, and often used in \_\_\_\_ (e.g., Joshua 6:4-20).
46. Companion to FM.
48. The number of gospel beatitudes, in Madrid.
50. "In his mind, he pictured the serene face of the Mother of God... That star-crowned \_\_\_\_ in the sky-blue veil, smiling as she watched over the world," —*Dead Water*, Barbara Hambly.
52. O Come, All \_\_\_\_ Faithful...
54. Our Father, who art in \_\_\_\_...
56. The Office of Administration (\_\_\_\_) in Mo. was created by the General Assem-

CLUES continued on page 21

## CLUES

From page 20

- bly tasked with combining and coordinating the central management of State government.
59. "...make every \_\_\_\_ to supplement your faith with virtue..." (2 Peter 1:5).
62. Trumpets are mentioned in 29 places and are the best described instrument (e.g., was made from one whole \_\_\_\_ of silver, giving it a grand piercing sound).
63. Bone.
64. A timbrel suggests a hoop of wood or \_\_\_\_ over which was stretched a parchment head. A tambourine was a type of timbrel with perhaps bells and jangles in the hoops (e.g., Psalms 149:3; 1 Chronicles 13:8).
66. \_\_\_\_ and behold!
67. \_\_\_\_ tots.
71. This Mo. border State is called the Hawkeye State (abbr.).
72. Catholic radio.
74. "I had come to appreciate and thank God for his providence and care of me and all \_\_\_\_, but I had never really abandoned myself to it," —*He Leadeth Me*, Walter Cizek, S.J.
75. Original 12-step program.
76. In the NFL, letters for Running Back.
77. This Mo. border State is called the Prairie State (abbr.).
79. Letters for Artificial Intelligence.
80. This State's nickname is the Magnolia State; a SE Mo. county carries this State's name (abbr.).

See ANSWERS, page 23

## ST. SYLVESTER

From page 4

was built in 2018.

He sought and negotiated the purchase of the land for Tolton Catholic and an adjacent parcel for further expansion for the diocese; and presently serves on Tolton Catholic's Board of Directors and as Vice Chairman of the Diocesan Finance Council.

Mrs. Kelly has served the Church and the community as a member of many committees and boards, including the School Advisory Board, the building committee for the recent school expansion, and two fundraising campaigns for building expansion.

Mr. and Mrs. Kelly have been members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (EOHS) since 2000, helping to support ministries to pilgrims and people in need in the Holy Land.

The couple served on the committee hosting two annual meetings for the EOHS.

They became Area Councilors for the order in the Jefferson City and Springfield-Cape Girardeau dioceses, completing their term of leadership last year.

The Kellys support numerous community organizations and Catholic charities. They eagerly grow and share their

faith in ways that make a practical difference in people's lives.

They have three children and nine grandchildren, with one on the way.

"Mike and Cheryl, thank you for being good role models as lay Catholics," said Bishop McKnight. "I am very proud to serve our beloved Church together with you, and I am grateful that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has bestowed this special dignity and honor upon you. Congratulations!"

### The order

The only other person in the history of this diocese to be inducted into the Order of St. Sylvester was the late Emil Schwartz, who spearheaded his family's substantial gift that resulted in the building of the Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center in Jefferson City in 2005.

The honor is named for Pope St. Sylvester, a fourth-century Pope who baptized Emperor Constantine the Great of Rome, who, by the Edict of Milan (313) had freed the Church from persecution and legal discrimination and disabilities, thus allowing her to spread rapidly throughout the Roman Empire.

Sylvester was also Pope

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

From page 6

That has driven her affiliation with the CCMA.

"Older campus ministers once looked at me and said, 'We're going to get you certified,'" she noted. "They mentored and helped me, so I think about how I can help other campus ministers."

She pointed to Father J. Friedel of the Springfield-Cape Girardeau diocese, who was formerly president of the CCMA.

"He told me, 'We're going to help you,' and he did," she said.

She also mentioned Barbara McCrabb, who's also receiving an award from CCMA this year.



Angelle Hall (front row, right), director of campus ministry at the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia, gathers with a group of pilgrims at the Basilica and National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians, in Wisconsin, during Holy Week. This is where she found out that she had been chosen to receive the Catholic Campus Ministry Association's Rev. Charles Forsyth Award for excellence in ministering to college students.

Formerly a campus minister at Mizzou, Mrs. McCrabb is now assistant director for Higher Education for the Secretariat of Catholic Education at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Mrs. McCrabb was who encouraged Mrs. Hall to take on more responsibility with the CCMA and put her gifts to work there.

"These people challenged me and helped me, and I learned so much," said Mrs. Hall. "So, in a lot of ways, I want to be that person looking at the next generation of campus ministers and say, 'You! You're amazing! I think you can do this, and I think I can help you.'"

### "Taste of heaven"

Mrs. Hall marvels at how God keeps putting her in the right places and calling forth gifts from her that can be helpful to others.

"I'm surprised at so much of what has come together in this role and that God had all of this in mind for me," she said.

She's also amazed by all the students whose journeys she's been able to share a small part of.

"And when I see so many of them come back for homecoming, I get really overwhelmed, with so many of them in the same place," she said.

"When so many people who mean so much to you

are together in one place, you say, 'I hope I get to heaven, because I think this is a little taste of that,'" she added.

Mrs. Hall's parents, husband, son and her whole family have been inordinately supportive of her ministry at Newman.

She's convinced that her work at Newman has helped her be a better wife and mom.

"For one thing, it's wonderful that you come to a place every day where people are trying to live according to what Jesus tells you, and where you get this kind of support," she said.

Each day, she continues the work because she believes it's what God wants her to do.

"I'm always praying, 'Lord, what do you want me to do?'" she said. "And so far, he's kept me here and convinced me that there are still things he wants me to do here."

She encourages everyone who's restlessly seeking their own place in the Church to lean on their faith community and fully trust in God and his timing.

"The Lord knows you, loves you, sees your holy desires, and he's at work for you," she said. "Sometimes, we have to be patient and keep our spiritual eyes on so we can be ready when he opens the door."

"And even if we miss the door being opened, he can work with that, too," she stated.

Need more info about an event or want to see more events?  
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Want your event listed?  
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## Fundraisers & Social Events

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; **Frankenstein**, 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 Conception Parish picnic, 11 am-10 pm; **Eldon**, Sacred Heart Parish "Food Trucks Catholic Outreach," 11 am-2 pm, behind the Catholic Center

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](http://vitae.foundation.org)

Jun. 15

**Taos**, St. Francis Xavier Parish picnic, 1-10:30 pm

Jun. 19

**Jefferson City**, St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary ice cream social & bazaar, 11 am-6 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall

Jun. 20

**Holts Summit**, Free concert to benefit Mary's Meals USA, 6-9 pm, Canterbury Hill Winery, for info visit [tinyurl.com/4z9vwabr](http://tinyurl.com/4z9vwabr)

Jun. 23

**Bahner**, St. Vincent de Paul Parish annual ice cream social, 5:30-9:30 pm, site of the former St. John the Evangelist Chapel; **Linn**, St. George Parish picnic, 11 am-7 pm

## Meetings & Conferences

Jun. 2

**Camdenton**, Post Weekend Ultreya for Cursillo, 2-4 pm, St. Anthony Church lower level, for info visit [diojeffcity.org/cursillo](http://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](http://cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/peace)

## Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

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 [ecas-tro@diojeffcity.org](mailto:ecas-tro@diojeffcity.org), para más información sobre este método, visite [diojeffcity.org/natural-family-planning/](http://diojeffcity.org/natural-family-planning/) y/o [familyplanning.net/es](http://familyplanning.net/es)

mayo 25-26

**Sedalia**, Retiro de Vida en el Espíritu, Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte al líder RCC de su parroquia, o visite [diojeffcity.org/renovacion-carismatica/](http://diojeffcity.org/renovacion-carismatica/)

junio 23

**Jefferson City**, Misa & Celebración con nuestro Obispo, 1-4 pm, Catedral de San José, confesiones en español a las 12:00, para más información contacte al Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-635-9127 o por correo electrónico a [ecastro@diojeffcity.org](mailto:ecastro@diojeffcity.org)

junio 26

**Sedalia**, Retiro de Niños, Escuela Sagrado Corazón, 9 am-5pm, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a [ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com](mailto:ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com)

junio 29

**Marshall**, Planificación Familiar Natural - Familia de las Américas, 9 am-noon, Parroquia San Pedro, para información sobre instructores y clases contacte a Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 o por

correo electrónico a [ecas-tro@diojeffcity.org](mailto:ecas-tro@diojeffcity.org), para más información sobre este método, visite [diojeffcity.org/natural-family-planning/](http://diojeffcity.org/natural-family-planning/) y/o [familyplanning.net/es](http://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

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>

Jun. 19

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

Jun. 22

**Jefferson City**, Pre-Cana Conference for engaged couples, 8:45 am-4:30 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/mariage-preparation](http://diojeffcity.org/mariage-preparation)

## Liturgical

May 27

**Jefferson City**, Memorial Day

Mass, 9-10 am, Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum

Jun. 11

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

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

Third Sundays each month

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

May 28

**VIRTUAL**, Evening Prayer with the School Sisters of Notre Dame for young adults, 7-8 pm, for info or to register visit [ssnd.org/events/5-28-24](http://ssnd.org/events/5-28-24)

Jun. 9-13

**Cook Station, Mo.**, Camp Lolek Session 1 for junior high students (coed), Mound Ridge Retreat Center, for info or to register, visit [diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek](http://diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek)

Jun. 16-20

**Cook Station, Mo.**, Camp Lolek Session 2 for junior high boys, Mound Ridge Retreat Center, for info or to register, visit [diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek](http://diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek)

Jun. 25

**VIRTUAL**, Evening Prayer with the School Sisters of Notre Dame for young adults, 7-8 pm, for info or to register visit [ssnd.org/events/5-28-24](http://ssnd.org/events/5-28-24)

Jul. 7-11

**Cook Station, Mo.**, Camp Lolek Session 3 for junior high girls, Mound Ridge Retreat Center, for info or to register, visit [diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek](http://diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek)

Jul. 14-19

**Cook Station, Mo.**, Camp Maccabee for high school young men, Mound Ridge Retreat Center, for info or to register, visit [diojeffcity.org/camp-maccabee](http://diojeffcity.org/camp-maccabee)

Jul. 21-26

**Cook Station, Mo.**, Camp Siena for high school young ladies, Mound Ridge Retreat Center, for info or to register, visit [diojeffcity.org/camp-siena](http://diojeffcity.org/camp-siena)



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Students of Sacred Heart School in Rich Fountain take part in a traditional May Crowning on May 7, a solemn and beautiful devotion, where participants crowns statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary with flowers.

— Photos from the Sacred Heart School Facebook page



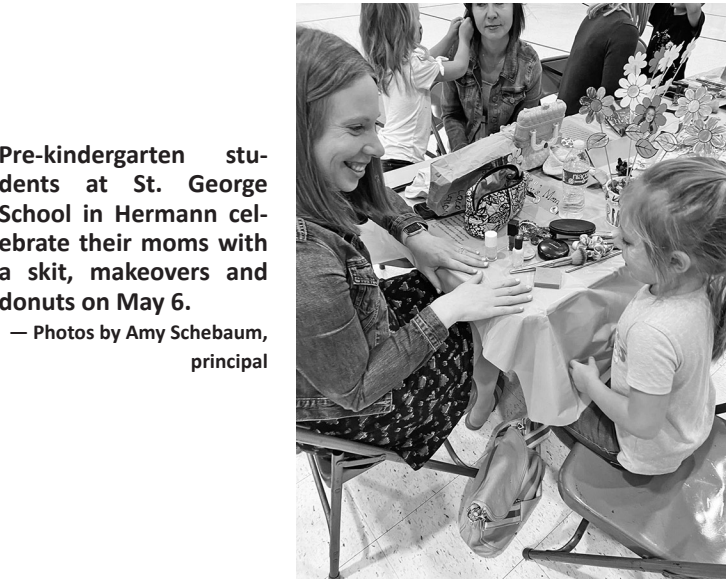
## To the halls of power

Seventh- and eighth-graders of St. Martin School in St. Martins visit the Missouri State Capitol on May 8, where teacher Rosemary Bardwell was announced as a special guest at the House of Representatives, in honor of her 43 years of service. The students toured the Capitol, including the walkway around the dome.

— Photos from the St. Martin Catholic Parish Facebook page



## Mom 'n me ...



Pre-kindergarten students at St. George School in Hermann celebrate their moms with a skit, makeovers and donuts on May 6.

— Photos by Amy Schebaum, principal

## Bible Accent

In Luke 16:19-31, Jesus talked about another rich man to teach his followers a lesson.

Jesus told the parable of a wealthy man who ate delicious food every day and dressed in fancy clothes made from expensive cloth.

And every day, a poor man named Lazarus lay outside the wealthy man's door. Lazarus, who was covered with sores, would have loved to eat the scraps of food that fell from the rich man's table, but the rich man simply ignored him.

One day, both the rich man and Lazarus died.

Angels carried Lazarus to Abraham in heaven, while the rich man was sent to the netherworld to be tormented for eternity.

The rich man saw Abraham and Lazarus standing next to each other in the distance, and he begged Abraham for pity.

Abraham reminded the rich man that he had enjoyed a good life while Lazarus had suffered, which is why Lazarus received comfort in eternal life while the rich man was tormented.

This parable — along with the story of the rich man and Jesus in Mark 10 — warns us that loving wealth and possessions more than God and our neighbors is wrong and can have negative consequences.

## St. Lutgardis

St. Lutgardis was born in Belgium in 1182. At age 12, she went to live with Benedictine nuns after her father lost her dowry. After Christ appeared to her and showed her his wounds, she renounced the world to become a nun. She later left the Benedictines for a stricter life with Cistercians at Aywieres. Lutgardis lost her eyesight in 1235 but considered it as another way of being detached from the world. She became known as a great spiritual counselor and healer, and she is now considered among the great medieval women mystics. Lutgardis died in 1246, and we remember her on June 16.



Lutgardis died in 1246, and we remember her on June 16.

## A rich man won't give up his wealth to follow Jesus

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic Courier

One day, as Jesus was getting ready to set out on a journey, a man came up to him.

"Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" the man asked as he knelt before Jesus.

"You know the commandments: 'You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother,'" Jesus answered.

"Teacher," the man said, "all of these I have observed from my youth."

Jesus looked at the man with love. "You are lacking in one thing," he told the man. "Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

When Jesus finished speaking, the man's excitement quickly turned to sadness. He slowly rose from his knees and walked away from Jesus in silence. He was a very wealthy man, and he was not interested in following Jesus if he had to give up all of his money and possessions.

Jesus watched the man walk away. He turned to the apostles, who had been listening to the conversation.

"How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God!" Jesus exclaimed. "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God."

Jesus' friends were astonished. "Then who can be saved?" they wondered.



Illustration by Linda Rivers

Jesus looked at them. "For men it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God," he told his friends.

"We have given up everything and followed you," Peter said.

Jesus looked at Peter. "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the Gospel who will not receive a hundred times

more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come," Jesus said. "But many that are first will be last, and (the) last will be first."

Read more about it...  
Mark 10

1. What question did the rich man ask Jesus?
2. Why did the rich man leave Jesus?



To whom did Jesus give blessings?  
(Hint: Mark 10:13-16)

Answer: The people's children.



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## Puzzle

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

ni      uyo      hingt      clingak      noe      rae

Sentence:

Answers: In, you, thing, lacking, one, are; You are lacking in one thing.

# Celebrity conversions inspire, challenge personal faith, experts say

By Gina Christian  
OSV News

Celebrities who convert to Catholicism can be an inspiration, a call to caution — and above all an occasion for personally recommitting to the faith, two evangelization experts told OSV News.

Entering the Church “is a process that a lot of people go through, but (for celebrities) it’s playing out because they’re famous,” Sherry Anne Weddell, co-founder and executive director of the Colorado-based Catherine of Siena Institute, told OSV News. “So everything gets magnified more.”

Over the past several months, a number of high-profile public figures — among them, podcaster Tammy Peterson, conservative commentator Candace Owens, former porn actress Bree Solstad, actor



**Tammy Peterson, center, is accompanied by her confirmation sponsor, Queenie Yu, also a convert, as Peterson is welcomed into full communion with the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil March 30, 2024, at Holy Rosary Church in midtown Toronto. Peterson is a cancer survivor and host of “The Tammy Peterson Podcast,” which delves into faith and other issues through a countercultural lens.**

— OSV News photo/Laura Salem, In His Image Photo & Film Inc.

Shia LeBoeuf and comedian Rob Schneider have publicly announced their embrace of the Catholic faith.

While such conversions are nothing new for the Church (which over the centuries has

welcomed everyone from the once-notorious Saul of Tarsus, later St. Paul, to royalty, philosophers, artists, intellectuals and world leaders), professing the faith in the age of hyper-fandom and social media can complicate matters, said Weddell, author of the 2012 book *Forming Intentional Disciples* and a consultant for hundreds of parishes worldwide.

Fame itself is inherently hazardous, and can lead to objectifying all-too-human beings, she said.

“We project our issues on them ...

instead of attending to them as an immortal human being who is — or part of whom at least is — trying to respond to the call of God,” Weddell said.

Meghan Cokeley, director of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s Office for the New Evangelization, agreed.

“I think that pastorally ... the thing to be guarded against is (forgetting) that celebrities have their faults too,” she told OSV News.

Cokeley also said it’s important to remember that celebrity converts are (like their

## Movie Ratings



Adults

The American Society of Magical Negroes (PG-13)  
The Fall Guy (PG-13)  
Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire (PG-13)  
Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (PG-13)  
Irena’s Vow (R)  
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13)  
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.

fellow believers) souls traveling along a learning curve — and fans should therefore discern wisely in evaluating their statements about the faith.

“Just because they’ve (now) converted, it doesn’t mean they’re (suddenly) an accurate purveyor of Catholic truth,” said Cokeley.

At the same time, said Cokeley, the celebrity conversion experience can underscore the importance of humility to the spiritual life.

“The positive side of it is the witness of conversion, the change of mind, the change of heart,” she said.

“I can imagine that conversion is difficult, because you’ve got this persona and ... you may be famous for thinking a certain way. And then to acknowledge change, to acknowledge that ‘I grew more deeply’ or ‘I had to change my mind on this’ — that’s a big deal. So there’s a way where it has a very big impact on all of us who need to change our minds and hearts on many things,” she said.

Even among longtime Christians, stardom can prove to be either an asset or a liability

ty to the Gospel, wrote Katelyn Beatty in her 2022 book *Celebrities for Jesus: How Personas, Platforms and Profits Are Hurting the Church*, which surveyed the effects of the evangelical church’s relationship with celebrity.

“Indeed, many Christians have used their fame, passion, and tech savvy for good kingdom purposes, sharing the Gospel via mass media culture, whose global reach (St.) Paul could only have dreamed of,” wrote Beatty. “To them, celebrity is one tool used to build the house of God — not the house itself. They’re willing to part with their fame or prestige if it no longer serves primary kingdom purposes.”

However, said Beatty, “other Christians have reached for the tool of celebrity and found that it really isn’t a tool at all. It has more power over the user than the user over it.”

When any individual, famous or unknown, comes into the Church, “the heart of the issue ... (is) their relationship with God — their immortal soul, their life, their future in this life and the next, the fruit they will bear ... the meaning of their lives ... as they walk with Jesus,” said Weddell.

“And that’s what we need to be praying for — and we have to pray for each other, because that’s a question for each of us.”

Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News.

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Diocese of  
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## FR. HOFFMANN

From page 19

homilies at Mass in the Proto-cathedral of St. Peter in Jefferson City, where he spent last summer, and in St. Agnes Church in Columbus, Ohio.

In part due to the cycle of Sunday readings and in part due to prompting from the Holy Spirit, he has preached extensively on reconciliation and the healing of broken relationships.

"We all need some relationship in our life to be reconciled," he noted. "Especially to God."

When preparing a homily on a Scripture reading, he's learned to look for things that strike him enough to share with others and help them recognize themselves or their situation in that passage.

"And then, how can they respond in love and charity to whatever particular theme that stands out?" he said.

He often recognizes the Holy Spirit at work — specifically, strong nudges in a certain direction — while he's preparing a homily.

"It definitely is helpful when you take those little nudges and go with them," he said. "Because they're not truly my words but God's. So how do I get less and less in the way of his words?"

### With God's help

Rev. Mr. Hoffmann graduated from the Pontifical College Josephinum on May 11, receiving a Master of Divinity, Bachelor of Sacred Theology, and Hispanic Ministry Field Education Certificate.

Looking back on his diacanal ordination and ahead to his priestly ordination, he is struck by something both rites have in common.

"The bishop asks if you are willing to carry out your ministry in imitation of Christ, and the response is, 'I am with the help of God,'" he noted.

"It's a recognition that yes, I am fully consenting to this, but it is really nothing of my own accord that is going on," he said. "It is all the work of God,



Rev. Mr. Christopher Hoffmann stands beside the mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.  
— Photo by Jay Nies

who I am a minister of and for, but not because of anything I have done that has not been given by him."

Father Mark Smith, with whom Rev. Mr. Hoffmann spent two summers in parish ministry as a seminarian, will ceremonially help him put on his priestly vestments.

Rev. Mr. Hoffmann said what he's currently looking forward to the most about Priesthood are the sacraments of healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.

"They're not very complicated rites," he noted. "They're often done in very simple, out-of-the-way places."

The confessional is usually not ornately decorated, and Anointing of the Sick is often given in people's homes or in hospital rooms.

"But they are two instances when you are bringing people back to God and his mercy, preparing them to meet him face-to-face when this phase of life is over," said Rev. Mr. Hoffmann.

He emphasized that his priestly formation will not be completed when he is ordained.

"This is just a new chapter of formation," he said. "Like with a marriage, growth and discernment don't stop on the wedding day. You're still getting to know God and your spouse in marriage."

"Everyone is called daily to give their little 'yes' — 'God,

what do you want from me today?" he stated.

He pointed to Jesus's Parable on the Vine and the Branches (John 15:1-17).

"The vine does not grow grapes, the branches do," Rev. Mr. Hoffmann noted. "It's humbling to recognize that all we have is from God, and he chooses our lowly branches to bring forth fruit."

"So, to be humble but trusting and relying completely on God so that we can nourish all that he nourishes us with, through our fruits to others," he said.

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

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

"You have to give yourself totally over to God," Rev. Mr. Hoffmann noted. "Whatever you hold back from God, you can't, in turn, give to others."

To other men who think God might be calling them to Priesthood, Rev. Mr. Hoffmann counseled that discernment is a long journey.

"But keep moving toward the Lord," he said. "And don't be surprised if there are unexpected things along the way — little quests that come up along the journey."

Rev. Mr. Hoffmann asks for prayers for him not to get caught up in doing, but to always remain in and with the Lord.

"That's my big prayer: to be truly present," he said.

He's convinced that people can help God answer that prayer.

"Get involved!" he said. "We all have gifts. We're all the Church. So, don't be afraid to use your gifts, especially in the parish, however God has given them to you — not for your own good but for the growing of the community and the building up of the Church on earth."

## Daily Readings

### Sunday, May 26

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY  
Dt. 4:32-34, 39-40  
Ps. 33:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22  
Rom. 8:14-17  
Mt. 28:16-20

### Monday, May 27

St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop  
1 Pt. 1:3-9  
Ps. 111:1-2, 5-6, 9, 10c  
Mk. 10:17-27

### Tuesday, May 28

1 Pt. 1:10-16  
Ps. 98:1-4  
Mk. 10:28-31

### Wednesday, May 29

St. Paul VI, Pope  
1 Pt. 1:18-25  
Ps. 147:12-15, 19-20  
Mk. 10:32-45

### Thursday, May 30

1 Pt. 2:2-5, 9-12  
Ps. 100:2-5  
Mk. 10:46-52

### Friday, May 31

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

### Saturday, June 1

St. Justin, Martyr  
Jude 17, 20b-25  
Ps. 63:2-6  
Mk. 11:27-33

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

We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.

### Sunday, June 2

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (Corpus Christi) (USA)  
Ex. 24:3-8  
Ps. 116:12-13, 15-18  
Heb. 9:11-15  
Mk. 14:12-16, 22-26

### Monday, June 3

St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs  
2 Pt. 1:2-7  
Ps. 91:1-2, 14-16  
Mk. 12:1-12

### Tuesday, June 4

2 Pt. 3:12-15a, 17-18  
(Ps.) 90:2-4, 10, 14, 16  
Mk. 12:13-17

### Wednesday, June 5

St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr  
2 Tm. 1:1-3, 6-12  
Ps. 123:1b-2f  
Mk. 12:18-27

### Thursday, June 6

St. Norbert, Bishop  
2 Tm. 2:8-15  
Ps. 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14  
Mk. 12:28-34

### Friday, June 7

THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS  
Hos. 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9  
(Ps.) Is. 12:2-6  
Eph. 3:8-12, 14-19  
Jn. 19:31-37

### Saturday, June 8

The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
2 Tm. 4:1-8  
Ps. 71:8-9, 14-15ab, 16-17, 22  
Lk. 2:41-51

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Marriage Encounter  
Weekend

July 27-28, 2024  
Jefferson City, MO

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MARRIAGE  
encounter  
JEFFERSON CITY

6TH ANNUAL

Freeburg  
CRUISE IN

IN MEMORY OF  
DERIN M. HOLTERMAN

FRIDAY  
MAY 31  
2024 5PM

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & SCHOOL BBQ  
CHURCH PARKING LOT FREEBURG, MO  
PORK STEAKS, PORK BURGERS, HOTDOGS, & SIDES  
FEATURING 3 Over Par 8-11 PM

African Mass in Columbia

DATE: May 26  
TIME: 3 pm

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia will have a special Mass on Sunday, May 26, embracing the culture of the African parishioners and those who are of African heritage. It will be at 3 p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 903 Bernadette Drive near Stadium Boulevard and I-70. All are invited to participate. A reception will take place afterward in nearby Flanagan Hall. Call 573-825-6437 or 573-476-3117 for information.

Memorial Day Mass in J.C.

DATE: May 27  
TIME: 9 am

Father Stephen Jones, pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City and rector of the Cathedral, 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.

Mass in Cedron

DATE: May 25  
TIME: 4 pm

Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 25, in historical Assumption Church in Cedron. The Mass will satisfy the Sunday obligation. The church stands at the site of one of Jesuit Father Ferdinand Helias's original seven missions in Central Missouri. It is located on at Zey Lane and Cedron Road, off of Highway D, near Jamestown and Prairie Home in Moniteau County.

St. Francis Xavier — Taos  
2024 SUMMER PICNIC  
SATURDAY, JUNE 15 1PM-10:30PM

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

QUILT AUCTION 5:30PM  
LIVE MUSIC

FOOD STAND  
GAMES  
REFRESHMENTS

BOUNCE HOUSE  
COUNTRY STORE

MENU  
FRIED CHICKEN  
ROAST BEEF  
MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY  
GREEN BEANS, CORN  
APPLESAUCE, SLAW  
HOMEMADE BREAD  
FRESH DESSERTS  
SERVED 1PM-7PM

ADULTS \$ 15 - AGES 6-12 \$ 7 - AGES 5 & UNDER FREE

LIVE MUSIC & REFRESHMENTS 'TIL 10:30 PM

THE POOS 3PM-5PM & BROKEN ARROW 7PM-9PM

We also welcome you to join us for Mass at 4 pm.  
DUE TO CHURCH RENOVATIONS, MASS WILL BE AT THE K OF C HALL.

OUR 133RD

PARISH PICNIC

Our Lady Help of Christians **Frankenstein**  
9 miles north of Linn on Hwy. C - 1665 Hwy. C, Bonnots Mill

Sunday, June 2  
11 am - 6:30 pm

Fried Chicken & German Pot Roast  
\$15  
CAFETERIA STYLE & TO-GO MEALS

Quilt Auction at 4:30 pm  
Craft Stand  
Country Store

Prizes  
Sandwiches  
Refreshments  
Souvenirs  
Games

Annunciation Parish  
**PICNIC**  
JUNE 2  
11am-6pm  
CALIFORNIA, MO

Live Music by Turner and Company 3-6pm on the pavilion

Fried Chicken & Smoked Pork Dinner  
Adults \$15  
Kids 5-12 \$5  
Under 5 free  
Carryouts available

Country Store, Prizes, Games, Silent Auction, Refreshments and More!