

An amazing Blazer gift that kept giving

A special gift from students allowed Fr. Mike Coleman to minister unexpectedly in a most unusual venue.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

June 21, 2024 • Vol. 67 No. 26

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Mission team leads children's retreat in Mérida



A mission team consisting of Carmen Garcia, Yasica Buitrago, Alexander Almazan, Jose Almazan, Andrea Lagunas, Father Víctor Cabes Chaves of the Missionaries of the Nativity of Mary, Deacon Amapro Orozco, Deacon Enrique Castro and Ilsi Palacios gathers in the sanctuary of Iglesia los Sagrados Corazones after leading an encounter retreat there and two other retreats at Escuela Hogar, both in Mérida, Mexico, this spring.

This and other mission activities are supported by the diocesan Mission Special Collection, to be taken up in parishes July 20-21

By Jay Nies

The children soaked up the good news like arid soil absorbing the rain.

Some washed back up onto members of the mission team and sent them home refreshed, revived and refocused on their various ministries.

"It strengthened my faith as I saw how children and adults received the message of the Gospel and our testimony," said Ilsi Palacios, a member of an eight-member mission team from the Jefferson City diocese that visited a boys' boarding school in Mérida, Mexico, this spring.

The group led encounter retreats for the students of Escuela Hogar in Mérida and for adults at the parish as part of an emerging mission partnership between the school and the Jefferson City diocese's Mission Office and Office of Hispanic and Cross-Cultural Ministries.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight initiated the partnership as an opportunity to create sacred relationships in the Church through mutual encounter.

The partnership is supported by the Mission Office, which receives most of its funding from the annual diocesan Mission Special Collection.

The collection will be taken up the weekend of July 20-21 in parishes throughout the diocese.

The mission team included:

- Carmen Garcia of Annunciation Parish in California;
- Andrea Lagunas of Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia;
- Deacon Enrique Castro, diocesan Director of Hispanic, Intercultural and

See MÉRIDA, page 17

People urged to sign up for, take part in July 1-5 events for Eucharistic Pilgrimage

Events incorporating food and fellowship, Adoration and teaching to be held in Sedalia, Boonville, Columbia, Jefferson City, Starkenburg

Organizers want hundreds of people to attend the July 1-5 events to join pilgrims traveling through the diocese as part of a cross-continental Eucharistic Pilgrimage.

They also hope most who come will register ahead of time. "Having people RSVP, especially for the 'Worship With Us' portions of the pilgrimage, is very important for helping to plan for food and other considerations," said Mary Madelyn Mertes, assistant director of catechetical formation for the Jefferson City diocese.

Also by registering, participants will be able to be informed by email of any changes or cancellations that may take place due to weather or excessive heat.

"It will go a long way toward helping things go smoothly," added Maureen Quinn, diocesan director of religious education and youth/young adult ministry.

The full schedule of events planned in the diocese, along with links for registering for each event, can be found online at: diojeffcity.org/eucharisticrevival.

From 6 to 9 p.m. on Monday, July 1, St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia will host a pot-luck dinner and bilingual

See EVENTS, page 2

Find us online at
CATHMO.COM

and
@DIOJEFFCITY



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

NEW ADDRESS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

NEW PARISH _____

OLD PARISH _____

06/21/24

Pray for deceased priests

June 26 — **Fr. Raphael J. O'Malley**, Church of the Resurrection, Wellsville (1987)

June 27 — **Msgr. Thomas J. McCartan**, St. Bonaventure, Marceline (1970)

June 29 — **Fr. Stephen S. Sandknop**, St. Joseph, Canton (1976)

July 5 — **Msgr. Ralph G. Kutz**, St. Aloysius, Argyle (2000)

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage to include procession, prayers at Fr. Tolton burial place in Quincy, Ill.

Several days after the participants in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage pass through this diocese on their way to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, they will visit the burial place of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton in Quincy, Illinois.

On Tuesday, July 9, participants in the National Pilgrimage will visit Ss. Peter and Paul Church, 717 State St. in Alton, Illinois, for Mass at 8:15 a.m.

They will have a 3.7-mile Eucharistic procession in from 9 to 11:30 a.m. from Ss. Peter and Paul Church to St. Francis Convent of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, 1 Franciscan Way, for Benediction, and then to St. Mary Church, 519 E. Fourth St., for Benediction.

From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. that afternoon in Quincy, they will have a 1-mile Eucharistic procession from St. Peter Church, 2600 Maine St., to Fr. Tolton's resting place in St. Peter Cemetery.

tery.

Evening Prayer and Benediction will start at 6:30 p.m. in the cemetery.

A pot-luck dinner and witness talks will be held from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in St. Francis Solanus Church, 1721 College Ave. in Quincy.

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament will be held from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in St. Francis Solanus Church.

Participants are urged to register for each event in the Springfield diocese by visiting diojeffcity.org/procession.

Fr. Tolton (1854-96), born into a family of enslaved people on a farm in northeastern Missouri, transcended extreme racial prejudice in order to become the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

He is under formal consideration for being declared a saint.

EVENTS

From page 1

programming at Sacred Heart School, followed by a solemn Eucharistic Procession to St. Patrick Chapel for Adoration and Confession.

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

St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia will host Adoration, Confession and lunch from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3.

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

ration and Confession.

At 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 4, Mass will be celebrated in the Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter, near the Capitol in Jefferson City. Adoration with guided prayers on the hour will be held until 6 p.m.

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

Monsignor Joseph Malagrega, pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Brooklyn, New York, will give the talks in English and in Spanish and will lead the bilingual Holy Hour during the July 3 event in the Cathedral.

The full schedule of events planned in the diocese, along with links for registering for each event, can be found online at: diojeffcity.org/eucharisticrevival.

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

Other speakers, including Bishop Edward M. Rice of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, and Father Paul Clark, Father Joseph Luzindana and Father Greivin Rodriguez of this diocese, will offer inspiring insights and reminders.

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

•July 2 — Mass at 6:30 a.m. in St. Patrick Chapel in Sedalia, followed by a Eucharistic procession to Sacred Heart Chapel in Sedalia. Then, walk from St. Joseph Church in Pilot Grove to Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Boonville along the Katy Trail (about 13 miles).

•July 3 — Mass at 6:30 a.m. in Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Boonville and a Eucharistic

procession to the Katy Trail. Then, walk to New Franklin on the trail (about 3.6 miles).

A subsequent procession will take place along the Katy Trail from the outskirts of Columbia to the St. Thomas More Newman Center (about 4.7 miles). Finally, a procession will be

held in Memorial Park across the street from the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City (about 1 mile).

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

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

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

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

Development Director — Rolla Newman Center



Are you good with people? Are you excited about young Catholics who are future Church leaders? The Catholic Newman Center in Rolla is seeking a Director of Development to build a strong community of diverse stakeholders who provide the spiritual, visionary and financial support required to bring the ministry to the next level. This individual will establish a long-term fundraising program supported by regular, special and planned giving from the stakeholder community and other philanthropic sources. Training will be provided for this position, which will grow with the ministry. This is a full-time position with diocesan medical and retirement benefits. For more information or to apply, contact Dcn. Matt McLaughlin at mmclaughlin@stpatrickrolla.org.

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.

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"A diocesan paper serves as a bond of unity by publishing diocesan happenings and promulgating official regulations and decrees. It also plays a teaching role by reporting notable events of a religious and secular nature, and interpreting them in the light of Christian principles."
— Bishop Joseph M. Marling C.P.P.S., July 7, 1957

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Bishop presents papal honors to deacons

By Jay Nies

Pope Francis has bestowed special honors on several deacons in the Jefferson City diocese, for having “rendered special service to the Christian Faith.”

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight recently presented Benemerenti Medals from the pope to Deacon John Hill, Deacon Dana Joyce, Deacon Turf Martin, Deacon David Miller and Deacon John Weaver during the June 7-9 gathering of the deacons of the diocese in Jefferson City.

The previous weekend, Monsignor Marion Makarewicz, dean of the North Deanery, presented on the bishop’s behalf a Benemerenti Medal to Deacon Kenneth Berry at Mass in St. Joseph Church in Edina.

“It’s always a pleasure to gather with our deacons,” said Bishop McKnight. “They and their spouses are wonderful examples of service in joy and

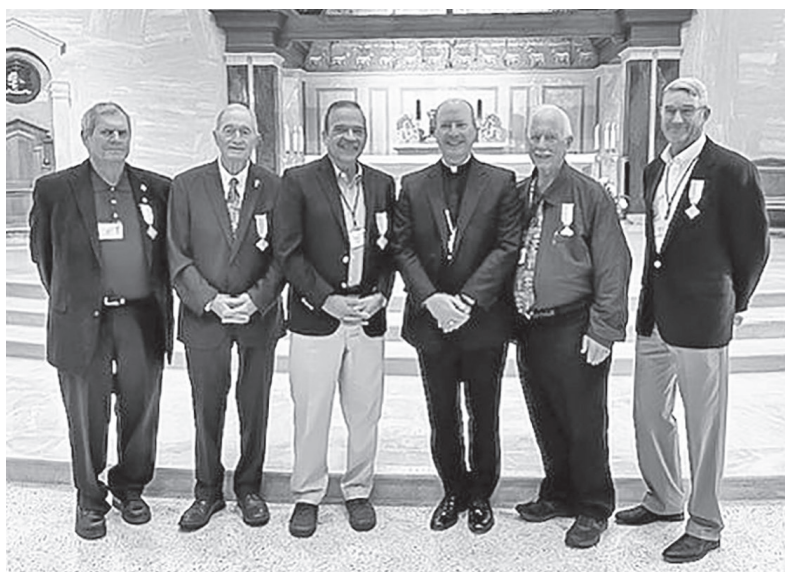
humility throughout our diocese.”

The bishop presented a Benemerenti Medal to Deacon Michael Brooks while celebrating Mass in the St. Boniface Chapel in Koeltztown June 3.

The papal honor, instituted by Pope Gregory XVI in 1832, is conferred to people “who have shown an active fidelity to and love for the Church,” for distinguished service to Catholic principles, the Church and society.

“Benemerenti” is Latin for “good merit.”

“His Holiness, Pope Francis, has seen fit to bestow a special papal award upon several deacons of our diocese, which



LEFT: Deacon John Weaver, Deacon David Miller, Deacon Dana Joyce, Deacon Turf Martin and Deacon John Hill join Bishop W. Shawn McKnight in the Cathedral of St. Joseph after he bestowed Benemerenti Medals, a special papal honor, on them June 8 during the annual deacons’ gathering in Jefferson City. **RIGHT:** Bishop McKnight bestows a Benemerenti Medal from the pope on Deacon Michael Brooks while celebrating Mass in the St. Boniface Chapel in Koeltztown on June 3.

— Photos from Bishop McKnight’s Facebook page



Pope says synodality should be ‘permanent way of acting’

Catholic News Service

Pope Francis said he hopes the spirit of openness and dialogue embodied in synodality remain the norm for the Catholic Church after the current Synod of Bishops comes to a close.

The pope told the moderators of Church movements June 13 that his hope is that “synodality remain as the permanent way of acting in the church at all levels, entering in the hearts of all pastors and faithful until it becomes a shared ecclesial style.”

He said humility and an openness to other people and ideas are “synodal virtues,” and he told participants that ecclesial movements are meant to be at the service of the church.

brings honor to all our deacons and, indeed, to our diocese as a whole,” said Bishop McKnight.

•Ordained in 1995, Deacon Berry is retired from assisting the pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Edina. He previously ministered in Baring, Ewing and Memphis. He has served as a liaison for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, as well as involvement with Cursillo and Residents Encounter Christ, spiritual director in the St. Vincent de Paul Society, parish and school leadership, on the confirmation team, a sponsor for those with chemical dependency, and many other routine ministries of a deacon.

•Ordained in 1985, Deacon Brooks assists the pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Rolla, working with ministry training of the laity, marriage preparation and annulments, and sacramental preparation. He has also served in various ministry roles for parishes in Cuba, Vienna, Argyle (and the Koeltztown chapel) and Brinktown, including roles of Parish Life Collaborator. He has served the University of Missouri-Rolla Newman Center and in roles of adult education and previously as principal for St. Patrick School in Rolla.

•Ordained in 2013, Deacon Hill has provided exceptional diaconal service at the Moberly Correctional Center, fostering a collaborative team ministry approach; he also teaches reli-

gion classes in the school, and is actively involved with the Hispanic liturgies at his parish of St. Pius X in Moberly.

•Ordained in 1999, Deacon Joyce, has served as the diocesan Communications Director, as interim President of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, and currently as the Personal Secretary of Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos, in addition to his ministerial duties here at the cathedral parish.

•Ordained in 2013, Deacon Martin is on the national board for Catholic Divorce Ministry and spearheads that ministry for our diocese. He serves as Chairman of the Board for CASA, a shelter for abused women and children, in the St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Pettis County.

•Ordained in 2013, Deacon Miller, although officially

retired from active diaconal ministry, still assists with prison ministry and substitutes for the pastor when a clerical presence is required.

•Ordained in 2002, Deacon Weaver serves in Hispanic Ministry, hospice care, nursing home ministry, homebound ministry, and serves as a Parish Life Collaborator of the St. Mary Parish in Milan and the Mission of St. Mary in Unionville.

The medal is worn over the chest, suspended by ribbons of the papal colors. It is a gold Greek cross depicting the image of Christ, his hand raised in blessing.

On the left of the transverse arm of the cross is a depiction of the tiara and crossed keys — symbols of the papacy.

This award is bestowed upon “those well deserving in Christian matters.”



Bishop McKnight’s Calendar

JUNE

June 21 Missouri Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee Meeting, 10 am, virtual

June 23 Diocesan Hispanic Heritage Mass, 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 1 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph

JULY

Appointments are not normally scheduled in the month of July.

July 5 Eucharistic Pilgrimage Mass with procession following, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 8 am, Jefferson City

July 12 Knights of Columbus State Council District Deputies Meeting Opening Mass, 4 pm, Columbia

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.

The Blazer gift that keeps giving

This is a firsthand recollection by a priest who has been serving as chaplain of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, home of the Trailblazers, since its founding in 2011:

By Father Michael Coleman

I was about to give the final blessing at the last all-school Mass in November, 2021 when Dr. Everett, our president and principal, stepped to the microphone and asked a couple of students to come forward.

It was the 40th anniversary of my priestly ordination, and the students presented me with a beautiful St. Louis Cardinals jersey.

On the back was inscribed "Father Mike 40." I was moved to tears.

Little did I know that this amazing gift would touch lives other than my own.

A few months later, I wore this beautiful jersey to a Cardinals game early in the 2022 season.

I was in the back row of the

bottom section. The Cardinals were trailing by a run in the seventh inning. The first two Cardinals reached base. The whole stadium crowd was on its feet cheering.

I felt a hand on my shoulder. I turned around and a young woman who looked to be in her early to mid-20s said to me, "I saw the back of your shirt, Are you a Catholic priest.?"

When I said I was, she asked if she could talk to me.

I climbed over my seat (quite ungracefully I admit) and followed her a few feet onto the concourse.

"Today is the one-year anniversary of my 4-month-old baby dying of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). Could you please pray with

me?"

I took her hand, and the Lord put a beautiful prayer on my heart to share with her.

The words just seemed to flow. I could just feel the Holy Spirit speaking through me.

When I finished praying, tears were streaming down her face.

She gave me a hug and said, "I have really struggled with my faith since my baby died. This morning, I prayed for a sign that my baby was with God and that he loved me. He sent me a priest at a Cardinal game. You have no idea how much this means to me."

As I walked to my seat, I had never felt more grateful to



Father Michael Coleman, a chaplain at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, displays the custom-made St. Louis Cardinals baseball jersey that students at the school gave to him for his 40th priestly anniversary in 2021.

and it could never have happened without such a beautiful gift from my beloved Blazers.

By the way, the Cardinals scored three runs in that inning and won the game 5-3.

I missed the rally, but I wouldn't have had it any other way.

Fr. Coleman is also pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Centralia.

Author to speak on staying focused on God despite grief, during luncheon at Laurie shrine

DATE: July 23
TIME: 11 am

By Jay Nies

Jennifer Hubbard remembers some advice she gave both of her children when they were learning to ride a bicycle.

"You steer where you stare." "For me, it's one of the things I've been learning over the past 12 years and, in retrospect, throughout my life," said Ms. Hubbard, award-winning

Catholic author, writer and speaker.

She will share firsthand insights on discovering hope in tragedy during a luncheon on Tuesday, July 23, at The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, in Laurie.

The luncheon will start at 11:30 a.m.

Seating is limited. Advance registration is required at mothersshrine.com.

"You Steer Where You Stare" will be the theme.

"It's sage advice," said Ms. Hubbard, who is also the president and executive director of the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary.

It is named for her 6-year-old daughter who died in 2012 in a mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, Connecticut.

"When I fix my focus on our Lord," Ms. Hubbard stated, "the world can be spinning out of control, but I'm always being carried through those seasons of suffering and trail.

"And I think sometimes, we have to check-in periodically, both in and out of those seasons of suffering and trail, on what we're staring at.

"Is our gaze fixed on disappointment — 'coulda' woulda' shoulda', blame, jealousy — or



Jennifer Hubbard

are we trusting that our Lord's plans for us are for our good?"

Freely responsible

Tickets for the luncheon are \$50 apiece; a limited number of free tickets are available for those who purchase one.

Participants will have the opportunity to buy a signed copy of Ms. Hubbard's book, *Finding Sanctuary*.

All proceeds will benefit The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church.

Ms. Hubbard is a national Catholic speaker and retreat leader and award-winning writer for the *Magnificat* Catholic devotional.

She has been a guest on a variety of national television shows, including "Today," CBS News, and ABC News.

She talked in a recent in-

terview about how people who encounter suffering can "have the freedom and the obligation to move forward in their life and live it with purpose and passion."

In her presentation in Laurie, she will testify to how she has embraced that freedom and obligation to find purpose and passion in her own life.

A willing heart

Ms. Hubbard is convinced that carving out time for this event will be a good investment for people in their spiritual health.

"There's so much talk these days about self-care and self-help and self-love, and it's important for us to include our heart and our faith in that," she said.

It will be an opportunity for people to consider where they stand right now in terms of their faith.

"You're not going to walk away with all the answers, and no one is going to have some big epiphany and complete faith transformation," she acknowledged.

"But you may hear something, you may experience stirrings, you may feel a move-

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XLT Adoration in the Cathedral — a time of Adoration and praise

Pastor preaches powerful message on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist

By Jay Nies

Newer rites of grace prevailed over more-common summer rituals on a sun-soaked evening in June.

More than 180 people, including many families with babies and young children, spent an hour in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, adoring Christ fully present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

It was the latest installment of the Cathedral parish's XLT Adoration.

"XLT" is an abbreviation for "Exult" — a time of prayer, praise and adoration.

Contemporary worship songs and medieval chants guided the bittersweet incense smoke aloft from the altar, where the Word Made Flesh was pleased to dwell in time and eternity.

Cathedral parishioners and visitors from surrounding parishes joined the young choir in raising their voices, knelt in silent prayer and listened to a surgically precise teaching by Father Stephen Jones, the pastor.

He spoke in anticipation of participants in the Eucharistic Pilgrimage bringing special opportunities for prayer, action and learning to the diocese (July 1-5) on their way to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, (July 16-21).

"The belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is deeply biblical," the priest told the assembly.

"And it is attested to in the

writings of the disciples," he said, "especially those who learned the faith from the Apostle John — people like St. Ignatius of Antioch and St. Polycarp of Smyrna."

Fourteen years ago, Fr. Jones resigned his post as an ordained pastor in another Christian ecclesial community and became Catholic because he had come to believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

He stated that for the first 15 centuries since Christ walked the earth, no Christian would have dared to consider substituting another service or liturgy for the Holy Eucharist on a Sunday.

"Yet, today, significant numbers of our brothers and

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.

sisters in other Christian ecclesial communities have no concept of the Holy Eucharist," Fr. Jones noted. "And those that do, certainly do not understand it in the way the earliest Christians did."

Even among Catholics, for whom the Eucharist is identified as the source and summit of the Christian life, there are many who do not believe or understand the truth the Church



Father Stephen Jones, pastor, joins about 180 parishioners and visitors on a recent June evening for XLT Adoration in the Cathedral of St. Joseph. The monthly event often attracts many young families to spend time with the Lord. This time, in anticipation of upcoming events in the diocese, Fr. Jones shared a passionate message about Christ fully present in the Eucharist, and why it matters.

— Photo by Jay Nies

upholds about the Eucharist.

"So, here, in the Eucharistic presence of our Lord, I want to talk to you about the 'how' and the 'why' of what we believe about the Holy Eucharist," said Fr. Jones.

"So that hopefully, we can all grow in understanding and in love with the Lord," he said.

With one accord

The Eucharistic Revival seemed in full force in the pews

under the Cathedral's crown-shaped roof.

The median age of the XLT adorers was likely below 35, possibly 30.

The prevailing mode of dress was casual but modest.

The young people were mostly silent, although a few spoke up from time to time. No one minded.

Most of the songs had familiar refrains and could be learned and sung by heart.

People lined up to receive

the Sacrament of Confession under the stained-glass window depicting the moment Jesus's friends recognized him in the breaking of the bread.

Bread from heaven

"The Scriptures are clear," Fr. Jones proclaimed from the ambo. "The Church from the very beginning was Eucharistic."

"It revolved around the Breaking of Bread and he proclaimed that Jesus was made known in a very real and tangible way in and through that act," he said.

He called to mind what Jesus, after miraculously feeding the 5,000, said to those who followed him across the Sea of Galilee to

Capernaum.

There, as recorded in John, Chapter 6, Jesus referred to himself emphatically as the "the Bread of Life" and "the Bread Come Down from Heaven."

Jesus insisted that this bread of everlasting life is his true flesh and his true blood: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day."

Jesus's followers, who were

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Montgomery City native Sr. Rosemary Brueggen notes 60 years as a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet

By Jay Nies

Montgomery City native Sister Rosemary Brueggen has always loved Creation and working with people.

That's how God led her into consecrated religious life as a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ) 60 years ago.

"For me, it means I've been specially chosen, and I hope that I am living up to that having-been-chosen," she said.

"I think I am," she added.

Now engaged in a ministry of prayer and presence at the Nazareth Living Center at the CSJ motherhouse in St. Louis, Sr. Rosemary recently noted her diamond jubilee with fellow residents, and will take part in a congregation-wide celebration of jubilarians on Aug. 6.

Her roots are in the country.

Born in Sedalia, Sr. Rosemary moved with her family a short time later and grew up on a farm just outside Montgomery City.

She is the oldest of 10 siblings — seven girls and three boys.

"It was fun on the farm!" Sr. Rosemary recently recalled. "There was lots of hard work, because we planted just about everything we ate."

"I loved it!" she said. "I was really enjoying life!"

She started first grade at Immaculate Conception School in Montgomery City around the time the current school building was completed in 1950.

Her parents, eventually having children in almost every grade at the school, got close to all the teachers, including Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

There wasn't a Catholic high school in Montgomery County, so the Brueggens sent their daughters to Mercy High School, a Catholic co-ed high school just outside of St. Louis.

That's where one of Sr. Rosemary's sisters, Agnes, became acquainted with the Sisters of Mercy. She entered that congregation in 1965.

Meanwhile, Sr. Rosemary developed a strong bond with the sisters that taught her in grade school — the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Originally established on the Missouri frontier nearly 200 years ago, CSJ became known for educating children, including those with hearing impairments, and serving people in need in surrounding communities.

"I certainly felt the call," said Sr. Rosemary. "I remember saying to Mom and Dad, 'Would it be okay if I become a sister?'"

The answer was an overwhelming yes — if that's what she thought God was calling her to be.

"And here we are, 60 years later," she said.

A few of the many

Not all of Sr. Rosemary's siblings and friends knew what to make of her decision.

"I don't think they even knew what I was doing," she recalled. "I wasn't even all that sure of what I was doing myself! That came later."

She entered CSJ in 1963 as a postulant and was received into the novitiate the following year.

There were 53 girls in her postulant class. Many of them discerned other callings in the Church before the next stage, known as novitiate.

Of those who remained, 10 are celebrating their jubilee this year.

"One of us has been missioned in Peru for many years and just loves it," Sr. Rosemary noted. "The rest of us are serving in various colleges and high schools and grade schools and parishes and other ministries."

Before the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, most religious sisters were given a new name upon being formally received into religious life.

Sr. Rosemary asked for and received the name of both of her parents, becoming Sister Margaret Raymond.

Several years later, the CSJs were given the option of returning to their baptismal names.

"And a lot of us did, but a few kept the religious names they had chosen," Sr. Rosemary noted.

She has little doubt about the course her life would have taken if God had not called her to religious life.

"I think I would have made

a good housewife and mother," she said. "I loved to be on the farm and do farming things like gardening and keeping the house clean."

She learned a lot from her mother, who for years prepared meals for a large family.

"As I think about it, I wonder how she did it all," said Sr. Rosemary. "She'd do the laundry and we'd help her put it on the wash line and bring it in and fold it and put it where it goes."

"If something needed mending, you put it on the mending pile," Sr. Rosemary recalled. "We had a treadle sewing machine. I learned how to mend everything that was stacked on the dryer."

Some items, like her Dad's overalls, were an easy fix. Others were quite a bit more complicated.

Behind the veil

The postulancy and novitiate were a time of pulling away from family life for the sisters and drawing closer to God through their former and fellow discerners in the community.

"We were pretty much isolated, but we did get to see our families once or twice a year," Sr. Rosemary recalled.

"It was always a big deal when they came for visit," she said. "We'd have time to spend with them and be out in the yard if we wanted to."

The girls and their families would sprawl out into the manicured grounds overlooking the Mississippi River.

"And when the excursion boats headed down the river, we'd hear the music," she said. "We always told visitors, 'They're playing the calliope for the Sisters of St. Joseph!'"

Sr. Rosemary missed her family and the bucolic days on the farm, but she never felt an overwhelming desire to leave formation and go back home.

She remembers the day she professed religious vows in the community — promising to live the rest of her life in chastity, communal ownership of



Sister Rosemary Brueggen CSJ

property, and holy obedience — and received her religious habit.

This took place in the glow of the magnificent mosaics in the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis.

Two people apiece helped each sister put on her habit and cut her hair in the Cathedral undercroft.

"I had long, long red hair that I kept in a ponytail all through high school," Sr. Rosemary recalled. "And they cut it short because you can't take care of all that. It would have been a lot to put under the veil and cornet and have it look presentable."

Staying busy

These past 60 years have brought an impressively diverse slate of ministries and activities to Sr. Rosemary's vigorous spirit.

She said her superiors were good at letting the sisters move into new lines of ministry before they got burned out or complacent.

She completed a bachelor's degree in deaf education from what is now Fontbonne University in St. Louis in 1968.

She then served for 13 years as a primary educator to children with hearing impairments at St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis.

She also served as recreation assistant director, houseparent, receptionist and resident

flight coordinator at the school.

In 1981, she entered the next phase of her religious life as a dietary aide at the Nazareth Living Center, a retirement community for her fellow CSJs.

She then served as a teacher's assistant at St. Joseph's Educational Childcare Center from 1989 until 1991.

She then served in geriatric care as an assistant manager at Manresa House and then at St. Elizabeth Hall as an activities director until 1997. Both are in St. Louis.

Sister Rosemary then worked at Walter Knoll Florist for five years as an arranger and greenhouse caretaker.

From 2002 until 2007, she served as assistant activities director and receptionist at the Mary Ryder Home senior care for women; as the receptionist at The Charles Home, a senior care facility; and as a service partner in the dietary department of Mercy Hospital and the Sisters of Mercy/Catherine Residence.

She then worked at Nazareth Living Center, serving the sister residents of her CSJ community, until her retirement in 2019.

Since then, she has resided at the Nazareth Living Center, carrying out her mission of prayer and presence.

"That's certainly different for me because I'm such an active person," she noted. "But taking time to rest and setting aside time just for prayer is always good."

She's been passionate all through her life about doing things for others.

She noted that over time, she's learned to know and live better within her limits.

Leaning on God

God continues to draw Sr. Rosemary to himself in a special way through the time she spends outdoors.

"I love to get out!" she stated. "And we have the opportunities and privilege to do that."

See SR. ROSEMARY, page 10

Helias Catholic H.S. breaks ground on campus expansion



Members of the Helias Catholic High School Marching Band (left) help set the mood June 3 as (right) 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 break ground before an exuberant assembly for additions to Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City. The school's Spirit of Excellence project will complete the school's 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.

— Photos by Rebecca Martin

By Rebecca Martin

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and Erin Vader Ed.D., diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools, joined a distinguished slate of dignitaries and school representatives for the groundbreaking ceremony for Helias Catholic High School's *Spirit of Excellence* project to complete the school's campus master plan.

"The work we are beginning today should enliven our faith and make us grateful," Bishop McKnight stated.

The *Spirit of Excellence* project will bring all school facilities onto Helias Catholic's central campus with a new performing arts center, baseball and softball complex, and addition to the existing Rackers Fieldhouse.

"As Helias Catholic has grown over the years — both in size and in what it offers to help students develop academically, spiritually and personally — generations of school leaders and members of our community have advanced the vision for what our school can be," Helias Catholic President Ron Vossen told community members gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking.

"Now, standing underneath a part of our school building that didn't exist 10 years ago and in view of what used to be fondly referred to as 'the practice field,' we're standing where the new baseball/softball plaza will be, looking at what will be a changed landscape for likely the final time in our school's history," he stated.

"For anyone who knows the words to our school's alma mater by heart, you understand what I mean when I say that we are truly marching onward together!" he said.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, Abigail Flippin, of The Architects Alliance and the Helias Catholic Class of 2007, and Jeff Wilson, of Sircal Construction, and the Helias Catholic Class of 1992, discussed details of the project.

Visible construction work is expected to take place as soon as July and to be completed in the summer of 2026.

During the ceremony, Bishop McKnight and Dr. Vader recognized Mr. Vossen for his 45 years of service to Helias Catholic.

In the closing prayer, Bishop McKnight asked God

to "grant that the work we begin may serve to better our lives and, through Your goodness, contribute to the spread of the Kingdom of Christ."

For more information and to support the Spirit of

Excellence campaign, please visit heliascatholic.com/spiritofexcellence or contact Helias Catholic President Ron Vossen at rvossen@heliascatholic.com or 573-635-6139.

Fun in and out of the sun



Members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia gather for their annual parish picnic after Mass in their recently completed parish pavilion the evening of June 13. More photos will be posted under "Multimedia" in *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition at cathmo.com.

— Photos by Richard Riley



QUESTION CORNER

When does a marriage 'lack proper form,' and can a lay person perform intinction?

By Jenna Marie Cooper
OSV News

Q: A divorced, annulled Catholic friend of mine recently got engaged to another divorced Catholic, who said her previous marriage was ruled "lacks proper form" by the Church. What does this mean? Are they able to marry in the Catholic Church? (Indiana)



A: Even as a canon lawyer, it's impossible to draw firm conclusions about another person's canonical marriage situation based on a secondhand account and without knowing all the details. Still, it sounds like the marriage in question was invalid due to what we would technically call a "lack of canonical form."

Catholics, and only Catholics, are bound to observe "canonical form" in marriage as per Canon 1108 of the Code of Canon Law. Essentially, this means that Catholics are required to be married in a Catholic context, saying their wedding vows and exchanging matrimonial consent in the presence of two witnesses and a properly authorized Catholic bishop, priest or deacon.

If a Catholic marries outside of canonical form — for example, if they married in a courthouse or even in a non-Catholic religious ceremony — this is not only illicit (that is, against canon law) but also invalid (meaning that the wedding simply wouldn't "work").

In some cases, depending on specific pastoral needs, it may be possible for a Catholic to receive a "dispensation from canonical form," or special permission from the bishop, to marry a non-Catholic in a non-Catholic ceremony.

It's also important to note that if someone becomes Catholic at any point in his or her life, even if they fall away from the Church, he or she is always considered Catholic in canon law. This means that a baptized Catholic who no longer actively practices the faith would still be bound to observe canonical form in their wedding.

So if a Catholic — practicing or not — attempts to marry in a non-Catholic ceremony without a dispensation, this marriage would be invalid in a very objective, clear-cut way. Other causes of marriage nullity, like certain psychological issues or a lack of proper intention, are generally less obvious and more nuanced. This is why a marriage can be declared invalid due to lack of form much more quickly and easily than a typical marriage nullity process.

Presuming there are no other impediments, a Catholic who had his or her marriage declared invalid due to lack of form would indeed be free to marry in the Catholic Church.

Q: May a Catholic lay person perform self-intinction using the consecrated host in the precious blood? (Rhode Island)

A: No, self-intinction is not permitted for a lay person.

Intinction is a well-established, albeit relatively less common, way of receiving Holy Communion under both kinds. As paragraph 245 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* tells us: "The Blood of the Lord may be consumed either by drinking from the chalice directly, or by intinction."

This same idea is reiterated in the U.S. bishops' 2002 document "Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion under Both Kinds in the Dioceses of the United States of America." However, in paragraph 50, the U.S. bishops' document explicitly states: "The communicant, including the extraordinary minister, is never allowed to self-communicate, even by means of intinction. Communion under either form, bread or wine, must always be given by an ordinary or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion." Extraordinary ministers are by definition layper-

See QUESTION, page 18



Papal Audience

June 19, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters:

Today we continue our catechesis on the Holy Spirit, who teaches the Church, as the Bride of Christ, how to pray. For our symphony of prayer in preparation for the upcoming Jubilee, we turn to the poetry of the

Psalms, just as that great "orchestra," the communion of saints, has done since the Church's earliest days. The Psalms express every movement of this symphony and echo every sentiment of our hearts in words that often convey wonder, grief, and hope. The more frequently we repeat these inspired prayers, the stronger and more effective they become. May the Holy Spirit enrich our prayer with this gift, and in so doing, empower us to give voice to all creation, involving it in our praise.

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

Ducks in a row

Please meet Father Ducky and Saint Bernaduck, shown here in the hands of Father Benjamin Nwosu, pastor of St. Bernadette Parish in Hermitage, St. Ann Parish in Warsaw and the Mission of Ss. Peter and Paul in Cole Camp. Each year the Pomme de Terre Lake Area Chamber of Commerce hosts a Duck Race on the river below the dam during the Fourth of July Celebration. Local businesses purchase a rubber duck and decorate them as creatively and stylish as they desire. This year, St. Bernadette Parish joined in and purchased a duck, and a parishioner donated another one. Parishioners Linda Lewis, Jane Klenke and the Carters designed and decorated the pair. The ducks received a special blessing from Fr. Nwosu at the Saturday Vigil Mass June 15 in St. Bernadette Church. "We know they will do well in the race because they will have help from up above," a parishioner stated.



Meeting Jesus at midnight or in the wee small hours

By Elizabeth Scalia
OSV News



We all have them, those desperate times, particularly in the wee small hours of the morning, when illness or anxiety pulls us up from our beds and down to our knees, or keeps us on our feet, pacing the floor as we seek relief from physical or mental or spiritual aches and ailments.

Sometimes, we wish we could awaken the whole household, begging our families to supply the sort of immediate solace we need. But we don't do it. They need their sleep, after all.

What do you do in those times? Do you find yourself longing for a mother's presence, and thus pick up your rosary? Do you warm up some milk, light a candle and open the Scriptures?

Sometimes, in those hours of silent

suffering — especially if my affliction is some mental anguish I cannot push away — I will seek out the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, which is easier to do today than it was 20 years ago.

I recall a particular night when old ghosts and new torments were trampling heart and mind, preventing rest. Not wishing to disturb my family, I drove to a local parish. There, I stood at a side door, gazing through a small window at the tabernacle within, visible only by the light of the candle beside it (the reassuring sign that Christ was there).

I simply watched the flame flicker, and adored. I asked Jesus if I might stay there — not exactly at his feet but as near as I might — and take my consolation from his boundless and supernatural presence.

It was by no means an ideal situation, and yet as I stood there, consolation did in fact come.

On those chilly steps, a true "peace surpassing all understanding" (Phil. 4:7) settled upon me like a healing balm. Despite my limited view, Christ transcend-

ed the tabernacle and every material and spiritual obstacle between us and let me feel not just seen but recognized, not just heard but understood.

Mostly, I felt loved beyond my own comprehension of intimacy and acceptance.

I hated leaving, but when I did, all the doubts, all the fears I'd been entertaining — all the great wreckage of my heart — stayed behind, with Jesus. I went home, having learned the valuable truth that everything is known, and that we are none of us alone.

And I slept.

In 2024, it's much easier to find Christ, present and exposed in a monstrance, no matter the day or the hour.

One need no longer hold a cold and lonely vigil at a locked door because — thanks to what used to be called "new media" — monasteries and diocesan adoration chapels from all over the world

maintain live streams of the Blessed Sacrament for remote adoration, whereby the energy of the Christ is transmitted through energy both housed and in the ether, to encounter our own.

This is a particular boon to the incarcerated or the infirm, of course, but sitting before a streamed monstrance can offer a powerful bit of succor to anyone's day.

Recently I saw a brief video of a pastor in Stratford, Connecticut, who, during the isolating lockdowns of 2020, installed what he called a "drive-up adoration window."

"I was coming out of my rectory chapel in March of 2020," he explains, "and I looked to the right and I saw that I have this entranceway but next to it is this glass panel. And I got to thinking, 'I could set up an Adoration window, here. Jesus

See SCALIA, page 19

Clergy abuse: You are the antidote

By Teresa Pitt Green
OSV News

Each time another scandal related to sexual abuse erupts in the Roman Catholic Church, I find myself wondering: How many more people are being set adrift from our faith?

How many others are being reconfirmed in their alienation from the sacraments?

The refuge to which these Catholics escaped I know well.

It was where I fled while my abusers continued to enjoy sanctuary in the church, under cover of enablers who overlooked evil for expediency's sake, rationalizing inexplicably a failure to protect victims from further abuse in the House of the Lord.

Yet without my faith, my healing would have been impossible. Nothing reveals the dimensions of the human person like abuse.

A single act can inflict lifelong wounds on so many personal dimensions, including our hearts, minds, bodies, spirits and relationships. No single discipline can suffice in response.

Only in relationship with the Creator of our complex humanity can we integrate all the ways we heal and find a full, new life. Only in the footsteps of my Savior do I find purpose in all the suffering — and grace to respond to its broadly causal evil.

Some might say my view denies the importance of psychotherapy. To them I say that therapy can play a critical role, but it is limited by the lens of its medical model and sees only pathology.

It cannot account for evil and the ef-

fects of sin. Predominantly secular therapeutic schools tend to see faith as a source of comfort but not of identity.

They also cannot incorporate a Trinitarian reality, so therapy works with a blind spot toward healing in relationship with God. In the best care, then, we are often left to wonder who we are and to underestimate who God is.

Some might say my view diminishes the role of litigation in helping survivors heal. To them I say that the benefit of lawsuits is inarguable by bringing abuse to light and driving reforms and an institutional culture shift.

Yet justice in the courts is mostly delivered in monetary terms — with all the complications that involves — and the legal process re-traumatizes victims. This barely addresses an existential thirst for justice. Personally, I needed something more.

I needed a way back to the sanctuary of God. Historic abuses were a grave impasse, but so was contemporary complacency. I could not find fault with Catholics for resisting the sordid reality of abuse when their own lives may have been spared the test.

Victims do not have that luxury, and this brings us back to questions like, who can make the sanctuary safe enough for someone to experience the triumph of Jesus over the evil unleashed in our young lives?

Where childhood lies dead in a web of lies spoken by abusers and their enablers, adulthood can continue to falter until we find the one Word who does not lie. We

See PITT GREEN, page 19

REFLECTION

The apple and the tree

By Mark Saucier

I wish I knew her better.

She was a peripheral friend — a fellow parishioner, someone I'd always say hello to, but never really got beyond the surface.

Perhaps if I had known she would die at 40, maybe I would have taken the time. But she did, and I didn't.

My wife and some of the kids knew her better than I, and so there we were at another funeral for a woman who faithfully departed far too young.

There was a visitation before the Mass. Her mother was next to her daughter's casket.

Incredibly close in life, death had failed to separate the two.

The line was long, and as we inched forward, I watched as this grieving mother hugged and smiled, nodded and whispered to everyone who awkwardly tried to express condolence.

She may well have given more comfort than she received.

I marveled at this woman. She had already buried her husband and their other child. I would have been an emotional ruin of blather and tears, but here she stood strong and courageous in her life-giving faith and undying love.

Reaching the casket, I was shocked to see what remained after her daughter's final days. She looked small and waxen.

But why shouldn't she? She had given her all, not just after she was diagnosed with a brain tumor, but her daily way.

Giving all defined her. And now, the spirit that fired that life was gone.

Maybe that's the way you should look if you live from the soul and then that soul leaves your body.

When it was our turn, I said to her mother, pointing to the already packed church, "I know it doesn't relieve the pain, but this is an amazing testament to the sheer number of lives she touched."

Looking beyond me, she responded, "Yes."

Yes, it was amazing and, yes, it doesn't relieve the pain.

Later, looking around the church, I was struck by the spectrum of those who came to mourn a loss and celebrate a life.

There were little kids and people far older than I. There were family, co-workers, high school classmates and a whole menagerie of friends gathered from many sources.

The homily gave hope and the eulogy tribute, but it was the crowd that spoke the loudest.

She wasn't a prominent person, held no elevated position, wielded no power. But she filled a church.

It's consoling in these tribal times, that so many people recognize simple goodness.

Encounter

Charity and Mercy Grants

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



By Deacon Lou Leonatti

As a board member of Catholic Charities, it is a privilege to share with you the positive impact of our Charity and Mercy Grants.

These grants support local parishes' Social Ministry Commissions to address diverse needs in their communities, especially for the vulnerable, regardless of faith affiliation.

Applicants can conveniently and easily apply for grants up to \$5,000 online through Catholic Charities' website.

Here are some examples of the positive impact of grants in churches across our diocese.

My home parish, St. Brendan in Mexico is one of the churches that has benefited from this financial assistance several times and has made a significant difference.

Our first grant was through our St. Vincent de Paul chapter.

When several Vincentians met with school counselors, we learned about our homeless student population and the number of youngsters who were "couch surfers."

There was a need for beds.

With the help of a local business, we purchased new

mattresses, box springs, bed frames, pillows, and linens.

This helped jump-start a program that now provides over 100 students and their parents with a place to sleep.

I will never forget the smile and joy on a little 4-year-old's face when he saw his new bed.

Grown men can cry!

Our second grant met an immediate need in our community when our hospital closed.

The hospital had not paid wages to many employees for over 30 days, and it had let their health insurance lapse.

When Bishop McKnight called me to ask how Catholic Charities could help, we learned that several people were diabetic and could not afford to pay for their insulin.

Thanks to a grant, we paid for insulin bills and provided crucial support during a time of extreme necessity.

Our third grant assisted a Room at the Inn program.

When a medical office building became mostly vacant, our parish saw an opportunity to create a cold-weather shelter.

A Charity and Mercy Grant helped secure a water heater



and stove, transforming the building into a warm and welcoming haven for the homeless.

Our story is mirrored in parishes across the diocese.

St. Mary Parish in Shelby is embracing change and new possibilities even in the absence of a resident pastor.

With an empty rectory on their grounds, the parish community came together with a vision to transform this space

into transitional housing.

Their proactive plan was met with support through a Charity and Mercy Grant, facilitating the conversion.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish

in Sedalia initiated a breakfast program to support the homeless during the winter season.

Catholic Charities recognized and aided their pursuit of providing warmth and sustenance through this grant program.

St. Peter Parish in Fulton is assisting a ministerial alliance program to provide a warm lunch for those in need.

The funds awarded will provide essential kitchen appliances to aid their mission.

The initiatives highlighted here represent just a glimpse of the profound difference that the Charity and Mercy Grants from Catholic Charities are making within our diocese.

Our aim is to strengthen the hands of each local parish, enabling them to extend their services to those who need it most.

Please join us in this Mission of Mercy.

God Bless!

SR. ROSEMARY

From page 6

She enjoys helping tend the garden at the Nazareth Living Center and spending quality time with her fellow residents there.

"Just sitting with someone and talking with them or listening to them," she said.

"And sometimes, reading short stories out loud that I find in different magazines. I enjoy doing all those things, and I think they are appreciated."

She's grateful to God for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet for supporting her in her vocation, and for the home and responsibilities she has in the Nazareth Living Center community.

In keeping with her first 60 years of religious life, she's very comfortable not knowing what the future holds.

"I know I'm ready and willing to handle whatever it is, so long as the Lord gives me the strength and grace to do that," she said.

"And that is exactly what he's already been doing."

She asks for prayers for health and strength as she works toward full recovery from recent hip surgery.

She also requests prayers for her to remain engaged in activities that keep her healthy and in tune to God's continuing guidance.

Mindful that religious life has changed profoundly in the past six decades, she offers special prayers for the men and women who are being called to such a vocation.

"If that's you, I suggest you start by praying about it," she stated.

"Also, talk to people who you know can guide you through making those choices," she said. "And maybe come and try to live it to the best of your ability."

She cautioned against thinking everything will fall into place right away.

"No, it actually comes with years of growth," she said. "I'm 60 years in, and it's still happening for me."

Enjoy the silence



Men from Our Lady of Lourdes, Sacred Heart and St. Thomas More Newman Center parishes in Columbia gather on the grounds of the White House Jesuit Retreat in St. Louis during a silent retreat from June 6-9. They include: (first row) Michael Leyden, Rodney Massman, Fred Juettner, Austin Stewart, Coach Bill Busch, Dan Kliethermes, (second row) Tony Lupo, Ed Portell, Matt Broniec, David McGowan, Joe Camille, James Benson, Mike O'Rourke (third row) Robert Rogers, Mehdi Masjedi, Ronald Atkins and Larry Fick.

— Photo by Rodney Massman

Diocese of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, asks police to investigate possible cover-up of staff criminal record

By Gina Christian
OSV News

A Pennsylvania diocese has asked police to investigate after parish staff — overseen by a beloved pastor — possibly concealed a now-former employee's criminal record, which includes a recent arrest on charges involving sexual offenses against a minor, as well as charges dating back to 2001-2002 for lewdness, indecent exposure and drug possession.

Bishop Larry J. Kulick of Greensburg has sought the Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, Detective Bureau's help in determining whether employees at two affiliated parishes — St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in North Huntingdon and Immaculate Conception in Irwin — conspired to hide glaring disqualifications for safe environment clearance for Shon M. Harrity of North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

The move was announced in a statement issued by the diocese May 28, which also noted that Father John A. Moineau has resigned effective immediately as pastor of both St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Immaculate Conception "for the good of the parishes," the statement said, and he also will begin medical leave June 17.

In the summer of 2021, the popular priest announced he had been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer that had spread to his liver and caused a blood clot in his abdomen.

Three unspecified employees from both parishes will be placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of the county detectives' investigation, said the diocese.

In addition, Bishop Kulick has opened a required preliminary investigation under canon law to assess whether the case demonstrated culpable negligence for actions or omissions resulting in harm or scandal.

The 47-year-old Harrity, who until recently had worked as a groundskeeper at Immaculate Conception Parish Cemetery, was arrested May 8 by North Huntingdon police on multiple charges including rape, sexual and indecent assault, and other sexual offenses against a minor.

He is set to be arraigned June 19 in Westmoreland County (Pennsylvania) Court, and was released from custody after posting bail May 28.

Cemetery director Jerry Kunkle told OSV News he was "crushed" and "shocked" by news of Harrity's recent arrest, describing his former employee as a "good worker" and a "good person."

"I can usually read people pretty good, but this one was well hid from me," said Kunkle.

Harrity's attorney, Patrick J. Thomassey, explained to OSV News that the eight felony and three misdemeanor charges against his client involve a minor and relate to alleged offenses committed in January 2022. Thomassey said that Harrity has returned home after posting bail.

Both the diocese and Melanie Jones, public information officer for the Westmoreland County District Attorney's office, confirmed to OSV News that the charges against Harrity relate to incidents that allegedly took place off site from the parish, which is served by a regional Catholic school located in Irwin.

However, Bishop Kulick said in the diocesan statement that he was "outraged" Harrity had been employed by the two parishes since 2012, as Harrity had "a criminal record ... that should have automatically disqualified him from employment around children."

Harrity had served prison time and received probation after pleading guilty to a string of offenses between 2001 and 2002 that included indecent exposure, lewdness, disorderly conduct, driving under the influence, marijuana possession, fraud and forgery.

It is unclear why such charges were not initially flagged when he began work at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in 2012, given that the U.S. bishops began establishing safe environment programs after 2002 with the adoption of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

Pennsylvania's Criminal History Record Information Act, which took effect in 1980, specified the ways in which

employers could use criminal history in making hiring decisions, attesting to a longstanding practice of vetting potential employees.

But an FBI fingerprint check that pulled up the 2001-2002 charges "clearly disqualified" Harrity when he went to transfer from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton to Immaculate Conception Parish Cemetery, said the diocese in its statement.

Although that file "was sent by electronic mail" during Harrity's 2023 move to Immaculate Conception, the safe environment coordinator at that parish "did not flag the file," said the diocese, adding that an audit conducted last week revealed "several required clearance documents were missing from the file."

Despite that gap, Fr. Moineau had "previously attested to the validity of all clearances in his parishes, signing a letter to the Bishop that he personally reviewed them," said the diocese.

"I am beyond disappointed that our tireless efforts to raise the bar on safe environment training, required clearances and transparency were blatantly disregarded," said Bishop Kulick in the diocesan statement. "This is exactly why we assign a safe environment coordinator in every parish and every school and every administrative office in the Diocese of Greensburg."

He said that Fr. Moineau is "deeply remorseful" and has acknowledged his failure of oversight.

At the time of his 2020 appointment to the diocese, Bishop Kulick pledged to "work tirelessly" to implement and refine safe environment protocols in the wake of a devastating 2018 Pennsylvania

grand jury report that detailed extensive clerical sex abuse and cover-up in six of the state's dioceses, including Greensburg.

trative errors," Bishop Kulick said in the statement.

While state law requires updated clearances every five years, "I won't wait that long," he said. "From this point forward, any employee or volunteer who is transferring positions between offices, parishes or schools will be required to renew their clearances and trainings, even if the documents are current."

"My prayers are with the victim and those impacted by the heinous acts alleged to have taken place," said Bishop Kulick in the diocesan statement, noting that with the measures he has taken to address the situation will likely invite criticism.

"I may live the rest of my life as the Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg who asked one of our most popular and beloved priests to resign," said Bishop Kulick. "But I have a responsibility to the people of this diocese. I will not hide our mistakes. And I will root out any and all potential risks to the safety of children."

Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News.


"I have a responsibility to the people of this diocese. I will not hide our mistakes. And I will root out any and all potential risks to the safety of children."


— Bishop Larry J. Kulick of Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Now, Bishop Kulick said he plans to "implement additional safeguards," and has ordered "all priests and administrators ... to personally review each employee and volunteer file in their parishes" within the next seven days, along with their required annual review of the files.

Over the summer, the diocesan human resources office will conduct a separate audit of clearances in all of its 78 parishes and 12 Catholic schools, said the bishop, who also added mandatory sessions for safe environment training for all clergy and all employees.

"Pastors and safe environment coordinators will receive a personal message from me: after these trainings, I will assure them, they will be held accountable for any adminis-


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Spring Cursillos held at St. Anthony Parish in Camdenton

By John Keener and Lisa Berendzen

The Jefferson City diocese Cursillo movement held spring 2024 weekends at St. Anthony Parish in Camdenton.

Men's Weekend #73 was held April 25-28.

Women's Weekend #81 was held a week later on May 2-5.

The men's weekend included six candidates, representing four parishes in the diocese: Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, St. Anthony Parish in Camdenton, Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark, and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia.

The Holy Spirit was at work in a powerful way the entire weekend.

"It was inspiring to see the team and candidates support each other and lift up the Holy Spirit," said rector John Keener. "His graces were truly poured

out on our Cursillo weekend."

The team of 10 men, including Father Donald Antweiler and Deacon Bill Seibert, shared talks and experiences.

Interestingly, half of the

team for this Cursillo was made up of converts to the Catholic faith.

"The Cursillo weekend continues to be powerful," said Deacon Seibert. "It's an experi-

ence that causes both candidates and team members to grow in their faith and relationship with Christ our Savior."

included 11 candidates representing eight parishes: Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Boonville; Our Lady of Lourdes

The women's weekend

See CURSILLO, page 19



LEFT: (Front row) Tim Danze, Deacon William Seibert, Father Donald Antweiler, candidate Bob Raeth; (second row) candidate Ken Livingston, candidate Brian Harrison, Bill Yarbrough; (third row) candidate Scott Thrasher, Brian Allen, Luis Occena; (fourth row) candidate Jason Otke, Marvin Twenter, candidate Jay Bukalski; and (fifth row) Tim Terry, Bob Riebold and John Keener take part in Cursillo Men's Weekend #73 April 25-28. **RIGHT:** (First row) candidate Joy Corwin, candidate Roxane Bly, candidate Ferminia Belmares, Janet Brown, candidate Shari Brown; (second row) candidate Devon Lindstrom, Rachelle Seibert, Debra Johnson, Kathy Occena, candidate Barbara Gruner; (third row) candidate Grace Meers, Diana Jones, candidate Janet Hufnagel Thompson, candidate Carol Schwartz, candidate Julie Mercurio, Father Paul Clark; (fourth row) Karen Terry, Deacon Mark Aulbur, Michelle Schwartz, candidate Jean Williams, Lisa Berendzen and Rachel Boss take part in Cursillo Women's Weekend #81 on May 2-5.

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DIOCESE OF
Jefferson City

A Blessing for the future: St. Robert Bellarmine honors graduating seniors

By Annalisa Bone

Members of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish came together April 7 to honor and celebrate its 12 graduating seniors with a dedicated Mass, followed by a fellowship meal.

As part of this special occasion, the Altar and Rosary Society presented the seniors with thoughtfully assembled Graduation Kits to support and recognize their journey into the next chapter of their lives.

Each kit included snacks and drink mixes for enjoyment, as well as office supplies for the seniors' future academic and professional journeys.

To provide spiritual support, the kits contained a crucifix, a handmade rosary, and a vial of Holy Water, all of which were blessed by Father Michael Murphy, pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish and of St. Jude Parish in Richland.

The presentation of these



Father Michael Murphy, pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in St. Robert and St. Jude Parish in Richland, blesses graduating seniors and the Graduation Kits they received from the St. Robert Bellarmine Altar and Rosary Society during a special Mass April 7 in St. Robert Bellarmine Church.



— Photos by Annalisa Bone

kits was a touching moment during Mass, reflecting the community's deep appreciation for the accomplishments

of its young members.

Following Mass, seniors and their families joined the congregation for a fellowship

meal, sharing in a joyous celebration of faith and friendship.

These Graduation Kits represent more than just a gift;

they are a token of the Altar and Rosary Society's love and care for young people of the parish.

"As they embark on their new paths, we hope these kits will bring them comfort and strength, reminding them of their roots at St. Robert Bellarmine," a member of the society stated.

Annalisa Bone is a member of St. Robert Bellarmine parish.

Society honors men on St. Joseph's feast day

By Mary Spencer

The St. Robert Bellarmine Altar and Rosary Society honored men of the parish on March 19.

St. Joseph was chosen as the ideal model of positive masculinity in his role of protector and guide to the Blessed Mother and our savior Jesus Christ.

Speaker Mickey Letcher highlighted the fact that these virtues are eminently portrayed in the men of the parish and a special thanks was extended to them all, as well as a challenge to go deeper in their spiritual life.

A homemade meal was expertly prepared and graciously served by volunteers from the

Altar and Rosary Society.

A copy of Bishop Robert Barron's new book, *This is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival*, was given to men, as it is this sacrament that makes Catholic life possible.

Mary Spencer and committee members Virginia Schnabel and Jonel Cisco led parish volunteers in the execution of a plan designed to uplift men of the parish — fathers, single persons, or religious.

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Massive parish theft calls for more internal control, expert says

The Pillar

While a Florida woman was to formally plead guilty June 6 to embezzling hundreds of thousands from the parish where she worked, a retired IRS investigator told *The Pillar*, an independent Catholic media outlet, that implementing preventive internal controls could significantly reduce theft from Catholic parishes.

Heather Darrey, former finance manager at Christ the King Parish in Tampa, Florida, reached a plea agreement with federal prosecutors last month, agreeing to plead guilty to wire fraud after she was arrested May 20 on charges of stealing \$775,000 from a parish operating account between October 2023 and March 2024.

Darrey was due in court

June 6 to formally enter a guilty plea in the case.

The theft was aided, according to parish pastor Father Len Plazewski, by the construction of a new youth center, which saw large amounts of cash flow through parish operating accounts.

According to court documents, Darrey schemed to steal from the parish with a complex plan.

Charging documents say she routinely generated printed bank checks to parish vendors, got them signed at the parish, and then destroyed them, writing now handwritten checks in the same amount, but to herself, or to her creditors, including her mortgage lender.

Darrey would then input the original information into parish accounting software, making it appear that she had mailed the printed bank checks to the parish vendors.

A parish accountant detected Darrey's activity in March 2024, and she admitted to stealing some money.

She was fired, but she begged Fr. Plazewski not to contact police. But after an audit of the parish finances, the extent of Darrey's theft — \$775,196.90 — became clear.

The parish, along with the Diocese of St. Petersburg, called law enforcement officials.

Prevention needed

Darrey, who reached a plea bargain almost immediately after her arrest, could face up to 20 years in prison when she is sentenced for her crime.

But while she awaits sentencing, Robert Warren, a retired IRS investigator and professor of accounting at Radford University, said the case illustrates the importance of internal controls in parish and diocesan finances — and the need for dioceses to set clear standards and expectations.

Warren said the Tampa parish seemed especially to need more “preventive controls.”

“A good internal control environment consists of both preventive controls and detection controls,” he explained.

“Detection controls are designed to find the fraud after the fact — for example, reconciling bank accounts or taking an inventory of assets are standard detection controls. But a preventive control will prevent the fraud in the first place,” he said.

Warren emphasized the importance of including several people in financial transactions and record-keeping.

In general, Warren said, “the person who maintains the checkbook should not be the person in charge of maintaining the accounting records. This is called ‘separation of duties,’ and the theory is that the more people that need to be involved in a fraud to pull it off, the least likely it is that a fraud will occur.

“Because the more people who would need to be involved, the more likely someone would talk,” Warren stated. “As the old saying goes: three people can keep a secret as long as two of them are dead.”

“Christ the King Parish could have possibly prevented this embezzlement by having robust preventive controls through the separation of duties,” he speculated.

But at the parish, “Ms. Darrey received the invoice, wrote the check, and inputted the journal entry,” he said.

While the Church's Code of Canon Law provides some norms regarding financial ad-

the bookkeeper will set up shell companies and issue fictitious invoices. Ms. Darrey did not do this. Instead, she just diverted the payments for legitimate vendors. She must have known that at some point the vendors would call and complain and the jig would be up,” he said.

Past cases

Warren speculated that the St. Petersburg diocese is likely to review its internal control norms, and provide

more training for pastors, in the wake of Darrey's arrest.

He noted that theft from parishes — both by clerics and laity — is a well-documented phenomenon.

In fact, a different Florida woman, in another diocese, is currently on trial for charges that she stole more than \$700,000 from the parish where she worked, Holy Cross Parish of Vero Beach.

While it is not yet clear when Darrey will be sentenced, Warren said he does not expect her to receive much prison time.

Warren noted the case of Brian Cansler, who in 2017 pled guilty to stealing more than \$170,000 from the Catholic student center at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where he worked as finance director. Cansler was sentenced to 57 months incarceration, but served only 36 months.

He also noted the case of Deborah Marcellus, who in 2018 pled guilty to embezzling more than \$800,000 from a parish in Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

Marcellus was sentenced to 37 months in prison, but served only about 15 months before she was transferred to home confinement because of the COVID pandemic.

“If the past is prologue, Ms. Darrey will not spend too much time behind bars,” Warren predicted.

A version of this article was originally published June 5 in The Pillar (pillarcatholic.com) and is republished here with permission.

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ADORE

From page 5

thoroughly familiar with the story of Creation presented in the Book of Genesis, were well aware that God creates through the act of the spoken word.

"The creative word is to God, as the song is to the singer, or the lecture to the lecturer," said Fr. Jones. "And Jesus is God, the Word Made Flesh."

Then, at the Last Supper, Jesus presented bread and wine to his closest friends, saying "This is my Body. This is my Blood."

He commanded them to "do this in remembrance of me."

Accordingly, those who encountered him on the Road to Emmaus the day he rose from the dead recognized him only in the "breaking of the bread."

The Acts of the Apostles tells of how, after Jesus's ascension into heaven and the arrival of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, the growing Church remained focused day by day on the Apostles' teaching, the communal life and the breaking of the bread.

"Brothers and sisters, that means that they had a daily Eucharist!" said Fr. Jones.

Thoroughly present

The Greek word translated into English as "in remembrance" more precisely means "to know all over again" or even "to experience it all over again."

Understood in this way, Jesus's command to "do this in remembrance of me" refers to making him present and whole — at the Last Supper, at the Crucifixion, at the Resurrection and in his glory at the Right Hand of the Father.

"When the Church offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Eucharist to the Father, Jesus is re-membered. He is put back together again," stated Fr. Jones.

"This is what the Church has always believed, that Christ has somehow, and very mysteriously, really and truly present in the Eucharistic elements that we receive at Mass," he said.

Fr. Jones clarified that God does not so much "come down and get 'into' the bread and wine," as that "the bread and wine are taken up into heaven."

"Christ is not located on the altar as much as what is on the altar is united with him in heaven, outside of space and time," the priest explained.

"God is present in the Most Blessed Sacrament in this way," he said. "He uses the species of bread and wine as an instrument through which he makes himself present historically. That is, in space and time."

The very substance, rather than the chemical composition or physical element, is what chang-

es.

"God uses ordinary bread and wine to nourish us naturally. He uses the consecrated elements of the Eucharist for the additional purpose of giving himself to us, and being with us, even in

us, nourishing us spiritually," said Fr. Jones.

So what?

All of this matters, because it means the Eucharist is not merely a symbol. Rather, it accomplishes what it signifies.

"It is a real conveyer of God's divine life, God's own grace," Fr. Jones noted.

All Catholics, therefore, must seriously consider whether they are regularly well disposed to receive that grace.

"By that," said Fr. Jones, "I mean: do we consciously understand, both in our minds and in our souls, what it is — actually, WHO it is — we are receiving?"

"And then, do we then allow our attitudes, our actions, our dispositions, our love of God and neighbor to be informed by the one who is received and consumed in each and every Holy Communion?"

He encouraged everyone present to think about those things while adoring Christ fully present on the altar.

"Let the love of God, made known in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, seep into the very depths of your soul," he said.

Taking notice

Out in the churchyard after Adoration, children and adults gathered for games and summer treats in the waning sun.

Jake Akin, assistant principal of St. Joseph Cathedral School, spoke of why he brought his three young children to Adoration.

"We want to do things that reinforce the truths of our faith to them," he said.

It was also a chance for him spend some quiet time with the Lord, get closer to him, and have his children see the value of doing so.

"I want them to be able to see that God talks and listens to everyone — big, small, little ... it doesn't matter who you are," he said.

He subscribes to a variant of the old axiom that faith and values are "caught" — namely, that they must also be taught.

"We instruct them, we show them, we model it for them, and we see them actually modeling it for each other," he stated.

It's all about getting closer to Christ — "bringing faith deep into their hearts so they can spread it throughout the community," he said.

Pope swaps jokes with comedy stars at Vatican

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

As they waited for Pope Francis to arrive at the Clementine Hall in the Vatican Apostolic Palace for an early morning audience, late night comedy stars looked at each other and thought, "something's wrong."

Comedian Conan O'Brien recalled, "We're in this beautiful, beautiful space in the Vatican and for some reason they've let comedians in, which is always a mistake," he told reporters after meeting the pope June 14.

He was just one of 105 comedians from around the world who traveled to the Vatican for a papal audience and to "establish a link between the Catholic Church and comic artists," according to the Dicastery for Culture and Education, which organized the meeting.

Comedians from the United States included Stephen Colbert, Chris Rock, Jimmy Fallon, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Whoopi Goldberg, Jim Gaffigan and Mike Birbiglia among others.

The pope told the comedians that "in the midst of so much gloomy news, immersed as we are in many social and even personal emergencies, you have the power to spread peace and smiles."

HUBBARD

From page 4

ment that will grow exponentially, if only you carve out the time and give yourself that gift and invest in your relationship with God," she stated.

She said speaking and listening in settings such as these also helps her grow in her relationship with God.

"As I share my journey and some of the things I've learned in walking through a valley of darkness and then some, I'm always reminded of how good God is," she stated.

She's convinced that like Jesus's Parable of the Mustard Seed, even a bit of yearning to find healing and restoration can be enough to let the process begin.

"We don't have to figure out how to do it, thanks be to God!" she stated. "All we have to have is a heart that's willing to let it happen."

For those who plan to attend the luncheon, Ms. Hubbard suggested praying ahead of time to be open and receptive to the message and the grace God wants to give them at this moment.

She suggested praying: "Pre-

pare my heart for whatever I'm supposed to hear, for whatever I'm supposed to take away and glean."

For herself, she requested prayers for safe travels and for God's words to be spoken and heard effectively through her.

God's and ours

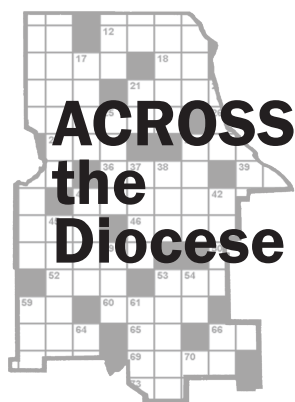
The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, is located off Highway 5 in Laurie.

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Like Us On  **Diocese of Jefferson City**



By Father Donald Antweiler

ACROSS

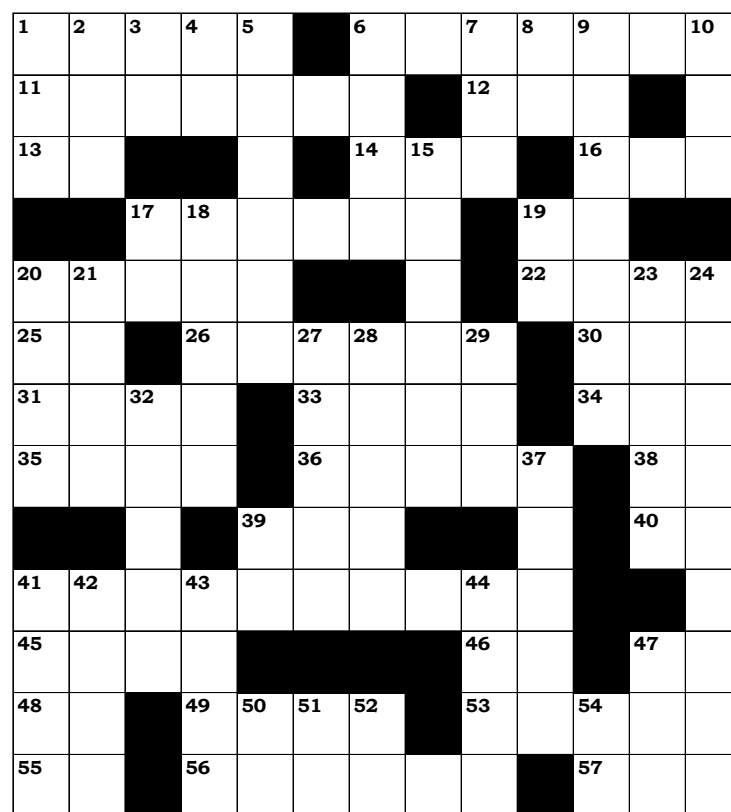
1. This puzzle introduces Fred, a ____-toed box turtle and his LIFE LESSONS for us.
6. "Elisha answered, 'May I receive ____ portion of your spirit,'" —2 Kings 2:9 (2 wds.).
11. "...let us...persevere in ____ the race that lies before us," (Hebrews 12:1).
12. Perhaps surprisingly, there are three areas of current ____ and gas production in Missouri: one in northwestern Mo., one in western Mo., one in northeastern Mo.
13. "Never pass up ____ opportunity to celebrate," —Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos.
14. Sixth sense.
16. The greatest asset of this bird in its nighttime hunting is not its big eyes but its keen sense of hearing.
17. Filled with horror or shock.
19. In Monopoly, when you pass ____, you get \$200.
20. LESSON #1. HOME IS WHERE YOUR SHELL IS. I love mobile-home living! I wander the day in the woods and wherever I end up at ____, I'm home! We all carry ourselves with us wherever we are. Be at home with yourself.
22. The Creation of ____ (also known as the Creation of Man) is a fresco painting by Michelangelo which forms part of the Sistine Chapel's ceiling, painted from 1508-1512.
25. "The purpose of history is to explain the present — to say why the world around ____ is the way it is," —Doniger in *Timeline*, Michael Crichton.
26. "The world is my ____, taken from Shakespeare's comedy 'The Merry Wives of Windsor.' It is a life metaphor meaning roughly, I can and will search the world for an elusive treasure/life-changing discovery (a pearl).
30. Possible ending of an email address for a university.
31. LESSON #2. COME OUT OF YOUR SHELL. We turtles famously can pull our head and ____ into our shell to be safe. The problem is: we're stuck! We can't see! Can't move! Eventually, despite our fears, we all have to poke our nose out and move on with life.
33. Sandwich cookie.
34. Prefix for miss or solve.
35. Forty-day preparation for Easter.
36. Having a quick and inventive humor (e.g., a ____ remark).
38. Uh-____! My mistake!
39. Am I up to the challenge? You ____ I am!
40. Golden age (abbr.).
41. LESSON #3. GET SOME REST. I always take a long winter nap. ____ in my blood keeps my organs from turning to ice. Get the rest you need; e.g. take naps, though maybe shorter than mine.
45. "Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the ____ to see if there is enough for its completion?" (Luke 14:28).
46. ____ Dorado, the legendary City of Gold for which Spanish conquistadores and others, including Sir Walter Raleigh, scoured

the Americas in the 1500s to the late 1800s.

47. "Truth is a hard master, and costly ____ serve, but it simplifies all problems," —*Brother Cadfael's Penance*, Ellis Peters.
48. Letters for Russia Today, the Russian State-owned and funded news agency, broadcasting in English and multiple other languages.
49. "The hardworking farmer ought to have the first share of the ____," (2 Timothy 2:6).
53. As college freshmen...not belonging to a fraternity, unable to rent an apartment, we were OK with living in ____ (2 wds.).
55. Wide shoe.
56. Some of the more popular ____ teas are Chamomile, Ginger, Peppermint and Rooibos.
57. "My country ____ of Thee..." —from "America," written in 1831 by Samuel Francis Smith. Its melody is taken from "God save the Queen," but with lyrics to celebrate democracy.

DOWN

1. ____-la-la.
2. Attila the ____.
3. Professional caretaker.
4. Prefix for trance or core.
5. LESSON #4. LIFE ISN'T A SPRINT, BUT A MARATHON. I am 49 years old, ancient for most wild critters. But we box turtles often reach 50 or ____ or 100 years old! Keep in mind the long view.
6. "...and to bring to light for all what is the plan of the mystery hidden from ____ past in God who created all things..." (Ephesians 3:9).
7. Alley ____; comic strip caveman.
8. Letters for Unemployment Insurance.
9. LESSON #5. LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE. As a turtle, I am cold-____ and so need the sun in the morning to warm up my body temperature. Watch your temper(ature). Be aware of the sunshine (blessings) in your life.
10. Slippery fish.
15. "...do not be like the hypocrites who love to stand and pray in the synagogues



and on ____ corners so that others may see them," (Matthew 6:5).

17. Mo.'s Dept. of ____ serves and regulates the biggest industry in Mo.—agriculture.
18. "When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. 'It is a ____,' they said, and they cried out in fear," (Matthew 14:26).
19. Home of the MBL Braves and NFL Falcons (abbr.).
20. The court declared the contract to be ____ and void.
21. "...____ four men unfettered and unhurt, walking in the fire..." —Daniel 3:92 (2 wds.).
23. Good-bye in Guadalajara.
24. LIFE LESSON #6. EAT YOUR VEGGIES. We turtles eat yummy insects and worms when young but as we grow we add veggies like dogwood fruits, blackberries, tender plants and _____. It pays off for us.
27. "The reaper is already receiving his payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the ____ and reaper can rejoice together." (John 4:36)
28. "You've been told by many good-intentioned people that 'God loves you.' But in a world full of messy relationships and an unfortunate amount of cruelty, it can feel like a ____ or empty phrase," —Fr. Eric Boelscher in "Beautiful Eucharist," *Dynamic Catholic*.
29. "The memory of the just will be blessed, but the name of the wicked will ____," (Proverbs 10:7).
32. The third plague of Egypt (Exodus 8: 12-15).
37. Red-bordered triangle-shaped street sign.
39. ____ Goodrich Tire Co.
41. LIFE LESSON #7. GET SOME EXERCISE. Little old me crawls 50 yards a day, with a heavy shell to boot! I live a lifetime in a 25-____ patch of woods — but I've explored every inch of it. Walk, run, jump — your life and health will benefit.
42. I need to write a ____ so I won't forget.
43. "The seven year ____" is an old phrase expressing the belief that happiness in a marriage declines after around seven years. The phrase has been commonly applied to other projects or circumstances as well.
44. "Do not grow slack in ____, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord," (Romans 12:11).
47. Prefix for angle or age.
50. Prefix for turn or mark.
51. Where surgeries are done in a hospital.
52. Letters for Panera Bread, a bakery-café chain.
54. The next period after a tied-up game.

See ANSWERS, page 19

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MÉRIDA

From page 1

Marriage Ministries, who also assists the pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, and Yasica Buitrago, also of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City;

•Deacon Amapro Orozco, Jose Almazan and his son, Alexander Almazan, all of St. Peter Parish in Marshall;

•Mrs. Palacios of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia.

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The children's reaction was deep, genuine and infectious.

A home for learning

An entity now known as the Merida Foundation, founded by the late Rudy and Dorothy Lemke of Jefferson City, has been feeding hundreds of children and distributing eye glasses in and around Mérida and organizing mission trips there for nearly 20 years.

Deacon Castro and Jake Seifert, diocesan director of development and missions, visited Escuela Hogar while taking part in one of those trips two years ago.

That's when they met Father Victor Cabes Chaves and Father Antonio Macias, the priests in charge of Escuela Hogar. Both are Missionaries of the Nativity of Mary.

Fr. Chaves was recently appointed bishop of Tenancingo, Mexico.

Most of Escuela Hogar's students come from home environments hampered by poverty, substance abuse and dysfunction.

The school provides them education, housing and food six days a week.

After the Jefferson City diocese began assisting the school through the Mission Office, Deacon Castro began wondering if even could be done — "maybe some kind of evangelization."

The deacon initiated a discussion between Bishop McKnight and the priests at Escuela Hogar.

"Our bishop really liked the idea of supporting them financially and also in the area of evangelization," Deacon Castro recalled.

He drew together a mission team of people from five parishes, who speak fluent Spanish.

"We had to plan everything ahead of time and work together," said Deacon Castro.

The team organized two age-appropriate retreats for the students, and another for adults.

"We had talks, activities, games, prayer, Confessions, Mass" said Deacon Castro.

The adult retreat was for members of Iglesia los Sagrados Corazones (Sacred Heart Church), the parish that sponsors the school.

Powerful first encounter

The retreats were an intensely God-centered proclamation of salvation through Jesus Christ.

They focused on God's love; sin and its consequences; Jesus as the center of the Christian life; and the power of the Holy Spirit.

The goal was help each par-

ticipant want to learn more about and grow in their faith.

Deacon Castro said the retreats were an uplifting experience — "not only for the children and adults who benefited from what God was able to do through us, but also for all of us who benefitted from what God was able to do through them."

For many of the children, it was a first encounter with a personal, loving God.

"In the first talk, we talked about how God loves us unconditionally," said Deacon Castro. "He doesn't love us just as a group but also individually, personally, you as a person, just as you are, unconditionally, regardless of what you have or what you do."

"We had some kids who

have grown up in a really bad environment," he said. "So, we're talking about our Father's love to kids who may not have a father, to kids who have probably never been praised by their father."

"Many of them had never experienced that love, and here they were, embracing God's love for them," he said. "That truly touched and transformed them."

The team members brought diverse perspectives to the mission.

"Different parishes, different ages, and different movements in the Church," said Deacon Castro.

Some are active in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, some in Cursillo, and others in the day-to-day ministries of

their parishes.

Exchange of grace

Deacon Orozco, who assists the pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia, said he went on the mission in response to his calling to serve God, "and because I really enjoy evangelizing."

"An experience like this remains living and is never forgotten," he said.

What stands out in his memories of the trip are the happiness of the children and

adults, and the kindness of their welcome.

"The maturity with which the message and the friendship were received was incredible," he said.

What stands out in Ms. Garcia's recollections are the experience of living in community with the mission team, and the faces of the children they met at the school.

She was most aware of God's presence and love "in the moments we had in Adoration with the Blessed Sacrament," while dining with the children, and when the priests promised to keep the mission team in prayer.

She said standing face-to-face with children so much

See MISSION, page 23



Members of a mission team from the Diocese of Jefferson City lead Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament during a retreat for children at the Escuela Hogar in Mérida, Mexico, a boarding school for boys who are at risk, during a mission trip sponsored this spring by this diocese's Mission Office and Office of Evangelization & Faith Formation.



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Visit the diocesan EVENT CALENDAR at diojeffcity.org/events.
Want your event listed?
Fill out the ONLINE FORM at diojeffcity.org/event-listing.

Fundraisers & Social Events

Jun. 21-23

Hermann, St. George Parish rummage sale, Fri 7 am-7 pm, Sat 7 am-4 pm, Sun 7-11 am

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

Jul. 12

Columbia, Sacred Heart Parish Ladies Auxiliary fundraiser "Are you smarter than an 8th grade nun?" with Vicki Quade, 7-9 pm, Battle High School, for tickets visit givebutter.com/2QKU6o

Jul. 14

Meta, St. Cecilia Parish picnic, 11 am-6 pm; **St. Martins**, St. Martin Parish picnic, noon-10 pm

Jul. 21

Wardville, St. Stanislaus Parish picnic, 11 am-7 pm

Meetings & Conferences

Jul. 23

Laurie, "Finding Sanctuary" presentation with Jennifer Hubbard and luncheon, 11:30 am, registration required at mothersshrine.com

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 ecastro@diojeffcity.org

junio 26

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

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 ecastro@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. 22

Jefferson City, Pre-Cana Con-

ference 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

Jul. 14

Monroe City, "Discovering the Women of the Bible, Part 2," 3-5 pm, K of C Hall, for info visit holynosary.diojeffcity.org

Jul. 17

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

Jul. 19-21

Florissant, REFLECT retreat for midlife singles, Pallottine Renewal Center, for info or to register visit ReflectRetreat.com, email reflect.stlouis@gmail.com or call 630-222-8303

Jul. 27-28

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

Liturgical

Jul. 9

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

Jun. 25

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

Jul. 7-11

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

Jul. 14-19

Cook Station, Mo., Camp Maccabee for high school young men, Mound Ridge Retreat Center, for info or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/camp-maccabee

Jul. 21-26

Cook Station, Mo., Camp Siena for high school young ladies, Mound Ridge Retreat Center, for info or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/camp-siena

U.S. bishops discuss anti-poverty arm, pastoral frameworks, groundbreaking proposals

OSV News

Louisville, Kentucky

During their June 12-14 plenary assembly in Louisville, the U.S. Catholic bishops addressed various issues, from re-evaluating their domestic initiative to fight against poverty, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and concluding with a final update on the National Eucharistic Congress and the future efforts of the National Eucharistic Revival.

In a June 13 press conference, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, told reporters the closed door session affirmed the bishops' commitment to anti-poverty efforts, and while no decisions were made yet, they were working on changes.

The bishops approved a message to Pope Francis,

praying for global peace and thanking him for sending Cardinal Tagle to the National Eucharistic Congress.

They voted on several liturgical texts completing their work on the new English version of the Liturgy of the Hours, and approved a pastoral framework for Indigenous ministry, including an apology for the Church's historical failings.

The bishops had a robust discussion June 13 on their mental health campaign, and

engaged in a respectful debate the next day on how best to proceed with a national directory of instituted lay ministries.

The bishops supported the canonization cause of Adele Brise, a 19th-century Marian visionary, and heard groundbreaking proposals from the National Review Board to combat sexual abuse through a new study of recent credible allegations and guidelines addressing sexual and spiritual abuse of adults.

Finally, Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens, chair of the National Eucharistic Congress, updated the bishops on the strong participation indicated in the national Eucharistic pilgrimages and upcoming July 17-21 Eucharistic congress in Indianapolis, as well as future initiatives to strengthen Catholic faith and Eucharistic devotion.

QUESTION

From page 8

sons, as clergy — meaning ordained bishops, priests, and deacons — are considered ordinary ministers of holy Communion.

Similarly, in a section describing the norms for Communion under both kinds for the non-ordained lay faithful, the Vatican document "Redemptionis Sacramentum" tells us in paragraph 104: "The communicant must not be permitted to intinct the host himself in the chalice, nor to receive the intincted host in the hand."

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.

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All in a day's work



As this past school year drew to a close, members of the Sacred Heart School in Sedalia's chapter of the National Junior Honor Society dedicated a day to service and enjoyment. Students embarked on a journey to St. Patrick Chapel, where they undertook various projects, including clearing out the choir loft, tidying garden beds by replacing old rocks with new ones, sprucing up the yard, and attending to several outdoor areas.

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

Serving up cold snacks, warm results



The last week of school, fourth-graders at St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City sold sno-cones as part of their economics unit, and donated their profit of \$275.25 to St. Joseph Serves. They presented their donations to the St. Joseph Serves representative, Julie Gates, on May 14. "Thanks again to the fourth grade classes for their kind and generous donation to St. Joseph Serves," the Committee wrote in response. "Their stewardship in action will help us continue to do great things for our parish, school, and local community through the St. Joseph Serves ministry. Way to go Spartan Stewards!"

— Photo from the St. Joseph Cathedral School Facebook page

Bible Accent

In 2 Kings 23, we can read about the religious reforms King Josiah made after the book of the law was discovered in the Temple.

Beginning in verse 4, we learn that Josiah told the high priest Hilkiah, his assistant priests and the doorkeepers of the Temple to remove all the objects in the Temple that had been made for such pagan gods as Baal and Asherah. The king had the items burned outside of Jerusalem and the ashes carried to Bethel.

Josiah also defiled pagan temples that had been built in the high places around Judah and Jerusalem, and he had pagan altars destroyed.

Josiah then traveled to Bethel and had the altar in the high place there torn down and burned. The altar had been built by King Jeroboam, who was king of Israel after the kingdom was divided in two.

Josiah turned and saw graves on the mountainside. He had the bones dug up and burned on the altar to defile it.

He looked up and saw another grave.

"What is that marker I see?" he asked.

"The grave of the man of God who came from Judah and proclaimed the very things you have done to the altar in Bethel," the people of Bethel replied.

St. Mildred

St. Mildred was born in the seventh century in what is now England. Her father was the king of Mercia, and her mother was a princess of Kent. Mildred was educated at a convent in France. After returning to England, she entered the convent at Minster-in-Thane, which her mother had founded. Around 694, she succeeded her mother as abbess. Mildred was known for being easy-tempered and tranquil. She was merciful to widows and orphans, and she comforted the poor and afflicted. Around the year 700, Mildred died after a long illness. We remember her on July 13.



King Josiah revives the covenant with God

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

After King Solomon of Israel died, the kingdom was divided in two. The southern kingdom of Israel, which included the city of Jerusalem, became known as Judah.

Over the years that followed, there were some good kings of Judah who did what was right in God's eyes, and there were many bad kings who did what was evil and led the people into sin.

Manasseh was one of the evil kings. During his 55-year reign, he did not follow God. He built altars to false gods, even in God's Temple, and he did many other evil things that angered God.

When Manasseh's son, Amon, became king, he was no better. During his two-year rule, walked in all of his father's evil ways.

When Amon died, his son Josiah, who was 8, succeeded him as king. Josiah ruled for 31 years, and he walked in the ways of his ancestor, King David, and did what was right in God's eyes.

When King Josiah was 18, he sent the scribe Shaphan to the Temple. He wanted the high priest Hilkiah to calculate the valuables collected from the people and to have the workers make needed repairs.

When Hilkiah was fulfilling the king's command, he made a discovery.

"I have found the book of the law in the Temple of the Lord," he told Shaphan.

Shaphan brought the book



of the law to Josiah and read it to him.

After hearing the book's contents, Josiah tore his garments.

"Go, consult the Lord for me, for the people, for all Judah, about the stipulations of this book that has been found, for the anger of the Lord has been set furiously ablaze against us, because our fathers did not obey the stipulations of this book, nor fulfill our written obligations," the king said to Hilkiah.

Josiah then summoned all the elders of Judah and Jerusa-

lem and went up to the Temple with them and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Josiah had the entire book of the law read out to them. He then made a covenant before God that all the people would follow him and observe his ordinances, statutes and decrees with their whole hearts and souls.

Read more about it...

2 Kings 21, 22 & 23

1. Who found the book of the law in the Temple?
2. Who had the book of the law read to the people?



What command did Josiah issue to all the people?
(Hint: 2 Kings 23:21)

Answer: Observe the Passover.



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Puzzle

Using the hints provided, put a T next to the sentences that are true and an F next to the ones that are false.

1. ___ Even after King Josiah's reforms, God's anger still burned against Judah. (2 Kings 23:26)
2. ___ King Josiah was killed in battle. (2 Kings 23:29)
3. ___ King Josiah's son Jehoahaz walked in the ways of his father. (2 Kings 23:31-32)
4. ___ The king of Babylon captured Jehoahaz. (2 Kings 23:33)

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

Comic book tells story of Buffalo priest up for sainthood and beloved for his work with poor

By Kurt Jensen
OSV News

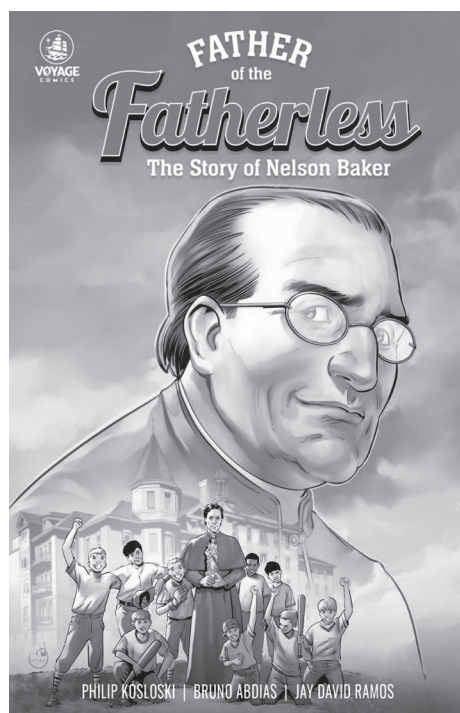
Tom Lucia, the chief creative officer of OLV Charities, still has his 1980s Marvel comic books celebrating the lives of St. John Paul II and St. Teresa of Kolkata.

They were important mainstream recognitions of Catholic figures and increased their popularity among young people.

So coming up with one to help promote the sainthood cause of Venerable Father Nelson H. Baker, a Buffalo, New York, priest, seemed like a natural idea. The result is *Father of the Fatherless* from Voyage Comics, being distributed to more than 3,000 students in Catholic schools in the Buffalo area.

"From there, the intent is to get the comic book throughout the country," Lucia told OSV News.

It was released June 4 at the Father Baker Museum in Lackawanna, New York.



It's also connected to the centennial of the Basilica of Our Lady of Victory in Lackawanna. The church's consecration was in May 1926, and two months later, Pope Pius XI designated the church as a minor basilica.

Dubbed by local newspapers as "the padre of the poor,"

Fr. Baker (1842-1936) built, in addition to the basilica, an orphanage, a maternity hospital, a trade school and a home for infant care.

The charitable work he began exists today as OLV Charities. Our Lady of Victory institutions include Homes of Charity, Baker Victory Services and Our Lady of Victory Elementary School.

Fr. Baker, who served at St. Joseph Cathedral in Buffalo after his ordination in 1876, was beloved in his lifetime for his charitable efforts, including serving thousands of meals during the depths of the Great Depression.






He felt called to the Priesthood after operating a successful feed and grain business with a partner.

Before that, he served in the 74th Infantry of the New York State Militia, a unit that organized in the summer of 1863 and was stationed in central Pennsylvania, although it didn't see combat.

If he is canonized, he will be the first Civil War veteran to be so honored and the first St. Nelson.

The comic is based on Holy Cross Father Richard Gribble's biography, *Father of the Fatherless*, and covers Fr. Baker's life from his baptism at

Movie Ratings

 General Patronage	The Garfield Movie (PG)
 Adults and Adolescents	IF (PG) Inside Out 2 (PG) The Watchers (PG-13)
 Adults	The Fall Guy (PG-13) Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) Tarot (PG-13) We Grown Now (PG-13) Wildcat (not rated)
 Limited Adult Audience	Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R) The Strangers: Chapter 1 (R)
 Morally Offensive	Bad Boys: Ride or Die (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

age 9 onward.

There's quite a bit about his love of playing, and later coaching, baseball, although the rough-and-tumble 19th-century version had far different rules than the modern game and was played for quite a few years before gloves were introduced.

But he considered it part of his ministry, Lucia said. "When he played baseball with the boys, he was educating, and teaching them trades."

Fr. Baker was named a Servant of God in 1987 and in 2011 was named Venerable by Pope Benedict XVI. The next step in his cause would be beatification, with the priest receiving the title Blessed.

After that would come canonization, or declaration of sainthood. In general, two miracles need to be accepted by the Church as having occurred through the intercession of the prospective saint, one for beatification and one for canonization.

The sainthood cause was

stalled when evaluators in Rome didn't think the evidence of one medical miracle was strong enough.

"We're forming a committee to get one other miracle out to Rome," said Msgr. David LiPuma, co-postulator of the cause.

Msgr. LiPuma hopes the comic gives children a hero to admire.

Founded in 2018 by Philip Kosloski, Voyage Comics creates entertainment formed by Catholic values. Other books in their catalog include *Champion of the Poor: Father Joe Walijewski*, and *Digital Disciple: Carlo Acutis and the Eucharist*.

Funding came from the Carl Tripi Foundation.

Kurt Jensen reports for OSV News from Washington.

More about the comic book *Father of the Fatherless*, from Voyage Comics can be found at fatherbaker.org/comic.



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MISSION

From page 17

in need of love and resources helped her appreciate how fortunate she is to be able to spend as much time as she does with her own family.

So much joy

Mr. Almazan said he was happily surprised to find so much happiness among the children and adults.

"I was expecting to find children who were somewhat sad, suffering because of their situation," he said. "But to my surprise, I saw so much joy in them."

He's convinced that he received more from the people there than he gave to them.

He felt singularly close to God during Holy Hour, surrounded by the children.

"Jesus calls us to be like children," he said, "and seeing so much innocence from them, I felt Jesus calling me once again to be like a child, pure of heart."

Mr. Almazan said seeing the boys in Mérida and their simplicity has made him want to be a better father "and to teach my kids that we need to be happy with what God gifts us each day."

God's embrace

For Mrs. Palacios, going on the mission was a response to her experience in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

"The Holy Spirit motivates me to go out, to bear witness to God's love, and to proclaim that Christ is Lord and that He is alive," she said.

She distinctly recalls the faces of the children and adults during the teachings and prayer moments.

"These were moments in which I witnessed their encounter with God," she said.

During one of the reflection group sessions, after a prayer about the Father's love, one of the children said that for the first time, he had hugged his two brothers, and at that moment cried tears of joy.

"The reaction of the children when they understood that they have a Father who created them in his image and who loves them was transformative for them and for me," said Mrs. Palacios.

When the children exchanged the sign of peace, "I could see tears of joy and fraternity," she said.

Reactions were similar among the adult participants in the parish retreat.

"God embraced them with His infinite love in a palpable way," said Mrs. Palacios.

"Strong hugs"

Mrs. Buitrago brought back from the mission trip a deeper understanding of her mission as a follower of Christ.

"Even though we may think we have everything, we always feel that emptiness that only God can fill, and that is only achieved by helping and serving others," she said.

God made her acutely aware of his presence at several moments during the mission.

"During the prayers and praises to the Holy Spirit the night before the retreat, the presence of the Holy Spirit was indescribable, something that can only be understood by experiencing it," she said.

Seeing the children react to talks and activities revealing God's love to them was also powerful.

"Additionally, God's presence was manifested in the strong hugs of the children, showing their love," she said.

"Now, I have more clarity about what God wants from me, and I feel a strong call to do something for my Church and my community," she stated.

Pray unceasingly

Recollections of the trip bring forth a litany of intercession.

Mrs. Palacios asked for prayers for the Escuela Hogar's students' experience of God on the retreat will take root and bear fruit in them and their families — "that when any of them feel lost, they may reorient themselves by remembering the greatest truth: that God loves them and waits for them."

Ms. Garcia suggested praying "that their daily bread not be missing, and that the support of charitable people be ever present so that they may be able to finish their educa-

tion."

Deacon Orozco requested prayers that the joy the children and adults experienced on the retreat won't vanish "and that they may one day look back and remember it with joy."

Mrs. Buitrago called for prayers for the children in Mérida.

"I pray for them to grow in knowledge of God's love, that they become men and women of good for their community, and that they continue to grow in wisdom in the Holy Spirit," she said.

"For the adults," she added, "I pray that they continue to attend church and that the feeling of the Holy Spirit bears fruit in their lives and communities."

Said Mr. Almazan: "We need to ask God to keep blessing them, and that he may fill whatever void may be present, whether it is a missing mother or father, and that they may be able to keep transmitting that happiness the same way they transmitted it to us."

Ambassadors

Looking back on the mission fills the team with gratitude.

"Whenever I think of this experience, it gives me so much joy and satisfaction to be a part of God's work," Mr. Almazan stated.

"The gaze of the children was etched in my memory," said Mrs. Palacios. "That look of hope in God through adults and vice versa, which carries responsibility and commitment."

Her concept of kinship is now greatly expanded.

"I value even more the fact of being part of a spiritual family, of going beyond serving only those related to me by blood, community, or nationality, but also by the bond of faith," she said.

She did not leave these things behind in Mérida.

"They are still with me, moving me even more to be an ambassador of Christ to the little ones and with every person I encounter," she said, echoing 2 Corinthians 5:20.

Daily Readings

Sunday, Jun 23

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jb. 38:1, 8-11
Ps. 107:23-26, 28-31
2 Cor. 5:14-17
Mk. 4:35-41

Monday, Jun 24

THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Is. 49:1-6
Ps. 139:1b-3, 13-14-15
Acts 13:22-26
Lk 1:57-66, 80

Tuesday, Jun 25

2 Kgs. 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36
Ps. 48:2-4, 10-11
Mt. 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday, Jun 26

2 Kgs. 22:8-13; 23:1-3
Ps. 119:33-37, 40
Mt. 7:15-20

Thursday, Jun 27

St. Cyril of Alexandria, bishop and doctor of the Church
2 Kgs. 24:8-17
Ps. 79:1b-5, 8-9
Mt. 7:21-29

Friday, Jun 28

St. Irenaeus, bishop and martyr
2 Kgs. 25:1-12
Ps. 137:1-6
Mt. 8:1-4

Saturday, Jun 29

SS. PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES
Acts 12:1-11
Ps. 34:2-9
2 Tim. 4:6-8, 17-18
Mt. 16:13-19

Sunday, Jun 30

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wis. 1:13-15; 2:23-24
Ps. 30:2, 4-6, 11-13
2 Cor. 8:7, 9, 13-15
Mk. 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

Monday, Jul 1

St. Junípero Serra, priest (USA)
Am. 2:6-10, 13-16
Ps. 50:16bc-23
Mt. 8:18-22

Tuesday, Jul 2

Am. 3:1-8; 4:11-12
Ps. 5:4b-8
Mt. 8:23-27

Wednesday, Jul 3

St. Thomas, Apostle
Eph. 2:19-22
Ps. 117:1bc, 2
Jn. 20:24-29

Thursday, Jul 4

Independence Day (USA)
Am. 7:10-17
Ps. 19:8-11
Mt. 9:1-8
or, for Independence Day, any readings from the Mass "For the Country or a City," (882-886), or the Mass "For Peace and Justice" (887-891)

Friday, Jul 5

St. Anthony Zaccaria, Priest; St. Elizabeth of Portugal (USA)
Am. 8:4-6, 9-12
Ps. 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131
Mt. 9:9-13

Saturday, Jul 6

St. Maria Goretti, virgin and martyr
Am. 9:11-15
Ps. 85:9ab, 10-14
Mt. 9:14-17

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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Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

Join us for a special event at the Lake of the Ozarks with
JENNIFER HUBBARD
MOTHER, AUTHOR AND SPEAKER

JULY 23, 2024 | 11:30 AM LUNCHEON
THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

"Steer Where You Stare"

Jennifer Hubbard has endured the ultimate crucible for any parent: the violent death of her six-year-old daughter. Hear how she has turned tragedy into hope at this special event at the Mothers' Shrine. Hubbard, who is an award-winning writer with Magnificat and has been a guest on various national television shows, spoke recently about how those who encounter suffering can "have the freedom and the obligation to move forward in their life and live it with purpose and passion."

Seating is limited - make your reservations now!



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL



PICNIC

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

SERVING GERMAN POT ROAST &
GOLDEN FRIED CHICKEN
FROM 11 AM TO 7 PM

DINE IN & CARRY-OUT
\$17 PER TICKET
INDOOR & OUTDOOR SEATING

WASHER
TOURNAMENT
1-4 PM

PRIZES SANDWICH STAND REFRESHMENTS
GAMES ICE CREAM

HANDMADE QUILT AUCTION 5:00PM

QUILTS ON DISPLAY FROM 11 AM UNTIL THE TIME OF THE AUCTION.
ONLINE AUCTION STARTS SUN. 6/16 AND ENDS FRI. 6/21

LINN, MISSOURI

Spanish Mass with bishop in Cathedral

DATE: June 23
TIME: 1 pm

Bishop W. Shawn Mc-Knight 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 celebrate 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.

**cathmo.
com**

BUFFET STYLE ~ DINE-IN OR CARRY-OUT

ST. CECILIA

ROAST BEEF & FRIED CHICKEN *Picnic* MASHED POTATOES, GREEN BEANS, COLESLAW, HOMEMADE BREAD & PIE

JULY 14, 2024
11:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

PRIZES, KETTLE CORN, REFRESHMENTS, COUNTRY STORE, SANDWICH STAND, TOYLAND, GAMES

LIVE MUSIC BY CHLOE HOECKER 1:30-3:30 P.M.
COMPLIMENTS OF MID AMERICA BANK

QUILT & DESSERT AUCTION 4:00 P.M.
SPONSORED BY HURST AUCTIONEER SERVICE

META CITIZENS' CIVIC LEAGUE HALL
ADULTS \$16 ~ CARRYOUTS \$16 ~ CHILDREN 6-12 \$8 ~ CHILDREN 5 & UNDER FREE

2024 Annual PARISH PICNIC

July 14 | St. Martins, Mo.

Serving FRIED CHICKEN & ROAST BEEF cafeteria style
Dining from 11am-6pm in the gym, carryouts 11am-6:30pm
\$16 adults / \$7 Kids 6-12 (5 & under free)

Quilt Auction @ 5pm | Kiddie Tractor Pull @ 2pm

Live Music by Osage Angels from 2-4 pm & Bluegrass Martins from 7-9 pm (bring lawnchair)

Carnival Games, Kids Korner, Food & Drink Stands, Homemade Ice Cream, Silent Auction, Kiddie Train, Crafts, Games & Prizes & MORE

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/2QKU6o>

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.