

Remember, honor and hold nothing back

Fr. Stephen Jones offered Mass on Memorial Day in the Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

June 7, 2024 • Vol. 67 No. 25

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Bishop ordains Fr. Hoffmann, Rev. Mr. Clever



**Urges new priest, transitional deacon
to give their entire selves to God
in service of his Church**

By Jay Nies

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight placed his hands on the head of Father Christopher Hoffmann, illuminated by sunlight passing through stained glass depicting the priestly ordination of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton nearly 14 decades previously.

For a moment, the image in the glass and the action in the sanctuary were one.

"I pray that through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our Diocesan Patroness, you and I may serve faithfully, along with our brother priests, to shepherd our Church in the joy of the Gospel and with a profound sense of gratitude for his merciful love," Bishop McKnight told Fr. Hoffmann before ordaining him a priest and Rev. Mr. Gregory Clever before ordaining him a transitional deacon.

A near-capacity congregation animated the Cathedral of St. Joseph for the Ordination Mass.

Fr. Hoffmann, a Sedalia native, will serve as associate pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia and will assist with ministry in Spanish at Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia.

Rev. Mr. Clever, who calls Dardenne Prairie and Hermann home, will live at St. Peter Parish and will minister at Helias Catholic High School, both in Jefferson City.

This was the first time in recent memory in this diocese that a bishop ordained a priest and a transitional deacon at the same Mass.

See ORDAIN, page 15

Deacon Turf Martin of Sedalia and newly ordained Rev. Mr. Gregory Clever watch newly ordained Father Christopher Hoffmann bestow his first priestly blessing on Bishop W. Shawn McKnight outside the Cathedral of St. Joseph June 1 after the priestly and diaconal ordination.

— Photo by Jay Nies

Corpus Christi and Masses of Thanksgiving

By Jay Nies

The faithful who gather around the altar for Mass stand in the presence of the entire Church on earth and in heaven.

The people who receive the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are obliged to take him out into the world, where his voice desperately needs to be heard and his actions seen.

God chose to give priests the gift and responsibility of bringing this about by summoning his grace in the Sacraments.

"As priests, we are to make sure that as we all gather for the Sacred Mass, that it's done reverently, that it's done well, that it lifts people up," Father Joseph Corel, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, proclaimed from the pulpit of the Sacred Heart Chapel in Sedalia.

"And all who receive the Eucharist take that Eucharistic

presence of Christ out to the many, many places in this country and beyond, and take the message of Jesus to where the priests cannot go," he stated.

It was the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (commonly known as Corpus Christi) and the first of Father Christopher Hoffmann's two Masses of Thanksgiving in Sedalia, his hometown.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight ordained Fr. Hoffmann to the Priesthood the previous morning.

Later on Corpus Christi Sunday — joined by Fr. Corel, Father Brad Berhorst, associate pastor, and an impressive turnout of parishioners — Fr. Hoffmann carried the Blessed Sacrament in procession through downtown Sedalia,

See CORPUS CHRISTI, page 11

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06/07/24

Pray for deceased priests

June 9 — **Fr. Patrick Mel Newman**, Queen of Peace, Ewing (1969); **Fr. Charles D. Pardee**, St. Peter, Jefferson City (2019)

June 10 — **Fr. Daniel S. Larkin**, Sacred Heart, Eldon (1957)

June 13 — **Msgr. Louis W. McCorkle**, St. Thomas Seminary, Hannibal (2021)

June 15 — **Fr. Lawrence E. Bray**, St. Peter, Marshall (1959); **Fr. Henry W. Wiesmann**, St. Anthony, Rosati (1973)

June 17 — **Msgr. Patrick E. Gavan**, St. Brendan, Mexico (1964)

June 18 — **Fr. Philip M. Moriarity**, St. Mary of the Angels, Wien (2009)

June 19 — **Fr. Albert M. Brincat**, St. Theresa, Dixon (1994)

June 20 — **Fr. William D. Ludwig**, St. Robert Bellarmine, St. Robert (1974); **Fr. Henry J. Reichert**, St. Andrew, Tipton; and Annunciation, California (2009)

June 21 — **Fr. Carlyle B. Green**, Assumption, Morrison (1963); **Fr. Ferdinand C. Bonn**, Our Lady of the Lake, Lake Ozark (2007)



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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 and submit a resume to the Principal, Nancy Manning, at 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.



Official Appointments

I am pleased to announce that the Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, STD, Bishop of Jefferson City, has recently made the following appointments to provide the most effective pastoral care of the Diocese of Jefferson City:

PRIESTS

Reverend Christopher A. Hoffmann, newly ordained, to Associate Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Columbia and to assist Hispanic Ministry at Sacred Heart Parish, Columbia, effective July 1, 2024.

DEACONS

Reverend Mister Gregory J. Clever, newly ordained, to the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, effective immediately until July 31, 2024. Thereafter, to Helias Catholic High School, Jefferson City, effective August 1, 2024 until June 30, 2025. Furthermore, to Assistant Master of Ceremonies for the Diocesan Bishop, effective immediately. Residence assigned at St. Peter Parish, Jefferson City, effective immediately.

Deacon Christopher Korte, of Mary Immaculate Parish, Kirksville, re-appointed to the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri for a term of three years, effective July 1, 2024.

LAITY

Ms. Megan Bruce, of Immaculate Conception Parish, Jefferson City, appointed to Youth Council of the Diocese of Jefferson City as a representative of the See City Deanery, effective immediately.

Ms. Sophia Fennwald, of St. Joseph Parish, Martinsburg, appointed to Youth Council of the Diocese of Jefferson City as a representative of the Central Deanery, effective immediately.

Mr. Kayl Gough, of St. Mary Parish, Shelbina, appointed to Youth Council of the Diocese of Jefferson City as a representative of the North Deanery, effective immediately.

Mrs. Jan Heckemeyer, of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, St. Thomas, re-appointed to the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri for a term of three years, effective July 1, 2024.

Ms. Ellise Kirchner, of St. Peter and Paul Parish, Boonville, appointed to Youth

Council of the Diocese of Jefferson City as a representative of the Southwest Deanery, effective immediately.

Ms. Paola Pacheco, of St. Peter Parish, Marshall, appointed to Youth Council of the Diocese of Jefferson City as a representative of the Central Deanery, effective immediately.

Ms. Lillian Peters, of St. Peter Parish, Jefferson City, appointed to Youth Council of the Diocese of Jefferson City as a representative of the See City Deanery, effective immediately.

Mr. Scott Thrasher, of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Columbia, re-appointed to the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri for a term of three years, effective July 1, 2024.

Mr. Luke Wolf, of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Lake Ozark, appointed to Youth Council of the Diocese of Jefferson City as a representative of the Southwest Deanery, effective immediately.

From the Office of the Chancellor,

Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL
Chancellor

Memorial celebration for former Baring mission

DATE: June 21
TIME: 4 - 6 pm

A memorial celebration for "All Things St. Aloysius" will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on

Friday, June 21, in the newly renovated Baring Hall in Baring.

Anyone with ties to the former Mission of St. Aloysius community is encouraged to attend and to bring their own pictures or memorabilia to share.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Father Boniface K. Nzabonimpa, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Edina, will open the celebration with prayer.

At 5 p.m., local resident Lois Hunolt Hunziker will present a program on the history of the former St. Aloysius Church.

Memorabilia and artifacts from the church will be available for viewing.

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

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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Synod report for U.S. shows growth, tensions and 'deep desire to rebuild' the body of Christ

By Gina Christian
OSV News

Growth, undeniable tensions and "a deep desire to rebuild and strengthen" the body of Christ have emerged as key themes in the latest synod report for the Catholic Church in the U.S.

Released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops May 28, the "National Synthesis of the People of God in the United States of America for the Interim Stage of the 2021-2024 Synod" summarizes responses from more than 35,000 participants and over 1,000 listening sessions, with 76% of the nation's dioceses and eparchies submitting reports to the U.S. synod team.

In addition, over 350 people met in some 15 listening sessions that focused on Church life, social justice and vocations, while U.S. bishops also met for a synod listening session.

"For a Synodal Church"

Launched by Pope Francis in October 2021, the first session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, organized around the theme "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission," was held Oct. 4-29, 2023, in Rome.

Ahead of the concluding session of the synod, which will take place in Rome in Oct. 2-27, dioceses across the U.S. were asked to hold additional listening sessions during Lent 2024, following a request from the Vatican's Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops. Those responses were incorporated into the newly released synthesis.

"We had to be nimble with the Spirit," U.S. synod team member Alexandra Carroll, who serves as the USCCB's communications manager for social mission, told OSV News, adding that even with

short notice of the extra sessions, "our diocesan synod leaders took it on and really owned the process."

Fellow synod team members Richard Coll, executive director of the USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, and the USCCB's senior adviser for the synod Julia McStravog agreed.

Coll said he was "very, very taken by the commitment that was evident" in the responses to the listening sessions.

"The diocesan directors continue to be very devoted to this path," he told OSV News. "It's a wonderful thing to see, because it is now the third year of this process, but it didn't seem ... to me that there was any kind of 'synod fatigue.' People seem to be even more enthusiastic."

"Synodality is really taking root," said McStravog. "People are getting accustomed not only to sharing, but to listening in a deeper way."

"Safe" and "fiery"

In reviewing the USCCB's synthesis report, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight observed that many of the themes in it resonate with what was heard in the Jefferson City diocese's synodal listening sessions this past February.

"Having an established deanery structure for meetings with lay and clergy parish leadership helped increase our participation rate in this synodal discernment," he noted.

In his introduction to the synthesis, Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas — who serves as chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Doctrine, and who has shepherded the synodal process in the U.S. — noted that "while no document could cover the full range of topics on the hearts and minds of Catholics" who took part in the listening sessions, the report showed the synodal journey has made progress in

the U.S.

Among their insights, many of which were directly quoted in the report, participants expressed "two basic hopes for

synodal process digging up a number of tensions within the Church.

In particular, a lack of clear communication from Church hierarchy and from media, both Catholic and secular, creates confusion and division over what it means to be Catholic — and hinders the church's mission, said synod participants.

That uncertainty can be especially evident when trying to balance welcoming LGBTQ and other marginalized persons while making known the truths of the Catholic faith, said synod participants.

Conflict and polarization

Catholic social teaching was "another area where division was keenly experienced," with "conversations 'on social justice and inclusion ... filled with moments of profound pain and generational hurt,'" the report said. "Participants expressed concerns that the Church has allowed the ongoing polarization and conflict (in civil society) to lead to a denial of the church's social magisterium in many situations."

The liturgy itself can be a flashpoint for tension, with the celebration of the Mass using the Roman Missal of 1962 (informally known as the "Latin

See SYNOD, page 18

"Many of the themes in the synthesis report from the USCCB resonate with what we heard in the Diocese of Jefferson City synodal listening sessions last February. Having an established deanery structure for meetings with lay and clergy parish leadership helped increase our participation rate in this synodal discernment."



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

JUNE

- Jun. 7** Evening Prayer of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart and Deacons Gathering, 6:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- Jun. 9** Mass of the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Diocesan Patroness, 5 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- 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
- Jun. 15** Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Board Dinner honoring President Mike Maag, 5:30 pm, Bishop's Residence
- Jun. 18** Young Adults Beatitudes Small Group Kick-off, 5 pm, Bishop's Residence
- Jun. 21** Missouri Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee Meeting, 10 am, virtual
- Jun. 23** Diocesan Hispanic Heritage Mass, 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 1 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph

Bishop McKnight's June prayer intention for our Local Church

For our seminarians and deacon candidates preparing for the sacrament of Holy Orders: May they follow the example of the Good Shepherd, who gave his life for his sheep.

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

Para nuestros seminaristas y candidatos al diaconado que se preparan para el sacramento del Orden Sagrado: Que sigan el ejemplo del Buen Pastor, que dio su vida por sus ovejas.



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

Suspended priest of the diocese is laicized

Pope Francis has dismissed a priest of the Diocese of Jefferson City who has been on leave since 2019 after he was accused of inappropriate conduct involving minors.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight received notification from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith that Pope Francis has dismissed Geoffrey Brooke from the clerical state. Brooke had voluntarily requested this action.

This dismissal returns Brooke to the status of a lay person and removes from him the duties and obligations of Priesthood. He can no longer present himself as a priest or celebrate the sacraments.

The dismissal also severs his relationship with the diocese.

In March of 2019, Bishop McKnight placed Brooke on administrative leave after receiving reports of inappropriate contact involving two minors. In keeping with its legal obligations, the diocese notified the Missouri Children's Division hotline and local police about the allegations.

After the completion of the civil investigations, the diocese conducted its own investigation and shared the findings with the Diocesan Review Board, an independent board established in keep-

ing with the safe environment requirements of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

After receiving the Review Board's recommendations, Bishop McKnight accepted them and forwarded the findings on Sept. 16, 2019, to the Holy See's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

During the ensuing lengthy disciplinary process, Brooke remained on administrative leave and was not allowed to function publicly as a priest.

Prior to the conclusion of the disciplinary process, Brooke informed Bishop McKnight of his desire to be dismissed from the priesthood.

The decision by Pope Francis to grant Brooke's dismissal has ended all ongoing disciplinary processes by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith prior to issuing a final determination of guilt or innocence. With the belief that the Charter was violated, Bishop McKnight has added Brooke's name to the diocese's publicly published list of credibly accused priests, available at diojeffcity.org/safe-environment.

Therapeutic care is available to the minors who reported the inappropriate contact.

"I want to recognize the courage of the minors who

came forward and thank them and their families for their patience during this lengthy process," said Bishop McKnight. "This has been a difficult and painful time for all involved. We continue to offer our prayers and pastoral care for all who have been harmed. Our parishes should be sanctuaries where people find healthy, life-giving relationships. We must continue to be vigilant, learn from the past and move forward in faith."

Brooke was ordained in 2015. He was an associate pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City when he was placed on leave. He had previously been assigned to St. Patrick, Sacred Heart and St. John parishes in Pettis County; Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia; and St. Mary Parish in Milan and the Mission of St. Mary in Unionville.

Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of misconduct involving a priest, deacon or other church personnel of the diocese is encouraged to contact appropriate law enforcement officials, as well as the victim assistance coordinator for the diocese, Jacqueline Baldwin at 573-694-3199 or reportabuse@diojeffcity.org.

For more information, visit diojeffcity.org/safe-environment.

Bittersweet emotions on Memorial Day at Resurrection Cemetery

By Jay Nies

Flags and hearts bowed down to the eternal God, who rules over the living and the dead and is merciful to all.

To him, several hundred people offered sacrifice and supplication during the Memorial Day Mass in the Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum in Jefferson City.

The annual Mass is offered for all who gave their lives in service to this country and for all who have died within the past year and are now at rest in the cemetery.

The living prayed and worshiped alongside the covered niches where nearly as many of their forebears now await

resurrection on the Last Day.

Father Stephen Jones, pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, presided at the Mass, assisted by Deacon Ric Telthorst of neighboring St. Peter Parish.

In his homily, Fr. Jones said gathering to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice brings a combination of sadness, joy and opportunity.

"Sadness, of course, in that there has been loss," he acknowledged, asserting that nearly everyone present has in some way been touched by the death of somebody who was



Father Stephen Jones offers Mass on Memorial Day amidst the marble-clad vaults in the Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum in Jefferson City.

— Photo by Jay Nies

serving in the military.

"Whether it was a direct relative, a family friend, an acquaintance, someone we know, all of us could probably make that claim," the priest noted.

So, mindful of the eternal bond the living share with the deceased, "we gather here today to remember those folks — to remember that God honors those 'who lay down their life for a friend.'"

Fr. Jones is convinced that all who have died in service to God and country fall into that category.

"So, we come to the altar of God to celebrate the Holy

Sacrifice of the Mass, to receive Holy Communion, and to pray for the repose of their souls," he said.

With that loss comes joy, because of the Christian conviction that through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, "we have been given a new birth and a living hope."

"Hope is the central key theme for us as Christians — that when this life has ended, God's life for us continues," said Fr. Jones.

"For us who have been reborn in Baptism, who call God our friend, who strive to live in union with him, death

does not conquer us. It has been conquered by Jesus Christ," he said.

So, mourning always takes place in the context of celebrating that living hope that all Christians share.

There also comes an opportunity whenever Catholics gather to celebrate the Mass, hear God's Word proclaimed in Scripture and receive the Body and Blood, soul and divinity of Jesus in the Eucharist.

"That is the call that Jesus gives each of us to give the entirety of our life to him," said Fr.

Jones.

"That opportunity, that call of 'follow me' — to 'get rid of everything that holds you onto this world, and follow me' — comes to each one of us every day of our lives," said Fr. Jones.

Every day, each believer must determine how he or she will respond to that call.

"Will we recognize that everything we are and everything we have doesn't belong to us — but rather to the one who created us, who redeemed us and who calls us into living and deep relationship with

See MEMORIAL DAY, page 8

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151 Helias Catholic High School seniors urged to act with courage, compassion, consecration

By Jay Nies

Helias Catholic High School's Class of 2024 chose for its senior song "You'll Never Walk Alone" from the Broadway musical "Carousel."

The haunting ballad was fitting for a class so deeply united in faith and friendship.

"To be Catholic means you also always have somebody to talk to, and you always have somebody in your corner — and that somebody is Jesus," said graduating senior Mason French.

"To me, being Catholic is knowing that no matter what's going on in your life, Jesus is always going to be there for you and love you," said graduating senior Sam Wyrick.

They and their 149 classmates wore matching blue gowns and mortarboards for graduation May 19 in the Crusader Athletic Complex.

Helias Catholic President Ron Vossen repeated the school's often-stated goal of "building a community of saints and scholars for Christ" — meaning that the entire faculty, staff and administration is committed to helping students develop academically, spiritually, and personally into the people God is calling them to be.

"We hope you will continue to be guided by the same core values of faith, community and excellence," said Mr. Vossen.

Karoline Klebba, one of the two 2024 Father Helias Award recipients, led the opening prayer.

"Heavenly Father, we ask you to accompany us as we face new adventures and challenges," she prayed. "May the paths we take always lead to you and to the eternal joy that is ours through your Son."

Sam Wyrick, also a Father Helias Award recipient, proclaimed a passage from the Book of Deuteronomy.

In it, Moses tells the prophet Joshua that "it is the Lord who goes before you; he will be with you and will never fail you or forsake you. So do not fear or be dismayed."

thanked the parents, friends, supporters, faculty and staff for all they had done to help bring the Class of 2024 to this milestone.

"We are guided by faith in Jesus Christ and his Church toward excellence in all things, and we make the journey along a path paved with tradition, accompanied by our community," he stated.

"Find balance by making it a priority to schedule downtime, prayer time and family time," he advised the soon-to-be graduates.

"Be adaptable when your carefully orchestrated plans get turned upside down," he said. "And take ownership of your actions, demonstrating integrity through accountability."

Miss Klebba, in her role as student council president, said she regretted wishing away so much of high school while waiting for the next big milestone.

"The four years do truly fly by, and I was honored to experience them with you, the

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

Class of 2024," she told her classmates.

She pointed to 19 individual school records having been broken by members of the class, along with a record-high attendance for this year's spring musical.

"We thank all the teachers, coaches, staff and parents who pushed and guided us to our full potential," she said.

Bright futures

Together, this year's 151 graduates have accepted more

than \$2.7 million in scholarships to continue their post-secondary education.

One hundred forty-four plan to attend college or technical school, four are committed to service in the U.S. Armed Forces, and seven will enter the workforce.

Erin Vader Ed.D, diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools, led the graduating seniors in prayer.

She asked God to help them remain vigilant and uncomfortable enough to act whenever they see injustice and any affront to human dignity.

Dr. Vader, Mr. Allen and Assistant Principal Dwayne Clingman distributed the diplomas as Assistant Principal Emma Williams announced the names.

Mr. Vossen congratulated each graduate amid waves of cheers and applause.

Twelve graduating seniors were honored as valedictorians: Gracie Bullock, Allison Echelmeyer, Alison Forbis, Nathan Kever, Karoline Klebba, Sarah Knollmeyer, Enzo Lenart, Molly Maher, Ava Morris, Emily Rodriguez, Addison Slicker and Kearra Steinlage.

Other honors included:

- the John Baptist De La Salle Service Award for contributing 500 or more hours of service over their high school years: Jayla Howard, Madison Kempker, Karoline Klebba, Katherine Roling and Madison



Members of Helias Catholic High School's Senior Choir sing the Class of 2024's senior song, "You'll Never Walk Alone," during their graduation ceremony May 19 in the school's Crusader Athletic Complex in Jefferson City. — Photo by Jay Nies

Verslues;

- the Father Helias Award, recognizing outstanding contribution to Helias Catholic: Karoline Klebba and Sam Wyrick;

- the American Legion Citation, recognizing leadership, scholarship and service: Ava Morris and Kase Winegar;

- the Veterans of Foreign Wars Award, recognizing citizenship, scholarship and good attendance: Nicholas Ammons and Emily Rodriguez.

Even more precious

The graduating seniors, their parents and the rest of the student body gathered during school May 15 for this year's Baccalaureate Mass.

Father Paul Clark, the school's chaplain, asked the soon-to-be graduates to consider whether they're consecrated.

"The King of the Universe has already consecrated himself to you," the priest pointed out. "You've already been chosen by him."

Consecrate means setting something apart for a particular purpose, to say "yes" to that purpose.

The priest reminded the students how at every Mass, everyone present enters into the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus — God in the flesh.

"It is his glory, it is his gift to us," he noted.

Vessels fashioned of pre-

cious metals and used for no other purpose hold the bread and wine that are consecrated at the altar into Body and Blood of Christ.

"We procure the greatest vessels, gold and silver, because the King of the Universe is going to be within them," said Fr. Clark. "But then, in Holy Communion, he says, 'I'd rather be within you.'"

Jesus says in the Bible that he consecrates himself to his followers, so that they also may be con-

secrated.

However, "in complete freedom, you have the ability to say 'yes' or 'no,'" said Fr. Clark. "And because you matter, your 'yes' to being consecrated matters."

It means choosing to be transformed, set apart, made sacred.

"When we consecrate ourselves to the Lord, it spreads!" said Fr. Clark. "And if we all do it, the world better prepare!"

Joining Fr. Clark at the altar was Helias Catholic graduate Father Christopher Cordes, pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Holts Summit and diocesan vicar for priests.

Deacon Alvin Brand of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish assisted at the altar.

What comes next

In interviews, graduating seniors Ella Patterson, Ava Morris, Anna AuBuchon, Mason French, Sam Wyrick reflected on what they'll miss about being part of Helias Catholic, and what they hope to take with them.

All five are active in campus ministry and peer ministry at the school.

"I'll miss the opportunities — mission trips and retreats. Coach Rackers and Fr. Clark," said Ella.

"I'll miss the family feeling," said Ava. "Being in a classroom where you can know everybody's name and know who

Tradition and community

Principal Spencer Allen

See HELIAS, page 14

76 new Tolton Catholic High School graduates sent forth to love God, others, themselves

By Jay Nies

Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School graduating senior Solomon Canoy told his 75 classmates to “live like Fr. Mike.”

Father Mike Coleman, their chaplain, urged them to “be more like Jesus.”

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight reminded them that they’re sons and daughters of God and of the Church.

School President and Principal Daniel Everett Ed.D. reiterated that they’re loved.

“No matter where we are or who we become, I have no doubt that this class will continue to shine bright as we move forward and blaze our own new trails,” graduating senior Jillian Andrews told her classmates at Tolton Catholic’s 2024 graduation ceremony.

Bishop McKnight attended the May 19 event, briefly addressed the graduating seniors and distributed their diplomas.

He challenged them to be open to the vocation the Lord has in store for each of them.

“I want you to rely on the intellectual, moral and spiritual formation that you received from this high school, and to remember that you come from God and that you’re going to God,” he said.

Graduating senior Adelaide Devine led her classmates in prayer, offering intercession for the school, the faculty and staff, families and friends, the hardships they’ve endured together, jokes and happy memories, and for God’s love, “which has been made evident through the relationships we will carry with us beyond these walls.”

Center of gravity

In graduation remarks, Jillian spoke of the Class of ’24 as “not just a group of friends who have grown up together, but a family.”

“There hasn’t been a single time our class wasn’t united and working together as one,” she stated.

Although Jillian did not grow up Catholic, she appreciated learning in-depth what the Church teaches and praying and worshipping with her classmates throughout each week.

“Being part of a curriculum that revolves around Christ is

something I have really come to appreciate,” she said.

Fellow graduating senior Solomon Canoy talked about common experiences that helped make the Class of 2024 and the entire Tolton Catholic community so tight.

“Our school spirit is the strongest, we all know everyone in our class, and we get to celebrate our faith in everything we do,” he said.

Challenging his fellow graduates to “live like Fr. Mike,” he specified: “Treat those around you with love and kindness, have enthusiasm for everything you do, and most importantly, apply your faith to all in your life.”

Willing Spirit

The previous evening, graduating seniors gathered with their families in Our Lady of Lourdes Church for their Baccalaureate Mass.

It was the Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Pentecost — celebrating when Jesus’s apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit, 50 days after he rose from the dead.

“That’s the same Holy Spirit that helps us be more like Jesus,” said Fr. Coleman who presided at the Mass.

Specifically, he preached, the Spirit gives people power to love God, love other people and love themselves.

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

“When you praise and worship the Lord, you show him your love,” the priest said. “When you love others, you show Jesus in action.”

God created each person



The new graduates of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia toss their mortarboards into the air during their graduation ceremony in the school gymnasium on May 19.

— Photo by Sheryl Partise

uniquely, with a specific purpose that no one else can fulfill.

“From the moment of Creation, Jesus knew you,” said Fr. Coleman. “Your life will be full of meaning, and you will make a bigger difference than you could ever imagine — because of the beautiful, powerful, awesome Spirit of God, working in each one of you.”

Concelebrating priests included: Monsignor Gregory L. Higley, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia; Father Daniel Merz, pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia; Father Ignitius Nimwesiga, a fellow chaplain at Tolton Catholic.

High distinctions

Among the awards presented to the graduating seniors were:

- the St. Paul Service Award to Evan Tollenaar, who completed the most hours of community service during her four years at Tolton Catholic;

- the Fr. Coleman Award to Jillian Andrews and Steven Becvar, for exemplifying the spirit of the school;

- the Bishop Gaydos Award to Wil Fretwell; and
- the school’s highest honor, the Fr. Tolton Award, to Margot Mills.

Both the Bishop Gaydos and the Fr. Tolton awards are for exemplifying the school’s mission.

Each student is required to perform at least 80 hours of service prior to graduation. Twenty-three graduating seniors were recognized for completing 125 or more hours of service as Tolton Catholic stu-

dents.

Graduating senior Solomon Canoy was recognized as a National Merit Scholarship finalist.

Three graduating seniors — Solomon Canoy, Emma Mallett and Paige Uptegrove — were recognized for having completed sufficient credits to earn their Associate’s Degrees through Tolton Catholic’s dual-credit and Early College partnerships with Moberly Area Community College.

Solid bonds

In interviews, graduating seniors Jake Ryan, Audrey Rischer, Sophie Holtmeyer and Joseph Diener considered the impact of their years at Tolton Catholic.

All four went to school together since pre-kindergarten at Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School.

“I’m feeling very grateful that I’m finally here at the finish line for graduation, and it’s all bittersweet,” said Sophie. “Being surrounded by the same group of people for 13 years, and finally saying goodbye — it’s a little heartbreaking, but I’m excited.”

Jake said he’ll most miss the relationships he had built with friends and teachers.

“It’s just been a great experience to grow with them in our sports, in our school and in our faith,” he said.

Joseph said he’ll also miss his teachers, who know all of their students by name.

Sophie will miss going to Mass with the whole school every week.

“That feeling of being all together in one space, worshipping God — it’s something I’ve been doing all my life, and it’s kind of sad that I won’t be able to be around the same people anymore, doing the same thing that we all came here to do,” she said.

Audrey noted that she and

her parents chose Tolton Catholic because they appreciate a God-centered education and community.

“I’ve made so many great friendships here that are really faith-based, and that’s important,” she said.

Blazing ahead

All four interviewees hope to carry the best of their Tolton Catholic experience forward into to college.

Audrey plans to study sports management and play on the golf team at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Jake plans to study biology and play football at Truman State University in Kirksville, “and hopefully become an orthopedic surgeon.”

His and his future roommate on campus hope to start a Bible study club, like they did at Tolton Catholic.

Sophie intends to study health science at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, hoping eventually to becoming a dentist.

She wants to take with her what she’s learned about creating strong friendships and connections.

“I hope to meet a lot of new people, especially people I can get along with and create a deep faith-based relationship with,” she said.

Joseph plans to study finance at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

They all suspect that people will be able to recognize them as Tolton Catholic graduates.

See TOLTON, page 14

QUESTION CORNER

Are you relieved of the duty to attend Mass on Sunday at a certain age?

By Jenna Marie Cooper
OSV News

Q: My older sister told me that after age 80, you are relieved of the duty to attend Sunday Mass. I didn't believe her until a friend who is 86 told me the same thing. I have never heard of this. Is it true? (Ocean View, Del.)



A: I have never heard of this either! The relevant citation in Code of Canon Law, Canon 1247, indicates: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass." But canon law never mentions an upper age limit for this obligation.

There are some obligations for Catholics which do have stated age parameters. For example, Canon 1252 tells us that the obligation to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday "binds those who have attained their majority, until the beginning of their sixtieth year," meaning that once a Catholic turns 59 they are no longer required to keep the fast. The fact that our law demonstrates its willingness to set upper age limits for some obligations makes the lack of a stated age limit for the Sunday obligation all the more striking.

That being said, nobody is bound to an obligation that is impossible or gravely difficult to fulfill. It can happen that by the time a person reaches 80, various age-related issues could prevent them from attending Mass in person. For example, health issues might leave them too ill to go out to church, and transportation might become an issue if an elderly person is no longer able to drive. In colder climates, winter weather conditions might also present more of a concern for a senior citizen than they would for someone a few decades younger.

But if an octogenarian thereby found themselves to be no longer bound by the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays, this lack of an obligation would be directly attributable to one of these kinds of above-mentioned reasons, and not simply due to the year they were born. An 80-something Catholic in good health who was capable of physically traveling to Mass would be just as bound to observe the Sunday obligation as their younger counterparts. And, by the same token, a 20-something Catholic who was legitimately impeded from attending Mass due to reasons of health or logistics would be likewise excused from the Sunday obligation.

At the end of the day, our discernment of whether or not we are excused from the duty to attend Mass is a matter of conscience. That is, the church trusts us to make this determination in good faith; we're not asked to provide "proof" to anyone that attending Mass is prohibitively difficult for us.

But if an older adult is having a hard time weighing whether their circumstances truly excuse them from the Sunday obligation, it might be helpful for them to ask for advice from one's confessor or parish priest.

And although it would not be strictly necessary, if it helps to bring clarity or ease the conscience of a Catholic who is on the fence about whether or not they should stay home from Mass, it is possible to request a formal dispensation from the Sunday obligation. Such a dispensation can be granted by either the local bishop or — as would likely be more convenient for most people — from the pastor of one's territorial parish. (See Canons 87 and 1245.)

As per Canon 1245, a bishop or pastor can also "commute" the Sunday obligation to "some other pious work." This means that the proper authority can essentially set some other prayerful activity as a substitution for the Sunday obligation for a

See QUESTION, page 19

Papal Audience June 5, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our ongoing catechesis on the Spirit and the Bride, we now center our attention on the Biblical name of Holy Spirit, which in Hebrew is Ruach, meaning breath, wind, or spirit. This name highlights the Spirit's profound power and freedom. Jesus likens the Spirit to the wind that blows where it wills, thus emphasizing the freedom of the Holy Spirit, who not only creates and inspires but always remains free, bestowing his gifts "as he wills" (1 Corinthians 12:11). Saint Paul affirms this, stating: "Now the Lord is Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Corinthians 3:17). This freedom is given to us as a gift so that we can do God's will, rather than merely following our personal desires. Where do we attain this freedom of the Spirit, so contrary to the spirit of selfishness? The answer is in the words that Jesus spoke to his followers: "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). Let us ask Jesus, through his Holy Spirit, to make us truly free. Free to serve with love and joy.

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's Audience, especially the groups from England, Scotland, the Netherlands, Cameroon, Australia, Malaysia, Canada and the United States of America. Upon all of you, and upon your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!



Pope Francis greets visitors as he rides the popemobile to exit St. Peter's Square at the Vatican after his weekly general audience June 5.
— CNS photo/Lola Gomez

MEMORIAL DAY

From page 4

him?" the priest proposed.

"Or will we hold a part of ourselves back?"

While honoring and praying for those who have made sacrifices both substantial and complete for their country, it's good to re-

member God's continuous call to everyone to hold nothing back from him.

"May the grace of God be in our hearts," Fr. Jones prayed, "to lead us always to give our lives completely to the Lord and his service."

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A Eucharistic Word: Christification

By Michael R. Heinlein
OSV News



What does it mean to receive Jesus Christ in the Eucharist? How are our lives to be changed from such an encounter?

In fact, the fruits of the Eucharist are many. They bring about a unity in diversity, wherein each member of the body — responding to grace — can live unique and compelling Eucharistic lives. The list is long, but I'm inclined to think St. Paul should be at its top.

While St. Paul is chiefly known to most of us for his letters — which make up nearly half of the New Testament, and from which the church is taught Sunday after Sunday — Paul's influence and reach cannot be underestimated. Not only is he one of the most significant and important Christians in our history, but also arguably one of the most influential persons in human history.

Paul's experience with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus led to the conversion of this one-time persecutor of Christians. That encounter Paul had with Christ was so real, in his view, it was no different than the encounters Christ had with the Twelve

while in their midst. Paul's unique experience shaped and informed the early church so significantly, that Paul himself has become regarded as the "Thirteenth Apostle."

Paul came to know in his experience on the road to Damascus that his persecution of Christ's followers was a persecution of Christ himself. The nascent Christians that Paul once wanted to extinguish were one with Christ, members of his body by baptism, a bond strengthened and intensified through reception of his body in the Eucharist. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him" (Jn. 6:53-56).

Paul's encounter with the risen Lord

not only resulted in his conversion but also his efforts to both increase the membership of Christ's body and teach about the ramifications of the new life that incorporation brings. Paul's aim was to build up a community of believers who lived like they had "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 13:14). This is what shaped and motivated the impressive missionary undertakings in his desire to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles. All of this made Paul's encounter with Christ something rooted in a tremendous Eucharistic faith.

Paul believed to the core of his being that the Eucharist is Christ's very

See HEINLEIN, page 19

Sanctifying work

By Jaymie Stuart Wolfe
OSV News



My mind has been focused on work a lot lately. That's probably because in seven of our eight adult children's households, someone has been looking for a new job!

Most of us have a list of checkboxes when it comes to what we do and where. We hope to find something that is challenging but not overwhelming, meaningful but not pressured, ethical but not boring, creative but not unstable, enjoyable but pays enough to take care of our needs -- and at least some of our wants. And, we want to work with other people who are competent but not competitive, friendly but not intrusive, flexible but not unpredictable and sociable but not dramatic.

But what if work is more than just a way to make a living? What if God wants to use our work to sanctify us, that is, to make us holy? And what if our biggest struggle about work comes down to learning how to see it as one of God's blessings?

Those kinds of considerations lie behind the church's nod to St. Joseph the Worker on May 1. Sure, the feast day was initially established in 1955 by Pope Pius XII as a Christian counter narrative to Communist May Day observances. But drawing our attention to the example of St. Joseph has the potential to lead us down a completely different path of reflection about work, one that can change how we think about it.

It's easy to get caught in the notion that work is a necessary evil, the result of original sin. That can happen when we recall God's words to Adam and the woman after they sinned: "Cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ...

By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken" (Gen. 3:17, 19).

In the gravity and drama of that scene, it's easy to forget what life was like in the garden before the fall. But if we turn back a few pages, however, it becomes clear that Eden was not an all-inclusive resort, and human life was not intended to be a vacation. "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it" (Gen. 2:15). God worked in the act of creation, and the human beings he endowed with his image were always meant to do likewise. The work of tilling and keeping isn't easy. (Ask any farmer.) But it is a blessing, not a curse.

In recent times, no one has given us a more developed Christian understanding of work than St. Josemaría Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei. He never minced words: "Work is man's original vocation. It is a blessing from God, and those who consider it a punishment are sadly mistaken."

That is because work is something we share with God. When we work, we exercise the powers of agency and creativity God gave us. We cultivate and build, prepare and structure. We synthesize, analyze and organize as God himself does in the universe he created, cares for, and continues to hold in being. Our work gives us the opportunity to co-create, co-care, and co-operate with God.

Work provides a way to glorify and serve God. But even more, God does not distance himself or stand aloof from our work any more than he does from his own. When we fully absorb this truth, we begin to understand that work is an ordinary and daily means of encountering God.

St. Josemaría articulates this beautifully: "You must realize now, more clearly than ever, that God is calling you to serve him in and from the ordi-

nary, secular, and civil activities of human life. He waits for us everyday, in the laboratory, in the operating room,

in the army barracks, in the university

See WOLFE, page 19

REFLECTION

Sic transit

By Mark Saucier

"How you travel is where you arrive."

I found that little aphorism in some of my notes. There was no clue where it came from. Google didn't even know.

I thought it was something the Mad Hatter said, but it's not in *Alice in Wonderland*.

I was a bit obsessed. It cut too close to home. I've traveled a bit, but too often, the focus was on the destination, not the journey.

Traveling for work, I'd be thinking about the meeting, the talk or whatever I had to do when I got there.

On a family trip, I was wondering why the hunger, the bathroom calls, and the sleep schedules of six kids would never sync.

Now I question how much my arrivals may have been impoverished by opportunities missed in my travel.

As I tend to do in times of guilt, I think of Jesus.

In the ninth chapter of Luke, Jesus "set his face" toward Jerusalem. He has a steely resolve to go to the seat of religious and political power, to surrender himself to the inevitable fate that awaits.

Jesus was in Samaria at the time, a little over 100 kilometers from Jerusalem, maybe four or five days of walking.

But it takes Jesus 10 chapters to get there.

He's not stalling or dawdling.

Along the way, he teaches his disciples and tells stories of mustard seeds, hidden lamps, narrow doors, lost sheep, and prodigal sons.

He engages a lawyer in discussion of which is the greatest commandment. (Spoiler alert: it's love.)

He tells a rich aristocrat the secret of eternal life. (Also love.)

He befriends a diminutive tax collector perched in a tree.

He takes time to make whole the sick and wounded, including a crippled woman on the sabbath, a man swollen with dropsy, and some less-than-grateful lepers.

He finally arrives as he traveled — teacher, healer, prophet, and Son of Man.

I'll never be any of those, but I can be a better traveler, not just on a long drive to the beach, but on the day-to-day journey of life.

I can be more attentive to those around me, listen more and ask more questions.

I can allow myself the time and the freedom to be surprised by beauty, mystery and joy in the world around me.

I can be more present to every moment.

But, as the Dodo did say to Alice, "The best way to explain it is to do it."

Encounter

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

**From Dominican Republic to dream job:
How faith led me to help immigrants
at Catholic Charities**



By Moises Sosa

Ever dreamt of visiting the Gateway to the West?

That was me, a young man from the Dominican Republic, raised next to the vibrant border with Haiti.

Growing up in a Catholic family, service to others was woven into the very fabric of our lives.

Little did I know, my own journey would lead me to serve new neighbors right here in Missouri, at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri.

In 1999, with a heart full of hope and a suitcase full of dreams, I arrived in St. Louis to study Medical Laboratory Technology at Forest Park Community College.

Stepping off the plane, the world seemed to stretch out before me, vast and unfamiliar.

The language barrier loomed large, and during those first few months, I truly missed

the comfort of Sunday Mass at the Nuestra Señora del Rosario.

Thankfully, fellow parishioners at Our Lady of Guadalupe welcomed me with open arms, their kindness a balm to my homesickness.

Sharing familiar traditions of our faith, they helped me navigate the challenges of a new culture.

There were moments of loneliness and culture shock.

The sights, sounds, and even the pace of life felt foreign.

But during these struggles, my faith remained a constant source of strength.

Praying the Rosary in the quiet of my dorm room brought comfort, and the teachings of Christ — to love thy neighbor — became a guiding light.

I found solace in volunteering at a local soup kitchen, surrounded by those less fortunate.



Witnessing their struggles mirrored the stories I heard from back home, and it ignited a passion within me to serve the most vulnerable.

After completing my studies, I returned to the Dominican Republic to serve my community.

Putting my skills to use in a small medical laboratory at my beloved Parish, Nuestra Señora del Rosario (Our Lady of the Rosary) in Dajabon, felt like a homecoming.

But in 2003, love brought me back to Missouri.

This time to build a life with the woman who would become my wife.

We raised our beautiful family here, and I continued working in the medical field, feeling a deep sense of purpose in caring for others.

However, in October 2021, God had other plans.

A calling to serve the most vulnerable pulled me towards Catholic Charities' mission.

Here, I found a way to combine my faith with my desire to help others, using the experiences of my own journey to guide those just starting theirs.

Today, as a DOJ Accredited Representative, it brings immense joy to see the hope rekindle in people's eyes.

Many arrive at our office exhausted, overwhelmed, some even fleeing unimaginable hardship.

Just like me years ago, they yearn for a safe haven, a chance to build a better future for themselves and their families.

The stories they share are etched with resilience and a deep love for their families.

This month, we celebrate the rich contributions of immigrants.

At Catholic Charities, I see this spirit every day.

Many immigrants, just like me, come here seeking a better life for their families.

It's a privilege to walk alongside them, offering guidance and hope on their journey.

We help them navigate the complex immigration system, but more importantly, we offer a listening ear and a sense of community.

The most difficult part of my job is witnessing the toll that displacement takes.

Some clients arrive after months of walking, with not enough food or money.

The despair in their eyes is a stark reminder of the blessings we often take for granted.

Yet, even amidst hardship, there's a spark of determination, a flicker of hope that keeps them going.

These experiences resonate deeply with me.

Pope Francis, in a message from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, reminds us that "The Catholic Church can draw closer to Jesus by accompanying migrants

in their pursuit of a better life."

These words are a constant reminder of the importance of my work.

Just as St. Veronica offered a cloth to wipe Jesus' face during his passion, we at Catholic Charities bring relief and hope on the "Way of the Cross" of migration.

Together, with faith as our guide, we can build a more welcoming and thriving community for all.

I believe, as many of you do, that immigrants are not a burden, but a blessing.

They bring their talents, hard work, and vibrant cultures, enriching the fabric of our state.

They are doctors, nurses, teachers, entrepreneurs, and artists, contributing to the betterment of Missouri in countless ways.

This Hispanic Heritage Month, I am reminded that the American Dream is alive and well.

It's a dream woven from the threads of hard work, dedication, and a deep love for family.

It's a dream I share with the many immigrants I serve, and a dream that Catholic Charities helps them achieve.

My story is a testament to the transformative power of faith and the importance of service.

But the journey doesn't end here.

Immigrants continue to arrive in Missouri seeking a better life, and Catholic Charities needs your help to welcome them.

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At St. Louis conference in January, Cardinal Dolan preaches on the Eucharist, the Incarnation and the power of friendship

By Jay Nies

"Nothing brings us closer to Jesus and one another

than the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass."

Cardinal Timothy M.

Dolan of New York was speaking to several thousand Catholic young adults this past

January at the SEEK24 conference in St. Louis.

The annual event, orga-

nized by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), included elements such as Eucharistic Adoration on a grand scale, that will help shape the experience of the National Eucharistic Congress set to take place next month in Indianapolis.

Cardinal Dolan, a Missouri native, relished speaking of the Eucharist during Mass in the St. Louis stadium where Pope St. John Paul II had offered the same Sacrifice in January 1999.

"What really brings us joy this morning, as it does every single day, is Jesus, who is alive and present in the Holy Eucharist!" Cardinal Dolan thundered.

"It is here where we listen again to his holy Word," the cardinal stated. "It is here at Mass that we savor his company. It is here that we really and truly receive him in the Most Blessed Sacrament."

The cardinal spoke of the great mystery of the Incarnation: that the Second Person of the Most Blessed Trinity — the Son of God, God's Eternal Word, having existed as one with the Father without beginning or end — chose to enter human history, take on human nature while remaining fully divine, and be born of a woman.

"The Incarnation is not some flimsy, cerebral, nothing-to-do-with-reality doctrine," Cardinal Dolan noted. "It has very real and practical implications."

One of these is that God can never be seen as aloof or distant; he understands firsthand what people go through.

Second, God became human so that humans could become divine "through the gift of his life and sanctifying grace."

But doubt can get in the way.

People had trouble believing that Jesus was the Son of God while he was still walking among them. How much more difficult is it to believe now that he has ascended to the right hand of the Father?

"Oh, what a leap of faith

See CARDINAL DOLAN, page 17

CORPUS CHRISTI

From page 1

surrounded by prayers and hymns.

Parishioners held a *baldachino* — a portable, ceremonial tent on poles — over Fr. Hoffmann and Christ fully present in the monstrance.

Several young parishioners bearing torches, a crucifix and burning incense led the procession.

Behind the priests were children in their First Holy Communion attire, followed by people of all ages, including babies and children in the arms of their parents.

Accompanied by guitar, people sang hymns about the Body of Christ in English and Spanish.

They processed down city streets from St. Patrick Chapel to Sacred Heart Chapel, where the procession closed with Benediction at the altar.

Volunteers from the parish stayed ahead on the route, moving barricades into and out of each intersection as the procession moved through.

The smell of incense mixed with honeysuckle, with people's voices echoing off the 19th-century buildings, their faces reflecting in the storefront windows.

Along the main thoroughfare through the city, parishioners had set up a small altar on the lawn outside the Pettis County Courthouse.

The procession stopped at the altar, and the people gathered around as Fr. Hoffmann proclaimed Jesus's Bread of Life Discourse from John, Chapter 6, and prayed Pope St. John Paul II's Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Eucharistic Presence.

Several participants joined the procession along the way.

Thanks and praise

Fr. Berhorst preached the homily at the Mass of Thanksgiving Fr. Hoffmann offered in Spanish in St. Patrick Chapel.

He said that it's appropriate to celebrate on the same day the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ and Fr. Hoffmann's Mass of Thanksgiving because there is such a close connection



Father Christopher Hoffmann carries the Most Blessed Sacrament down the main thoroughfare through downtown Sedalia during a Eucharistic Procession on June 2, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. — Photo by Jay Nies

between the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Holy Orders.

Fr. Berhorst also explained why the Church often calls the first Masses of a new priest "Masses of Thanksgiving" — namely, because it's an important opportunity for the new priest to thank the parish for all the support that helped him discern his priestly vocation.

"Christ has given us the sacrament of his Body and Blood so that we can participate anew every day in his sacrifice on the cross — so that we can renew in our hearts every day the effects of his passion and resurrection," Fr. Berhorst said in Spanish.

Therefore, Fr. Berhorst asked everyone — priests and congregation both — to reflect on whether they live as though the Eucharist really were the source and summit of their entire life, and whether Sunday Mass is the

most important thing on their calendar. He thanked Fr. Hoffmann for saying yes to God, and urged the parish to continue to support young people so that they can respond generously to God's call, especially so that other young men of the parish might respond to the invitation to discern a priestly vocation.

"Thy will be done"

In his homily for Fr. Hoffmann's Mass in English, Fr. Corel spoke of how the entire Bible, from the first verse of Genesis to the last verse of Revelation, points to

Christ and what he did to save people from sin and death.

"The whole purpose of the Old Testament is to prepare us for the Messiah, to prepare us for the one who is going to come and free us from sin and death by dying on the cross," said Fr. Corel.

But even before doing that, Jesus showed how to live a fully human life.

"By that, I mean constantly giving our total will over to the Father, just as the Son constantly gave himself more completely over to the will of the Father," Fr. Corel stated.

He reminded Fr. Hoffmann that priests are called in a special way to do that in their own lives.

"But you know," Fr. Corel stated, "that's not only for priests. It's for all of us who are baptized. We're all called to be listening to where it is the Lord is calling us."

Each priest's goal must be to help people continuously abandon their own will and give themselves completely over to the will of the Father.

"For, he knows best what we're supposed to be about," said Fr. Corel.

Jesus gave the perfect example of this by freely laying down his own life to save people lost by sin.

"And before doing that," Fr. Corel noted, "he gave us the most amazing gift — the gift of his Body and Blood, soul and divinity, so that he truly will be with us until the end of the age."

"Because every time we come together for Holy Mass, regardless of where we are on the planet, we are all together in three places: right where we are in our church at that local altar; back on Calvary, where we are with him as he dies on the cross; and with him in eternal glory."

Fr. Corel emphasized the importance of being Eucharistic people who frequently receive the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass, adore him during frequent visits to church, and then take that presence out to hospitals, nursing homes, schools and their places of employment.

"The priest gives you that Eucharistic presence so that it can be given to others in places where we cannot go as priests, but where the lay faithful are constantly living out the Eucharistic presence and bringing Christ to all," he said.

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



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Pope to hold consistory July 1 on canonization of Carlo Acutis, others

Vatican City

Although Pope Francis usually takes the month of July off — except for leading the recitation of the Angelus on Sundays — he will hold a consistory with cardinals in Rome July 1 for the final approval of the canonization of several sainthood candidates, according to the master of papal liturgical ceremonies.

In late May, the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints said Pope Francis would be convoking the meeting of cardinals to vote on approving the canonizations of Blessed Carlo Acutis, an Italian teen and computer whiz; Blessed Giuseppe Allamano, founder of the Consolata Missionaries; eight Franciscan friars and three Maronite laymen who were martyred in Syria in 1860; Canada-born Blessed Marie-Léonie Paradis, founder of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family; and Blessed Elena Guerra, an Italian nun who founded the Oblates of the Holy Spirit.

The date or dates for the canonizations could be announced during the ceremony.

Pope Francis formally recognized a miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Carlo, a 15-year-old whose birth in 1991 will make him the first “millennial” to become a saint.

In a meeting May 23 with Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Dicastery for Saints’ Causes, the pope signed decrees advancing the sainthood causes of Blessed Acutis, as well as one woman, and six men.

Blessed Acutis was born and baptized in London to Italian parents in 1991, but the family moved back to Milan, Italy, while he was still an infant.

After he started high school, he began to curate, create or design websites, including one for a local parish, for his Jesuit-run high school and for the Pontifical Academy “Cultorum

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**DIÓCESIS DE
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SAINTS

From page 13

Martyrum,” according to the saints’ dicastery. He also used his computer skills to create an online database of Eucharistic miracles around the world.

He volunteered at a church-run soup kitchen, helped the poor in his neighborhood, assisted children struggling with their homework, played saxophone, soccer and videogames, and loved making videos with his dogs and cats, according to *carloacutis.com*, the website dedicated to his cause for canonization.

“To always be close to Jesus, that’s my life plan,” he wrote when he was 7 years old.

He was devoted to Our Lady, praying the rosary every day, and to the Eucharist.

“The Eucharist is the highway to heaven,” he wrote. When people sit in the sun, they become tan, “but when they sit before Eucharistic Jesus, they become saints.”

When he was only 15, he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia and died Oct. 12, 2006. He had said, “I’m happy to die because I’ve lived my life without wasting even a minute of it doing things that wouldn’t have pleased God,” according to *carloacutis.com*.

His mortal remains were moved to the municipal cemetery in Assisi in 2007 to fulfill his wish to be in the city of St. Francis. Then his remains were moved to the Shrine of the Renunciation at the Church of St. Mary Major in Assisi in 2019. He was buried wearing Nike sneakers, black jeans and an athletic warmup jacket — clothes he was used to wearing every day.

In February 2020, the pope formally recognized a miracle attributed to Acutis’ intercession and in October that year, the teen was beatified during a Mass at the Basilica of St. Francis. An estimated 117,000 pilgrims visited the teen’s tomb in just the first year after his beatification, the Diocese of Assisi said the day before his feast day, Oct. 12, 2021.

The two miracles attributed to the intercession of the teen involved alleged miraculous recoveries for a young boy in Brazil in 2013 and a young woman in Florence in 2022.

The miracle Pope Francis recognized May 23 that paves the way for the blessed’s canonization involved a young woman who was born in Costa Rica in 2001 and moved to Florence in 2018 to study.

Pope Francis has urged young people to learn about Blessed Acutis, who “did a great deal of good things,” despite his short life.

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TOLTON

From page 7

“Possibly just by our character and how we hold ourselves, carry ourselves, along with our faith,” said Jake.

“Everything we learn and how we grow here — the goal has always been to grow in spirit and heart and in mind and body, and I think people can see that,” Audrey stated.

Never alone

Sophie said she was aware of God’s presence daily at Tolton Catholic by the way people interact in the hallway.

“You can definitely feel that he’s there, especially because so many people are Christlike, show their faith in a very good way that they incorporate into their friendships,” she said.

She shared Tolton Catholic’s lunchtime motto, “No one sits alone.”

“And you just know that God is here, influencing every student to make good choices and be kind to others,” she said.

Audrey said it meant a lot to be able to start a Bible club with four of her classmates.

“We were able to encourage each other and a lot of underclassmen in their faith,” she said. “I was a lot more faith-driven this year, just being able to surround myself with people like that.”

Her relationship with God also matured through a Science and Religion class taught by Mrs. Beratta.

“I think it really strengthened my faith a lot, just being able to understand why we believe what we believe,” she said.

Sophie said the example of Fr. Coleman, whose door is always open, helped her become more open with her faith.

“And, I really just enjoy going to Mass and hearing what he has to say for a homily,” she said.

Friends in her Bible club are also very open about their faith and leading others to God, his word and his love, she said.

Jake took a class titled A Walk With Christ, taught by Miss Lutz, last semester.

The daily lessons drew him closer to Christ, and he plans to carry that with him for the rest of his life.

Sophie lauded her theology

teachers, who allow their students to ask questions — “the silly ones, the serious ones” — creating an environment of openness and curiosity that helped her grow in knowledge and love of God.

Joseph said Mr. Hausen’s class on World Religions helped him appreciate humanity’s universal quest for things that transcend this life and this world.

All four said they’re looking forward to helping lead others to Christ.

Sophie especially wants to be a good role model to her younger sister, who hopes to attend Tolton Catholic.

Audrey said her years at the school have helped her build a solid footing for her relationship with God to continue growing.

“Just being surrounded by role-model teachers and friends, I think it’s mainly what’s going to be our foundation for when we’re out on our own,” she stated.

Once and for all

All four interviewed seniors said they want to remain Catholic for the rest of their lives.

“I’m what they call a ‘cradle Catholic,’” said Sophie. “But, in my time here, I’ve been able to really learn why I’m Catholic and why we believe what we believe.”

Joseph said the World Religions class helped him appreciate what Catholics profess.

“Once I have children,” said Sophie, “I want to have them baptized, and I want Catholic relationship with my family. I want to raise my children in the Church and have them be Catholic.”

She said the rest of the Church can help with that by openly living and speaking about matters of faith.

“It’s something to be proud of and it’s something you should want to tell other people about,” she said.

Jake would like to see parishes offer more opportunities for people to join small groups for faith and fellowship.

“We had that in this class I was in, and we were able to become comfortable and talk about what we wanted to talk

about and not be scared to share with others what we truly believe in,” he said.

Pray unceasingly

As life’s next phase gets under way, Audrey asked for prayers for all the new graduates to be able to carry their

faith with them and share it generously in ways that help bring people to Christ.

Sophie asked for prayers for everyone who’s graduating to be blessed by God and hold onto the love they experienced in such a close, loving community.

Jake suggested praying for

each graduate to find God’s path for him or her.

“Please pray for our futures and what we decided to do with them, and whether we have families or not, and how do we take care of the families, raise them Catholic, things like that,” said Joseph.

HELIAS

From page 6

everybody is.”

“The involvement,” said Anna. “Because you have so many opportunities to get involved with the people around you, including the alumni.”

“I’ll miss the tight-knit community and the feeling that I’ll always have a family around,” said Mason.

“I’ll miss knowing everyone,” said Sam.

Mason plans to major in pre-med at Mid-America Nazarene University in Olathe, Kansas, and to attend medical school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

He said he hopes to take with him the morals and practices Helias Catholic helped refine for him “and hopefully make an impact.”

Anna plans to major in chemistry at the University of Missouri and then go to law school.

She intends to meld into her college experience the values Helias Catholic reinforced in her, “which are strong morals and stewardship.”

Ava plans to study elementary education at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg.

She intends to get involved at the Newman Center “and find people who have the same values as me that I enjoy being around, and make them feel like family.”

Ella plans to major in child development at Moberly Area Community College in Columbia and then transfer to University in Fayette.

She is determined to get involved at the Newman Center in Columbia and “stay with it the whole four years.”

Sam plans to study sports management at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, to sign up at the Newman Center “and keep my faith and continue to practice it.”

Always a Crusader

All five interviewed seniors hope to be recognized as Helias Catholic graduates.

“I think the traits of any person who goes to a Catholic school, especially Helias, are very noticeable in the classroom and outside of it,” said Anna.

These include respect in a classroom, diligence in homework, honor in doing schoolwork, “and just overall kindness and well-mannered behavior whenever you’re out of school,” she said.

Ava hopes people will know where she came from “based on the way I treat them — how nice I am to them and how welcoming I am to them.”

All agreed that God’s presence could be felt throughout their four years at Helias Catholic.

They spoke emphatically of their intentions to

remain Catholic and put their faith into practice.

For Anna, discipleship will be a large part of that — “through caring for others and sharing the message of God and also working on getting the people around me to heaven as well as working on getting myself to heaven through the work with them.”

Ella said being Catholic involves “having a community that you can fall back on if anything bad ever happens in your life or you’re going through rough times.”

Ava said being Catholic also means unity, “because everybody has different lives and different lifestyles, but for us, you always know you have somebody next to you and you can always be there for each other.”

Important lessons

The group talked about important lessons they had learned beyond the classroom.

“Treat others how you want to be treated,” said Sam. “Don’t talk badly about people because you obviously don’t want people talking bad about you. Love everyone, honestly. Love as Jesus did.”

“Spread kindness and do to others what you would want done to yourself,” said Mason.

“Trust God’s plan,” said Ava. “There are times when we think we know what we should be doing, but then God sends reminders that he actually has a better plan for us.”

“Step out of your comfort zone, and do something even if you think you can’t,” said Ella.

“Nothing is bigger or more important than your relationship with God,” said Anna.

Each requested prayers for courage, strength and success.

“Pray that we do not stray from the path that God has put us on,” said Mason.

“For diligence through work and faith,” said Anna. “Just continuing to follow the strong path that Helias has helped us stay on, and taking ownership of our faith from this point forward.”

“Just for us to trust in God’s plan and know that everything’s going to be okay and everything’s going to go how God wants it to be,” said Sam.

“Pray for us that we don’t fall away from the faith and that if we do, we’ll answer God’s call back to us to join him back in the faith,” said Ava.

Contributing to this report was Rebecca Martin, director of communications and admissions for Helias Catholic.

ORDAIN

From page 1

"It manifests the unity of the Sacrament of Holy Orders," Bishop McKnight explained.

Through the invocation of the Holy Spirit, in prayers and rituals dating back to Biblical times, the new priest and new deacon received in the Sacrament of Holy Orders the grace they need to preach, teach and lead the faithful.

Their lives are no longer their own.

"You are called to lay down your entire lives for Christ and his Church in the sacred ministry and in the ministerial Priesthood," Bishop McKnight told them.

"By mandate of the Lord himself, you will take on responsibility with all of us in sacred orders to preserve the Apostolic Communion of Christ's Church in what we believe as Catholics, in how we live as Catholics, and in how we pray as Catholics — faithful to the teachings, example and model of prayer of the Good Shepherd," Bishop McKnight said to them.

He told the new priest and the new deacon that with the rites of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist and now with the rites of Ordination, "your personal histories are joined in God's providence with that of Salvation History, as narrated by Sacred Scripture and lived out in the Church from one generation to the next, until the end of time.

"If your ministry is to be fruitful, dear sons, it must flow from your interior communion with Christ, which makes us capable of being sent from him to serve others — sent not from our egos or even our good intentions, but from him," Bishop McKnight stated.

He emphasized that the Lord wants to serve his people through them.

"Obedience is when we let the Lord do just that," he said.

The gift of obedience finds its greatest expression whenever it is most difficult to be obedient.

"It is only then that we experience what it means to have the power to lay down one's life for Christ and his



LEFT: Father Anthony Yates, a priest of the St. Louis archdiocese, ceremonially helped Rev. Mr. Clever put on his deacon vestments. **RIGHT:** Newly ordained Father Christopher Hoffmann and newly ordained Rev. Mr. Gregory Clever stand with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight outside the Cathedral of St. Joseph at the end of the Ordination Mass June 1.

— Photos by Jay Nies

Church," the bishop stated.

He pointed out that since all who are called to sacred office retain their sinful nature, there can be no room in a priest's or deacon's heart or mind for any kind of clericalism that would keep them from exercising the pastoral charity that is part of their shared calling as ordained

have received from Christ through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to teach, sanctify and govern."

The bishop told Rev. Mr. Clever that by exercising his diaconal ministry with an emphasis on pastoral charity in close collaboration with the lay faithful, he will serve as an effective leader in the faith.

By carrying out their ministries with distinction, both men will help heal wounds in the Church and "will help the whole Church witness Christ's resurrection in our day," the bishop said.

In word and deed

As part of the Ordination Rite, Rev. Mr. Clever stated his willingness to serve Christ's people, proclaim the faith in word and deed, pray daily for the people of the world, and do so obediently and respectfully to the bishop.

Fr. Hoffmann and Rev. Mr. Clever then lay face-down on the floor before the altar, in a gesture of humility, obedience, total dependence on God and total self-giving.

The priests, congregation and choir chanted the Litany of Saints, imploring the holy men and women in heaven to pray for Fr. Hoffmann, Rev. Mr. Clever and for the entire Church.

Then, Bishop McKnight, after silently placing his hands



on Rev. Mr. Clever's head, called upon the Holy Spirit, in the name of Christ and his Church, to set the new deacon aside for holy service.

Father Anthony Yates, a priest of the St. Louis archdiocese, ceremonially helped Rev. Mr. Clever put on his deacon vestments.

Bishop McKnight then presented to the new deacon the Book of the Gospels.

"Receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ, whose herald you have become," he said. "Believe what you read. Teach what you believe. Practice what you teach."

Servant and sacrifice

Fr. Hoffmann publicly promised to carry-out the duties of a priest as a minister of Scripture and sacraments, to pray without ceasing, to work obediently and respectfully with the bishop, and to imitate Jesus, who offered Himself up as servant and sacrifice.

He then knelt before the bishop, who silently laid hands on his head in the biblical act of bestowing the gift of the Holy Spirit.

One by one, the other priests also placed their hands on the new priest's head, signi-

fying their prayers for strength and grace.

Bishop McKnight anointed Fr. Hoffmann's hands with the Oil of Sacred Chrism, symbolizing the power of the priest to sanctify, with the words: "The Lord Jesus Christ, Whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit and power, guard and preserve you, that you may sanctify the Christian people and offer sacrifice to God."

At the Offertory, Fr. Hoffmann's parents, John and Linda Hoffmann, and Rev. Mr. Clever's parents, Dr. Henry and Dorothy Clever, presented the bread and wine to Bishop McKnight for consecration.

Kneeling before the bishop, Fr. Hoffmann accepted it as a symbol of his most important duty: celebration of the Eucharist.

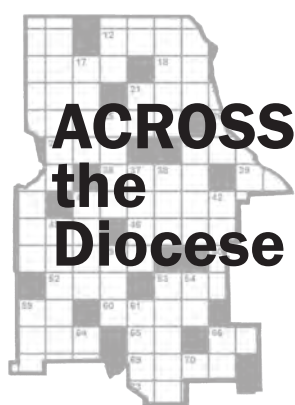
Following a sign of peace from the bishop and the other priests, Fr. Hoffmann remained in the sanctuary as a concelebrant and spoke part of the Eucharistic Prayer.

Active participation

Many priests concelebrated the Mass.

See HOLY ORDERS, page 23

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



By Father Donald Antweiler

ACROSS

1. Locusts in the time of Jesus could be very dangerous. When enormous swarms descended upon the fields, they were a plague worthy of that which Moses inflicted upon ____.
2. Classic Disney family film about a young fawn; 1942; three Oscar nominees; one of Disney's most successful animated films.
9. Prefix for mark or cord.
11. Mo. border State known as the Natural State.
12. Plural suffix for Preach or Church.
13. "We all live in a ____ submarine"; 1966 song by the Beatles; written by Paul McCartney as a "Ringo song" for his fans. It also became a movie.
15. Though (Western) ____ is remote, small and only about 20% Catholic, it can boast of a papal visit. In 1970, Pope Paul VI, on a 10-day pilgrimage from Iran, Pakistan, Philippines to Australia, included this land in the Pacific on a day long stop with Mass at Pago Pago.
16. Public Relations (____) is about managing how others see and feel about a person, brand or company.
18. "Murder was common enough in those days in the ____ End (of London). So, the authorities could never be absolutely sure when it was that Jack first struck," —*Great Mysteries of History*, "Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper," Kenneth Platnick.
19. Boob tube.
20. Locusts, like grasshoppers, are rich in ____ and energy.
24. Abbr. for a member of the upper assembly in the U.S. and State of Mo. legislatures.
25. Letters for Evangelism Explosion; a movement officially started in 1962 by a Presbyterian Minister;

emphasizes witnessing as a way of life, often considered "confrontational."

26. "The earth and all its inhabitants will quake, but I have firmly set its ____," (Psalms 75:4).
27. Letters for Recording Secretary.
28. ____ cum spiritu tuo.
30. Sometimes locusts were cooked rapidly in ____ water and had a shrimp-like taste and color.
31. ____-GYN.
33. In baseball, a catcher's ____.
35. "Life ____ Fast Lane," 1976 song by the rock band Eagles, from their album Hotel California (2 wds.).
37. There are scores of ____ recipes but bran, blueberry and English are among the most popular.
41. ____ Jima was a WW II battle in the Pacific. A famous photo of the raising of the U.S. flag on Mt. Suribachi by six U.S. Marines became an icon of the Am. war effort.
43. "Prayer does not use up artificial energy, doesn't burn up any fossil ____," —Margaret Mead.
44. When dried in the sun, locusts were mixed with honey or ____, or ground down to powder, known as locust powder.
47. Carrier, Lennox, Trane, York and LG are considered the top brands of this cooling appliance for home or workplace.
48. "The hard-boiled Kansas City boss, Tom Pendergast ____ that (Franklin) Roosevelt 'has the most magnetic personality of any individual I have ever met,'" —*Leadership in Turbulent Times*, Doris Kearns Goodwin.
51. This State is known as the Mount Rushmore State.
52. Abraham's ancestral city.
53. Last words?
55. "The real Fr. Brown goes stumping with his stout umbrella through life, liking most ____ the people in it; accepting the world as his companion but never as his judge," —*The Scandal of Fr. Brown*, G.K. Chesterton.
57. Chocolate Carmel candy brand.
59. Part of www.
60. This Mo. border State is known as the Volunteer

State (abbr.).

62. Letters for Improvised Explosive Device, a home-made roadside bomb used by terrorists in Afghanistan against U.S. troops.
64. The prefix "____" joined with "diction" describes Adoration of Christ in a monstrance, usually with incense and the song Tantum Ergo.
66. Tender Loving Care (____).
68. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was ____," (Matthew 13:33).
69. Sometimes the ____ and legs of locusts were taken off before they were dried in the sun.

DOWN

1. The celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. "You are like unseen ____ over which people unknowingly walk," (Luke 11:44).
3. Perhaps surprising for us, a common form of food for ____ in the time of Jesus was the locust.
4. Old Russian ruler.
5. John the ____ in the desert lived on "locusts and wild honey," (Matthew 3:4; Mark 1:6).
6. "Pope Francis did write me a beautiful personal letter... in his tiny handwriting. It is much smaller than mine. In comparison ____ handwriting is huge," —*Last Testament*, Pope Benedict XVI.
7. "Part of the task of a Catholic university must ____ precisely moral formation," —1994 Catholic Higher Ed. address by Supreme Court Judge Antonin Scalia.
8. ____ de la Cite is one of two natural islands in the River Seine; it is the heart of Paris where the city was founded and the site of Notre Dame Cathedral.
9. "For if we believe that Jesus died and ____, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep," (1 Thessalonians 4:14).
10. Catholic radio.
14. "Keep him off his feet for a few days yet, ____, and I'll let him up on crutches soon if he behaves himself," —*The Hermit of Eyton Forest*, Ellis Peters.
17. Aunt or uncle or cousin,

etc.

21. Letters after a Dominican's name, short for the Order's official name, Order of Preachers.
22. "I managed to convince him that my whole training up to this point as a priest ____-suited me for marriage," —*He Leadeth Me*, Fr. Walter Ciszek, S.J.
23. "...one ____, under God, indivisible... (Pledge of Allegiance).
29. Letters for Too Much Information!
31. This State is the birthplace of seven U.S. Presidents (abbr.).
32. "I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my ____," (Isaiah 50:6).
34. Letters on the cross.
36. Children's playground game.
37. Once called Mo. Farmer's Assn. (____), this org. was founded in 1914 in a one-room schoolhouse near Brunswick, Mo.
38. Letters for Unitarian Universalist Church; denies the Trinity, holds rather that reason, not creed, is what defines the search for truth.
39. The Santa ____ Trail was first used in 1821 by a risk taking trader who took off from Franklin, Mo. (opposite Boonville). The trip took 2 ½ months.
40. Locust powder tasted rather bitter and was often mixed with wheat ____ to make a much-esteemed kind of biscuit.
42. "...this poor ____ put in more than all the rest..."

(Luke 21:3).

45. An ancient Jewish document claims that there were 800 different kinds of ____ locusts.
46. Abbr. for Assistant.
49. NASA's Galileo spacecraft explored Jupiter and its four moons for eight years, and was the first to deploy a ____ deep into an outer planet's atmosphere. It remains one of the most successful missions ever undertaken.
50. "____ has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him," —John 1:18 (2 wds.).
54. "____" means "house"; "lehem" means "bread." Thus, the town of Jesus's birth is translated "House of Bread."
55. The ____ of Chrism is used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders.
56. ____-Fi-Fo-Fum.
58. ____ Dawson was a star NFL quarterback for the KC Chiefs from 1962-1975; led them to win Superbowl IV and was MVP. He was longtime broadcaster for Chiefs, from 1985-2017.
61. ...sed libera ____ a malo; but deliver us from evil.
63. In gov't., Dept. of Agriculture.
65. Asner or Bradley.
67. The Redwood and Sequoia National Parks are in this State (abbr.).

See ANSWERS, page 19

CARDINAL DOLAN

From page 13

it is!" the Cardinal acknowledged. "And yet, our faith still reveals abundant ways that the Incarnation continues, as Jesus is still alive and present with us."

One of the most powerful ways this happens is through the Sacraments of the Church, especially the Most Holy Eucharist.

"Jesus is as alive and present to us NOW in the Holy Eucharist as he was to Joseph and Mary in the crib at Bethlehem, as he was to the shepherds and wise men who visited him, as he was to John and Andrew on the Sea of Galilee," the cardinal proclaimed.

The making of a saint

Cardinal Dolan spoke of the raw evangelical power of reverence for Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

He told the story of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, founder of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, and the first native-born American to be declared a saint by the Church.

Raised in another Christian faith tradition in the late 1700s, she entered into a happy marriage with a wealthy entrepreneur. She had five children.

Her husband died while they were in Italy attending to one of his business interests.

Some of friends took her in and showed her great kindness.

"She was particularly, powerfully moved by the depth of their Catholic faith," Cardinal Dolan noted. "Especially as she accompanied them every morning to Mass."

She watched them genuflect, pray humbly and sincerely, and go forward reverently to receive the Lord in Holy Communion.

"And gradually, she became hungry for that Holy Eucharist," said Cardinal Dolan. "Whatever they saw in the Eucharist, she wanted."

Then, on what is now known as the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, she joined her friends and everyone in the village of Livorno, Italy, in observing a Eucharistic procession through town.

A pastor of another Christian faith tradition stood behind her and snickered that "those silly peasants believe that piece of bread is really and truly Jesus Christ."

"And deep in her heart," said Cardinal Dolan, "Elizabeth Ann Seton said, 'Uh-oh. So ... do ... I!'"

Back in New York, she began going to Mass in St. Peter Church on Berkley Street and in 1805 received Sacraments of Initiation into the Catholic Church.

She went on to answer a new calling to help the poor, teach girls and eventually enter religious life.

Cardinal Dolan was present in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City on Sept. 14, 1975, when Pope St. Paul VI proclaimed, "Elizabeth Ann

Bayley Seton is a saint!"

"Elizabeth Seton is a Catholic and a saint because she believed in the Most Holy Eucharist," the cardinal stated.

"She believed that the Incarnation keeps going in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar."

May it never be forgotten that the seeds of that belief were sown through the kindness and witness of true friends.



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Want your event listed?
Fill out the ONLINE FORM at diojeffcity.org/event-listing.

Fundraisers & Social Events

Jun. 9

Belle, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am; **Eldon**, Sacred Heart Parish "Food Trucks Catholic Outreach," 11 am-2 pm, behind the Catholic Center; **Loose Creek**, Immaculate Conception Parish picnic, 11 am-10 pm

Jun. 10

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

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

Jun. 23

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

Meetings & Conferences

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

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

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 ecas-tro@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 Comite-DiocesanoRCCH@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, para más información sobre este método, visite diojeffcity.org/natural-family-planning/ y/o 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

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

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/marriage-preparation

Liturgical

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

Third Sundays each month
Jefferson City, Young Adult Mass, 5 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

cathmo.com

SYNOD

From page 3

Mass") becoming "a focal point of broader debates about tradition, modernity, and the best ways to nurture faith across the diverse spectrum of Catholic belief and practice," the interim synthesis said.

Another sore spot identified by participants was complacency in many parts of the Church, which potentially stands to pave the way for "grave institutional sins such as sexual abuse and racism" — both of which remain "enduring wounds" that "continue to inflict pain today," said the document.

"The trauma and scandal (of the clerical abuse crisis) have had a generational impact," keeping youth and young adults distrustful and desiring an apology "for abuses that happened not to them, but to their parents, grandparents or further generations," the interim synthesis said.

Likewise, the sin of racism, and "the sin of enslaving Black people for the betterment of the church," continue to haunt the church, the report said.

At the same time, the listening sessions revealed a commitment to the importance of evangelization, and the need for catechesis and formation to sustain such witness.

Participants also articulated a desire to actively participate in the Church's mission, seeking greater co-responsibility for the laity (especially women and young adults) in that task through their "baptismal dignity."

Both clericalism and a lack of vocations to the Priesthood and religious life were lamented, as was division among priests, with one priest participant sharing that clergy "need to be better at getting past the bitterness and different theologies and political preferences."

Bishops' perspectives

Bishops who attended the listening session also highlighted polarization among priests, with some shepherds likening themselves to "the episcopal referee" among an increasingly diverse clergy, many of whom hail from other countries.

The Ukrainian Catholic bishops of the U.S. expressed their gratitude for the positive relationships they enjoyed with

the USCCB and the Roman Catholic Church in the U.S., noting that "sometimes the Latin Church in other parts of the world (is) not so accepting and supportive."

The bishops also applauded recent changes in the structure of their biannual meetings, which have facilitated more small group encounters reminding them they are "spiritual brothers and not just ecclesial figures."

On balance, bishops' relations with the Holy See were "generally positive," and although "direct contact with Rome is not very frequent," the report said that the apostolic nuncio, Cardinal Christophe Pierre, has succeeded in "fostering a spirit of communion" and in "facilitating communication with the Holy See."

At the same time, the bishops "did express some frustration that communication between bishops and the offices of the Holy See could be better," but described their ad limina visits to Rome — during which they provide the pope with an update on the status of their respective dioceses — as "occasions of fraternity and joy."

"A little messy"

The interim synthesis concluded by noting that "a major theme" articulated by participants was "the deepening awareness of how our trust in God expresses itself in relation to our imperfect institutions within the Church."

"It was noted by many that the faithful 'should not be embarrassed about recognizing that our Church might be a little messy — it's better not to pretend that we are the perfect institution, but that we belong to the perfect and one, true faith,'" said the report.

Carroll, Coll and McStravog told OSV News that the synodal process of listening and dialogue is essential to healing the church's wounds — and that dynamic is for all the faithful, they said.

"Synodality isn't just in Rome or at the USCCB," said Coll. "It's right here. It's with you. It's with all of us."

Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News.

Corpus Christi procession is not a sign of pride but invitation, pope says

Catholic News Service

Rome

When Catholics carry the Eucharist through the streets, "we are not doing this to show off or to flaunt our faith" but to invite others to share in the life that Jesus gives by making himself a gift, Pope Francis said.

"Let's make the procession in this spirit," the pope said June 2 in his homily at a Mass for the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Pope Francis presided over the Mass in Rome's Basilica of

St. John Lateran, his cathedral as bishop of Rome. Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, was the main celebrant at the altar.

After Mass, more than 3,000 people — cardinals, bishops, priests, religious, lay members of confraternities and sodalities, Romans and pilgrims — participated in the Corpus Christi procession to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, about a mile away. Pope Francis led adoration and Benediction there.

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

Anniversaries

Argyle, St. Aloysius
Ralph & Cathy Wilde, 35 years
Kevin & Kelly Schwartze, 20 years

Hermann, St. George
Michael & Denise Witthaus, 40

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph
Neil & Kathy Mohrman, 45 years

Jefferson City, St. Peter
Ryan & Darby Carel, 10 years

Mokane, St. Jude Thaddeus
Darren & Heather Murphy, 20 years

Taos, St. Francis Xavier
Charles & Elaine Callaway, 50 years

Marriages

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Tre'shon Humphrey & John Kusick**

Baptisms

Marshall, St. Peter — **Daniela, Demetria and Patheron Calhoun**, children of Demetrios Calhoun & Patcy Fanny, **Keila Izaguirre**, daughter of Luis Izaguirre & Vanessa Solis, **Matthew Johanning**, son of Eric & Amanda Johanning, **Emma McKinney**, daughter of Joshua & Cassie McKinney, **Bennett Meyer**, son of Stephen & Mikaela Meyer, **Romeo Morales**, son of Yasser & Diana Morales, **Sofia Turcios**, daughter of Erick Turcios & Brenda Alvarenga, **Griffin and Graham Winning**, sons of Alexander and Claire Winning

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Konley Breann Chapman**, daughter of Brandon & Paige Chapman

Birthdays

Hurricane Branch, St. Joseph — **Norma Hayes**, her 90th on June 17.

Kirksville, Mary Immaculate — **Dolly Frkovich**, her 98th on Jun. 2

Osage Bend, St. Margaret of Antioch — **Evelyn Bode**, her 98th on June 5.

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Jean Henke**, her 90th on May 30; **George Henke**, his 97th on Jun. 7; **Dorothy Young**, her 97th on Jun. 11

Deaths

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Norman Martin**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Michael Lee Rackers**



HEINLEIN

body and blood — of whom he encountered and who dwelled in him. He proclaimed and taught that Christ's Eucharistic presence is real. Illustrating this, he wrote: "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" (1 Cor. 10:16). Not only is Christ's Eucharistic presence real for Paul, but by our Eucharistic encounter with Christ he comes to dwell in us, he changes us, he is united with us. By the Eucharist, we are Christified. So real is our incorporation into Christ's body, Paul wrote, "I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:19-20). St. Paul's own martyrdom brought to completion a life lived completely in and for Christ. Paul exhorts Christians

QUESTION

From page 8
specific person in a particular case. So, for example, if a senior citizen feels uncomfortable traveling to Mass, their bishop or pastor can "change" the Sunday obligation to something like prayerfully reflecting on the readings of the day or watching a televised Mass.

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

WOLFE

From page 9
chair, in the factory, in the workshop, in the fields, in the home, and in all the immense panorama of work."
Job searches and the Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker remind us that work isn't incidental or adjacent to our spiritual life. Our labor is integral to how God works in and through us, and, unless it involves sin, all work is God's work.
Jaymie Stuart Wolfe is a sinner, Catholic convert, freelance writer and editor, musician, speaker, pet-aholic, wife and mom of eight grown children, loving life in New Orleans.

Story time at IHM

Jen, a volunteer at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Child Development Center in Jefferson City, reads to 1-year-olds at the center on May 28.
— Photo by Leann Rockwell, director

to give Christ "glory in the Church" (Eph. 3:21), which means we are all called to give witness to Christ by our lives. While some might be called to do so to the extent of offering their very life by dying for Christ and the church, we are all called to offer our lives to him and in his service.
Like Paul, then, we can live as Eucharistic witnesses by offering all of ourselves, as Paul put it, "as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship" (Rom. 12:1). This is Christification; this is Christ living in us.
Michael R. Heinlein is author of "Glorifying Christ: The Life of Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I." and a promised member of the Association of Pauline Cooperators.

Crossword puzzle answers

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

Show me the People's House

Story of a soaring-eagle saint



TOP LEFT: Seventh- and eighth-graders of St. Martin School in St. Martins gather with teacher Rosemary Bardwell, who was announced as a special guest at the House of Representatives May 8, the day the students visited and toured the Capitol. — Photo from the St. Martin Catholic Parish Facebook page



TOP RIGHT: Laura Theissen and her son, Lucas, read their children's storybook, *Cuthbert: The Eagle Who Found His Wings*, to students at St. George School in Hermann on May 3. — Photo by Amy Schebaum, principal

'Bring flowers the fairest'




Students of St. Andrew School in Tipton take part in a traditional May Crowning with flowers of an image of the Blessed Mother May 10 in honor of the Month of Mary. — Photo from the St. Andrew Church and School Facebook page

Stairway to heaven



Students of Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School (OLLIS) in Columbia gather outside St. Peter Church in Jefferson City for Diocesan Sketch Day on April 25. Two of the students achieved top honors for their artwork. All of their renderings were displayed in the OLLIS library. — Photo from the Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School Facebook page





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Bible Accent

In Matthew 5-7, Jesus taught many things to those who had gathered to hear him preach.

In his talk, which is now known as the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told the people that if they were persecuted on earth they would find relief, comfort and reward in heaven. This part of Jesus' talk is called the beatitudes.

Jesus went on to teach the people some new ways of thinking about how to live a godly life.

For example, he said that even being angry with someone is a sin. He also said that it was better to turn the other cheek and forgive people rather than seek revenge.

Jesus taught that loving one's friends and family was good, but in addition, people should love and pray for their enemies.

Jesus told people not to judge others and to treat others the way they would want to be treated.

Jesus also discussed the right way to pray, fast and give alms. He said none of these things should be done for show, like the Pharisees did, but in private so only God would know.

And Jesus also gave his followers a new prayer to pray. It is now known as the Lord's Prayer.

St. Joseph Catasso



St. Joseph Cafasso was born in 1811 in the Piedmont region of Italy. He had a twisted spine, but he did not let his physical disability stop him from entering seminary and being ordained a diocesan priest in 1833. After ordination, he continued theological studies at the Institute of St. Francis in Turin, Italy. He became a popular lecturer and was named the institute's rector in 1848. He was a wise mentor to

his priest students, and he was a well-known confessor and spiritual adviser. He also was an advocate for prisoners and accompanied more than 60 condemned men to their public executions. Joseph died in 1860, and we remember him on June 23.

Jesus preaches about blessings

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

Jesus spent 40 days and 40 nights in the desert and was tempted by Satan. Afterward, he began his public ministry in Galilee.

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," he told the people as he traveled from place to place.

One day, Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee and came upon four men — Peter, Andrew, James and John — whom he called to become his first four apostles.

As Jesus traveled around Galilee with his new friends, he taught in the synagogues and proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom. He also cured people of their diseases and illnesses.

As news of Jesus' preaching and healing abilities spread, large crowds of people would come to hear him speak and to be cured by him.

One day, a great crowd gathered around Jesus. He went up the mountain to sit down. When he was seated, he began to teach.

He explained that those who experience hard times during their lives on earth are actually very blessed.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied," Jesus told his apostles and the crowd.

"Blessed are the merciful,



for they will be shown mercy," he continued. "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peace-makers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus acknowledged that all who believe in him and follow his teachings would be insulted, persecuted and have untrue,

evil things spoken against them.

But, he said, "rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Read more about it...

Matthew 4 & 5

1. Where did Jesus go to speak to the crowd?
2. Where would his followers be rewarded?

Essay

Reading for
June 10, 2024:
Matthew 5:1-12

How do you rejoice in following Jesus?

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Puzzle

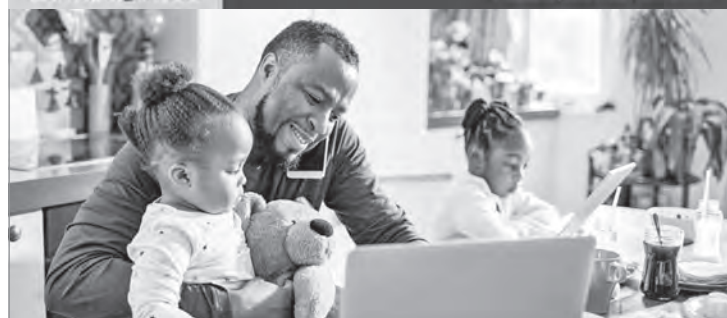
Using the hints provided, fill in the blanks in the sentences Jesus spoke in Matthew 5.

1. You are the _____ of the earth. (verse 13)
2. I have come not to _____ but to fulfill. (verse 17)
3. But I say to you, whoever is _____ with his brother will be liable to judgment. (verse 22)
4. Love your enemies, and pray for those who _____ you. (verse 44)

Answers: 1. salt; 2. abolish; 3. angry; 4. persecute.

Edward Jones

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Season four of the “The Chosen” begins streaming after delay

By John Mulderig
OSV News

The fourth season of the Biblically-based television series “The Chosen” began streaming, Sunday, June 2. Although all eight episodes of the new season had been released in theaters beginning in February, streaming availability had been delayed — reportedly by legal disputes.

Created, directed and co-written by Dallas Jenkins, the show is a dramatization of the life of Christ, based on accounts in the New Testament but with fictional embellishments. By viewing Jesus (Jonathan Roumie) through the eyes of his contemporaries, the program seeks to provide viewers with both a fresh take on the Savior’s life and a more intimate experience of it.

The series kicked off with a pilot episode in late 2017, with the first full season arriving almost a year-and-a-half later, after an innovative and successful crowdfunding campaign.

The show’s popularity soared, however, when its first eight episodes were made accessible for

free during the COVID pandemic.

Estimates of the total audience for “The Chosen” over time vary. But it can safely be said to number in the hundreds of millions.

While critics have debated the quality of the program’s production values, they have generally praised the performances of its cast as well as its writers’ effort to make their sacred source material relevant to contemporary viewers.

Script consultants for “The Chosen” have included Holy Cross Father David Guffey, national director of Family Theater Productions.

Beginning with initial livestreams, the series can be viewed via its proprietary app.

This season’s second episode was to premiere Thursday, June 6, with further installments dropping each Sunday and Thursday through June 27.

For more information go to:

www.thechosen.tv/en-us

John Mulderig is media reviewer for OSV News.

Sin will not keep Jesus away, pope pens in preface to Fr. Martin’s book

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Jesus considers all the bap-

tized to be his friends and will always try to restore them to life and health as he did with his friend Lazarus in the Gospel, Pope Francis wrote.

“Jesus is not afraid to come close to us, even when we ‘stink’ like a dead person buried for three days,” the pope

wrote in the preface to the Italian edition of Jesuit Father James Martin’s book, *Come Forth: The Raising of Lazarus and the Promise of Jesus’s Greatest Miracle*.

The Italian edition, published by the Vatican publishing house, was scheduled for release June 4 and Vatican News published the pope’s preface in Italian and English June 3. Father Martin said the upcoming paperback edition of the book in English also would carry the pope’s preface.

Pope Francis praised the book for how it “makes the biblical text come alive” with a

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Movie Ratings

 General Patronage	“The Garfield Movie (PG)
 Adults and Adolescents	IF (PG)
 Adults	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) Tarot (PG-13) We Grown Now (PG-13) Wildcat (not rated)
 Limited Adult Audience	Civil War (R) Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R)
 Morally Offensive	Abigail (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

reading that is “always ‘loving,’ never detached, nor coldly scientific.”

“Father James has the perspective of a person who has fallen in love with the Word of God,” the pope wrote, adding that reading the book made him wonder “how often we manage to approach Scripture with the ‘hunger’ of a person who knows that that word really is the Word of God.”

“The fact that God ‘speaks’ should give us a little jolt each and every day,” Pope Francis wrote. The Bible is a “love letter” that God sent to people living in every time and every place.

Pulling up a copy on one’s phone or opening a pocket edition “when we have an important meeting, or a difficult encounter or a moment of unease,” the pope said, can help people understand how the Bible is “a vibrant witness to a God that is not dead and buried on the dusty shelves of history.”

Turning to the focus of the book — the raising of Lazarus — Pope Francis said Father Martin helps readers see that “in the end Lazarus is all of us.”

“We are also his friends; we too are, sometimes, ‘dead’ due to our sin, our shortcomings and infidelity, our discouragement which degrades us and destroys our soul,” the pope wrote.

But Jesus was not afraid to approach Lazarus who had been dead three days, Pope Francis wrote, and he “is not afraid of our death or our sin. He stops only in front of the closed door of our heart, that door that opens only from the inside and that we double-lock when we think that God can no longer forgive us.”

“Jesus is not afraid to approach the sinner, any sinner, even the most fearless and brazen,” the pope continued. “He only has one concern: that no one gets lost, that no one loses the chance to feel the loving embrace of his Father.”

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Sundays, 8 am, KRLL-AM 1420, California

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HOLY ORDERS

From page 15



Bishop W. McKnight silently places his hands on the head of Father Christopher Hoffmann in a near-mirror image of the stained glass depiction behind them of Cardinal Giovanni Parocchi ordaining Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, Missouri native and the first recognizably Black priest of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States, in 1886 in St. Peter's Basilica. Standing to the right is Rev. Mr. Gregory Clever. Bishop McKnight ordained Fr. Hoffmann a priest and Rev. Mr. Clever a transitional deacon on June 1 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City. — Photos by Jay Nies

dral of St. Joseph Parish, and accompanied by organist Annette Kehner, led the singing.

Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus served as the honor guard. Members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem took part in the processions.

On behalf of the growing Hispanic presence in the Church in these 38 counties, the Second Reading was proclaimed in Spanish, and the verses of "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" were sung in English and Spanish during the preparation of the altar.

Grateful hearts

The Cathedral bells rang out as the new priest, the new deacon, the bishop and all the concelebrating priests processed out of the Cathedral.

Fr. Hoffmann gave his first priestly blessing to Bishop McKnight.

Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos, who led the diocese from 1997 to 2018 and accepted Fr. Hoffmann into priestly formation, enthusiastically greeted both men and received Fr. Hoffmann's second blessing.

"You never know what God is going to do if you keep your heart open to him," Bishop Gaydos told the new priest and the new deacon.

In written remarks, Fr. Hoffmann thanked his family, Bishops

Among those joining Bishop McKnight in the sanctuary were Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki, vicar general; Father Steven P. Beseau, rector and president of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio; Father Paul Maina Waithaka, dean of formation for Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois; and Benedictine Father Pachomius Meade, vice rector and dean of students at Conception Semi-

nary College in Conception.

Assisting them were Deacons Arvol Bartok and James Leyden.

Fr. Hoffmann is a graduate of the Josephinum and Conception.

Rev. Mr. Clever is a graduate of Mundelein.

Fellow seminarians served in various roles at the Mass.

The Diocesan Choir, conducted by Andrew Meagher, director of music for Cathe-



Rev. Mr. Gregory Clever, a transitional deacon preparing for Priesthood, and Father Christopher Hoffmann lie face-down on the floor before the altar, in a gesture of humility, obedience, total dependence on God and total self-giving.

Daily Readings

Sunday, Jun 9

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Gn. 3:9-15
Ps. 130:1-8
2 Cor. 4:13-5:1
Mk. 3:20-35

Monday, Jun 10

1 Kgs. 17:1-6
Ps. 121:1bc-8
Mt. 5:1-12

Tuesday, Jun 11

St. Barnabas, Apostle
Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3
Ps. 98:1-6
Mt. 5:13-16

Wednesday, Jun 12

1 Kgs. 18:20-39
Ps. 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab, 8, 11
Mt. 5:17-19

Thursday, Jun 13

St. Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church
1 Kgs. 18:41-46
Ps. 65:10-13
Mt. 5:20-26

Friday, Jun 14

1 Kgs. 19:9a, 11-16
Ps. 27:7-9abc, 13-14
Mt. 5:27-32

Saturday, Jun 15

1 Kgs. 19:19-21
Ps. 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-10
Mt. 5:33-37

Sunday, Jun 16

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ez. 17:22-24
Ps. 92:2-3, 13-16
2 Cor. 5:6-10
Mk. 4:26-34

Monday, Jun 17

1 Kgs. 21:1-16
Ps. 5:2-3ab, 4b-7
Mt. 5:38-42

Tuesday, Jun 18

1 Kgs. 21:17-29
Ps. 51:3-6ab, 11, 16
Mt. 5:43-48

Wednesday, Jun 19

St. Romuald, Abbot
2 Kgs. 2:1, 6-14
Ps. 31:20, 21, 24
Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday, Jun 20

Sir. 48:1-14
Ps. 97:1-7
Mt. 6:7-15

Friday, Jun 21

St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious
2 Kgs. 11:1-4, 9-18, 20
Ps. 132:11-14, 17-18
Mt. 6:19-23

Saturday, Jun 22

St. Paulinus of Nola, Bishop;
St. John Fisher, Bishop, and
Thomas More, Martyrs
2 Chr. 24:17-25
Ps. 89:4-5, 29-34
Mt. 6:24-34

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.

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St. Mary's Hospital
JEFFERSON CITY

McKnight and Gaydos, the priests and deacons of the diocese, and all who helped him discern his priestly calling.

"I am overjoyed that God has called me to serve in my home Diocese of Jefferson City," he wrote. "Know that you will all continue to be in my prayers, and continue to keep me and all those who are discerning their vocation to Matrimony, Religious Life, or Holy Orders in your prayers."

Rev. Mr. Clever thanked his

parents, siblings, grandparents and extended family; Bishop McKnight; the people of his home parishes and the parishes where he has served as a seminarian; his seminary formators; and all who have helped him discern his vocation.

He also thanked God, "who called me today to be a deacon, not because I am worthy of it, but because he, in his great love, has asked this of me. Please pray for me to be a saintly witness to his love."

Ground-breaking for new facilities at Helias Catholic High School



LEFT: Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City officially breaks ground June 5 on its Spirit of Excellence expansion to complete the school's campus master plan. Pictured are Doug Hoelscher, representing the Helias Catholic Advisory Council; Helias Catholic President Ron Vossen; Diocese of Jefferson City Superintendent of Schools Erin Vader Ed.D.; Melissa Kleffner-Wansing, representing The Foundation for the Benefit of Helias Catholic High School Board of Directors; Helias Catholic Principal Spencer Allen; 2024 Helias Catholic graduate Jack Callahan; Spirit of Excellence Committee Chair Peter Lyskowski; and Bishop W. Shawn McKnight. The Spirit of Excellence project will complete the Helias Catholic campus with a performing arts center, baseball and softball complex, and addition to the existing Rackers Fieldhouse, bringing all school facilities onto the central campus. For more information and to support the project, please visit heliascatholic.com/spiritofexcellence.

During the groundbreaking ceremony for Helias Catholic High School's Spirit of Excellence campus expansion project, Bishop Shawn McKnight and Superintendent Dr. Erin Vader recognized Helias Catholic President Ron Vossen for his 45 years of service to the school.

— Photos by Rebecca Martin

I.C. Parish - Loose Creek, MO

PICNIC

JUNE 9

Refreshments 11am-10pm | Games & Prizes
Kids Games and Play Area

LIVE MUSIC
1-3pm - Allie Hale | 3-5pm - Hubert Backes Band
7-10pm - Home By Eleven Band

QUILT AUCTION 5PM
See quilts on Facebook,
search "IC Parish Loose Creek, MO"
Sealed bids accepted thru June 8
Text bid and name to 573-301-4820

ALL DINNER PLATES \$16

Carryouts @ IC Parish from 11am-7pm
Serving Fried Chicken, German Pot Roast, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Kraut & Beans, Slaw and Dessert
Cash, Check & Venmo accepted

Drive-thru @ LCCC from 11am-6pm
Shuttle service available from LCCC

Spanish Mass with bishop in Cathedral

DATE: June 23
TIME: 1 pm

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight will host a "Mass and Celebration with Our Bishop" in Spanish on Sunday, June 23, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St. in Jefferson City.

It will be a family-friendly occasion for people to cele-

brate Mass together, see the newly renovated Cathedral and spend time in fellowship with their Hispanic brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available in Spanish beginning at noon. Mass will start at 1 p.m.

Parents are encouraged to bring their families.

For information, contact

Deacon Enrique Castro at 573-635-9127 or ecastro@diojeffcity.org.

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.*

Find us online @ **CATHMO.COM**

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Diocese of Jefferson City

St. Vincent de Paul Parish
invites you to the annual

Ice Cream Social

at the former site of
St. John Chapel in Bahner, MO
Junction of Hwys. M&V in Pettis Co.

Sunday, June 23 5:30pm

Games • Quilt Drawing
Country Store • Cake Walk
Hot Dogs/Chili Dogs/Nachos
Ice Cream • Homemade Cakes & Pies

SACRED HEART PARISH LADIES AUXILIARY IN COLUMBIA, MO. PROUDLY ANNOUNCES

Are you SMARTER than your 8th Grade NUN?
By Vicki Quade

When: Friday, July 12
Where: Battle High School
7575 E. St. Charles Rd., Columbia
Time: 7pm

An interactive comedy game show, where audience members compete to see who was paying attention and who was daydreaming in school. Come join us for an evening of fun, laughter and fond memories of attending Catholic School.

TICKETS ARE \$30 AND MUST BE ORDERED IN ADVANCE.
Scan the QR code or go to <https://givebutter.com/2QKU60>

For more info, call Debbie @ 573-289-3041
or email Crissy @ ladiesaux14414@gmail.com

Proceeds will go to the Sacred Heart Maintenance and Restoration Fund.