

Catholic courtship: “We met at a parish picnic”

Several happily married couples share stories of how they met at local parish picnics, and what followed.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

August 30, 2024 • Vol. 68 No. 5

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Mary’s Home school is a faith-filled community



School is back in session, including at 37 Catholic grade schools and three Catholic high schools

By Jay Nies

Bursts of laughter erupted from Mrs. Belshe’s kindergarten classroom in Our Lady of the Snows School in Mary’s Home.

She was reading from David Shannon’s imaginatively illustrated *No, David!* — a book showing children how not to behave.

“It’s about a boy who does silly things that he should not do, and he gets in trouble,” Mrs. Belshe explained. “But in the end, he also needs a hug and to hear, ‘Yes, David. I love you.’”

The students in pre-school through eighth grade went to Mass together and were back to acclimating themselves to a new year of school.

It was the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy-day of obligation.

“I want to welcome in very a special way our students, this being the very first Mass at the beginning of the school year,” Father Simon Jude Kanyike, pastor of Our Lady of Snows Parish in Mary’s Home and Sacred Heart Parish in Eldon, said in his homily.

He preached passionately about Jesus’s chosen mother being lifted up, body and soul, into heaven through God’s grace at the end of her earthly life, to a place of honor that had been prepared for her, where she now lovingly intercedes for all of God’s children until the end of the age.

“She loves each one of us with a mother’s perfect love,” the priest stated. “Her prayers and mediation of grace

The students of Our Lady of the Snows School in Mary’s Home, along with their teachers; their principal, Lucinda Varner; their pastor, Father Simon Jude Kanyike; and Deacon Chet Zuck gather around the Marian grotto outside Our Lady of Snows Church following their first all-school Mass of the new school year, on Aug. 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

— Photo by Jay Nies

Bishop: On life, let us be guided by God’s mercy

By Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

The Catholic standpoint on life is grounded in a simple truth — that all human beings are made in the image and likeness of God.

Our Church professes that human life is sacred from the moment of conception until natural death.

While our faith sometimes challenges us to grapple with difficult concepts, our teaching on life is both clear and precise.

It is also consistent. The Church has always taught the moral necessity of treating the unborn child in the womb as a unique “somebody,” even though small.

What we know from science today only reinforces our un-

derstanding of the unborn baby as a genetically unique human being, even though directly dependent upon a mother for survival.

Because abortion is the direct killing of this innocent human being, both natural reason and our faith tell us it is wrong.

Yet, even with this clarity and consistency of our teaching, the issues surrounding life

continue to present a monumental challenge in society today.

Personal beliefs on life are like fault lines dividing our country, our state and our communities. They can cause division even among the closest families and friends.

MAKING CONNECTIONS
Bishop McKnight



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08/30/24

Pray for deceased priests

Sept. 2 — **Fr. Herman J. Striwe**, St. Joseph Home, Jefferson City (1966); **Msgr. Jacques J. Wenting**, St. Thomas Seminary, Hannibal (2004)

Sept. 7 — **Msgr. Harold J. Beeler**, Ss. Peter & Paul, Boonville (1960)

Sept. 13 — **Fr. Joseph F. Lorenz**, St. Anthony, St. Anthony (1993)

Sept. 14 — **Fr. William L. Forst**, Columbia hospital ministry (2009)

Pope: Driving away migrants is a 'grave sin'

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Working to turn migrants away from the prospect of peace and security in a new country is "a grave sin," Pope Francis said.

"It needs to be said clearly: There are those who systematically work by all means to drive away migrants, and this, when done knowingly and deliberately, is a grave sin," he said during his general audience Aug. 28.

The pope began his audience in St. Peter's Square by explain-

ing that he would "postpone the usual catechesis" — he currently is in the middle of a series of talks about the Holy Spirit — to discuss "the people who — even at this moment — are crossing seas and deserts to reach a land where they can live in peace and security."

He said, "Brothers and sisters, we can all agree on one thing: Migrants should not be in those seas and in those lethal deserts," he said. "And, unfortunately, they are there."

Mass, service in Holts Summit for National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

DATE: September 14
TIME: 9 am

The St. Andrew Parish Pro-Life

Committee in Holts Summit will hold a prayer service for the ninth annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children on Saturday, Sept. 14.

It will begin with Mass at 9 a.m. in St. Andrew Church, 400 St. Andrew Drive, off Center Street in Holt Summit.

Father Christopher Cordes, pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Holts Summit and vicar for priests for the Jefferson City diocese, will preside and preach the homily at Mass in church, followed by a memorial service at the Memorial to the Unborn Monument in front of the church.

"Visiting a memorial site dedicated to the victims of aborted children really puts the political battles into perspective," said Kathy Forck, one of the organizers of the Day of Re-

membrance in Holts Summit.

"It changes everything when you realize how many lives have been cut short by the violence of abortion," she said. "These children were never born, never learned to walk, and never had a first day of school. They were never even given names. And yet, we mourn for the loss of their lives."

Pro-life Americans throughout the country will gather that day around the country, including 40 gravesites of aborted babies and at over 150 other memorial sites dedicated in their honor. Solemn vigils will be held to commemorate the more than 60 million pre-born children who have lost their lives to legal abortion since 1973, and to remind our society of the humanity of the unborn child.

For information, contact Kathy Forck at 573-821-5130 or kathy@midwestmarchforlife.com.

nationaldayofremembrance.org



Official Decree of Clergy Appointments

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

PRIESTS

Reverend C. Callistus Okoroji, to Parochial Administrator of St. Joseph Parish, Edina, effective 27 August 2024, and continuing as Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Canton and Queen of Peace Parish, Ewing.

abonimpa, temporary leave from Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Edina to temporary Parochial Administrator of Mary Immaculate Parish, Kirksville

and the Mission of St. Rose of Lima, Novinger, effective 27 August 2024, continuing as Chaplain of the Kirksville Newman Center.

Given at the Chancery in Jefferson City this 20th day of August in the Year of Our Lord 2024.

W. Shawn McKnight

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

Benjamin Roodhouse

Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL
Chancellor

Reverend Boniface K. Nz-

The Catholic Missourian

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

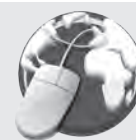
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MAKING CONNECTIONS

From page 1

Few issues are this divisive. People’s views can often seem hard as stone and immovable as mountains. Yet, as Christians we know that even stone and mountains are not impervious to change.

Faith can move mountains. So how are we to move forward together when faced with this kind of painful division and societal discord?

Jesus tells us, “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

Mercy is the answer. It’s one of the messages Jesus proclaimed in his Beatitudes. That’s how we must begin to approach each other on this difficult topic and on others like it.

We must pray that God will guide us to be examples of his mercy during this time, because the need for mercy is everywhere in our world today.

The unborn children who are already present in our world need our mercy.

Soon, Missourians will vote on Amendment 3, which

would end our state’s ban on direct abortion. This would be a tragic step backward in our work to protect all human life.

This is not merely a policy issue. It is a profound moral question that touches upon who we are as humans.

Legalizing abortion procedures — and removing any genuine possibility of regulating its practice in Missouri — would not only disregard the rights of the unborn but also continue the societal erosion of the respect for life at all stages.

Whenever we disregard the dignity of any class of human beings, we impoverish our own dignity and increase the possibility of disregarding the humanity of others whom we find difficult, undesirable, inconvenient, or not needed.

The bonds that hold us together suffer.

At the same time, our Church must always champi-

on the dignity and equality of women in society.

While some reduce the matter of abortion solely to a question of the rights of wom-

employment, housing and nutrition, as well as the psychological, emotional, familial and spiritual supports every mother should experience.

do not think of abortion like we do. But God chose for us to be in this life together.

We are imperfect missionaries, each of us desiring the ability to move forward along a path of growth and transformation into the Kingdom sought by our Father in Heaven.

“Mercy is the answer. It’s one of the messages Jesus proclaimed in his Beatitudes. That’s how we must begin to approach each other on this difficult topic and on others like it.”

en, the Church cannot support this view, as the right to life is fundamental to all other rights we share as human beings.

For these reasons, our Church speaks against Amendment 3. The unborn deserve our recognition of them as human beings and therefore our mercy.

Reflecting God’s mercy also means, however, that we have the responsibility to be present with mothers and fathers who are facing unforeseen, or even unwanted, pregnancies.

Expecting parents need our compassion during this anxious time.

It is very good that many organizations in our diocese are already working to address this need. A completely pro-life culture is one in which every social pressure for a woman to choose an abortion is eliminated.

Sadly, these pressures are still very present and touch upon many areas of our Catholic social teaching regarding poverty, including lack of access to adequate healthcare, education,

There is more work to be done beyond protecting the dignity of the human life of the unborn in our state laws.

How can we do more to show our mercy and support to the women and families who are struggling through hardships?

We must also freely show mercy to everyone who is in

en.

By approaching each other with mercy, may we help one another along this path of life as God intended when He chose to give us life.

“... The Church must look more closely and sympathetically at others whenever necessary. In our world, ordained ministers and other pastoral workers can make present the fragrance of Christ’s closeness and his personal gaze. The Church will have to initiate everyone — priests,

Legalizing abortion procedures — and removing any genuine possibility of regulating its practice in Missouri — would not only disregard the rights of the unborn but also continue the societal erosion of the respect for life at all stages.

pain following an abortion. The path to healing begins with a community that welcomes without judgement and guides those to God’s mercy.

This, too, is part of what it means to have a culture of life.

Finally, it is very important today that we show mercy to each other as we open ourselves to conversations on these difficult issues.

There are people — people close to us — who genuinely

religious and laity — into this ‘art of accompaniment’ which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other (cf. Ex. 3:5).

“The pace of this accompaniment must be steady and reassuring, reflecting our closeness and our compassionate gaze which also heals, liberates and encourages growth in the Christian life.”

— Pope Francis, “Evangelii Gaudium,” 2013



Bishop McKnight’s Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Sep 4	Pontifical College Josephinum Board Development Committee Meeting, 10 am, virtual; Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Board Meeting, noon, Chancery
Sep 6	Pontifical College Josephinum Board Academic Committee Meeting, 2 pm, virtual
Sep 8	Catholic Rural Life Mass, Maries Creek Farm, 2 pm, Vienna
Sep 9-10	Diocesan Priests’ Wellness Days, Cana Hall, Jefferson City
Sep 10	Communities of the Beatitudes Young Adult Small Group Session, 6:30 pm, Jefferson City
Sep 11	Confirmation Mass, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, 6:30 pm, Boonville
Sep 12	Mass for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Benefactors, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 4:30 pm, Jefferson City
Sep 15	Mass for the 30th anniversary of Very Reverend Roberto Ike’s priestly ordination, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 11:30 am, Columbia
Sep 17	Newman Center Student Leaders Dinner Meeting, 5:30 pm, Bishop’s Residence
Sep 20-22	Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Investiture and Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado

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Diocese of Jefferson City

Bishop McKnight’s September prayer intention for our Local Church

For those who serve our community as first responders; may God keep them safe as they serve with honor the safety and well-being of all.

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

Para quienes sirven a nuestra comunidad como socorristas; que Dios los mantenga a salvo al servir con honor por la seguridad y el bienestar de todos.



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

St. Joseph Parish in Edina celebrates 150th anniversary of impressive, enduring church building

Jay Nies

What would they say if they could speak?

These lofty bulwarks of stone, brick and colored glass that mark the boundary between God's house and God's holy acre?

These sounding boards off of which once echoed the voice of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, as well as 18 pastors and six generations of congregants?

These ironclad fortifications that held back a raging fire just over a decade ago?

"Welcome home!" they might say. "Come and be fed and let not your heart be weary."

These walls matter.

"As Catholics, we build churches for three purposes," Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky proclaimed from the ambo of St. Joseph Church in Edina on Aug. 4.

"The first is that it is a house of prayer," said Msgr. Kurwicky, vicar general of the Jefferson City diocese. "The second is that it is a gate of heaven. And third, it is a garden of vocations."

Msgr. Kurwicky, who is also pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, presided and preached the homily at a Mass to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the completion of St. Joseph Church in Edina.

Joining Msgr. Kurwicky at the altar were Father Boniface K. Nzabonimpa, pastor, and retired Deacon Kenneth R.



LEFT: Deacon Kenneth Berry and Father Boniface K. Nzabonimpa stand at the entrance to the sanctuary of St. Joseph Church in Edina during Mass on Aug. 4 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the building's completion. Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, vicar general of the Jefferson City diocese, who presided at the Mass and preached the homily, is seated in the presider's chair. **RIGHT:** This photo of the congregants shows the vastness of the church, which has seating for 650 people.

— Photos by Dot Kriegshauser

Berry of the Edina parish.

St. Joseph Church is one of the most impressive and recognizable church buildings in the diocese.

The soaring edifice has seating for about 650, making it the largest Catholic church in northeastern Missouri and among the largest in the diocese.

Its 8-foot cross mounted atop a 212-foot bell tower and spire is visible from anywhere in town and for miles beyond.

Its bells can occasionally be heard from nearly as far away.

Msgr. Kurwicky noted that the church — the third to be built since the parish's founding in 1844 — was intended to become a cathedral.

"Father John Fitzgerald saw that the pope had established the Diocese of St. Joseph just a few years earlier in the northwestern corner of the state," said Msgr. Kurwicky.

"As the Catholic population in northeastern Missouri

continued to grow, it made sense that it, too, would eventually become its own diocese," he stated.

"So Fr. Fitzgerald and his parishioners set out to build a house of God that would serve the needs of the rapidly growing parish, and also of the new diocese they believed they would live to see created."

Such never came to pass, as the region became part of the former St. Joseph diocese in 1911 and then the newly created Diocese of Jefferson City in 1956.

Yet, St. Joseph Church still fills up for Midnight Mass each year, as present and former parishioners and their descendants return to celebrate Christmas.

These stones

Before construction commenced in 1873, Fr. Fitzgerald convinced a gifted writer in the parish to send letters to East Coast newspapers, inviting immigrants to take advantage of the economic opportunities and strong Catholic community in Knox County, Missouri.

The letters helped swell the population even more, justifying construction of the church that has stood at North Main and East Smallwood streets for the past century-and-a-half.

Fr. Fitzgerald enlisted a master builder to design the new church and oversee its construction.

Parishioners, mostly immigrants who had brought exceptional building skills from

Archbishop Peter Richard Kenrick of St. Louis dedicated the church in 1875.

The bell tower and steeple were completed in 1891.

Msgr. Kurwicky called to mind that one person died while helping to build the church.

Fr. Tolton was here

On March 19, 1889, the Feast of St. Joseph, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton — a northern Missouri native, former slave and the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States — preached a mission in St. Joseph Church.

He is now under formal consideration for being declared a saint.

To recall that occasion, Fr. Tolton and St. Joseph Church are both depicted in a recently installed stained glass window near the baptistry of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

The Edina parish has had 24 pastors, 18 of whom have ministered in the current church.

Regarding St. Joseph Church as a garden of vocations, Msgr. Kurwicky noted that Edina was the hometown of 50 religious women; 16



Martin Spilker, a member of St. Mary Parish in Shelbyville, took this photo during a recent visit to St. Joseph Church in Edina.

their homelands, raised the money, extracted the stone and clay from the ground, fired the bricks and harvested the lumber locally.

Auxiliary Bishop Patrick J. Ryan of St. Louis — future archbishop of Philadelphia — blessed the cornerstone and set it into place in 1874.

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14 men from throughout the diocese instituted as acolytes

Preparing to be ordained permanent deacons in 2025

By Jay Nies

In kneeling one-by-one before the bishop, 14 men from parishes throughout the Jefferson City diocese reached an important threshold in their preparation to be ordained permanent deacons next summer.

Each was instituted as an Acolyte, a lay ministry with specific duties and responsibilities.

"It's 'decision time' for them and the Church about their continuing formation for the Order of the Diaconate," Bishop McKnight stated in his homily Aug. 25 at Mass in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

Acolytes are instituted by the bishop for service at the altar and to assist the priest and deacon.

Their primary role is to prepare the altar and the sacred vessels for Mass and, if necessary, to distribute Holy Communion as an extraordinary minister.

The 14 men — **Kenneth Arthur** of St. Patrick Parish in Rolla, **Robert Czarnecki** of St. Stanislaus Parish in Wardsville, **Louie Delk** of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, **Michael Dorrell** of St. Bonaventure Parish in Marceline, **Chad Freie** of St. Clement Parish in St. Clement, **Edward Galbraith** of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, **Denis Gladbach** of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, **Dwayne Goodwin** OFS of St. Joseph Parish in Palmyra, **Keith Henke** of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Taos, **Brian Lutz** of Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Boonville, **Harvey Million Jr.** of Holy Spirit Parish in



FRONT ROW: Robert Czarnecki of St. Stanislaus Parish in Wardsville; Michael Dorrell of St. Bonaventure Parish in Marceline; Harvey Million, Jr. of Holy Spirit Parish in Centralia; Kenneth Arthur of St. Patrick Parish in Rolla; Dwayne Goodwin, OFS of St. Joseph Parish in Palmyra; **BACK ROW:** Chad Freie of St. Clement Parish in St. Clement; Mark Oligschlaeger of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City; Keith Henke of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Taos; James Rangitsch, Jr. of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County; Louie Delk of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City; Charles Ochoa of Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia; Brian Lutz of Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Boonville; Denis Gladbach of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City and Edward Galbraith of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, who are all candidates for the Permanent Diaconate for the Jefferson City diocese, join Bishop W. Shawn McKnight outside the Cathedral of St. Joseph after being installed as lectors. — Photo by Jay Nies

Centralia, **Charles Ochoa** of Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia, **Mark Oligschlaeger** of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City and **James Rangitsch Jr.** of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County — are far along in their preparation to become deacons. The process began with a year of formal discernment and have been in formation for three years.

They hope to be ordained deacons next year.

Being instituted as acolytes is an important milestone in their formation, affording them the opportunity to serve more actively and more visibly in their parishes.

Bishop McKnight spoke of how all of this fits into God's greater plan for his Church, articulated in the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.

"As fellow disciples of Jesus Christ in our own place and time, we are called to be a community of support for one another, helping each other out in living our faith in Jesus Christ," the bishop stated.

Baptized into one family, Catholics share in the elaborate support network given by Christ to help all in the Church to remain faithful to him.

"The gift of Christ's word and teaching are safeguarded by the successors of the apostles, the bishops, who are in communion with the successor of St. Peter, the Pope, and all the priests and deacons who are coworkers with the Order of Bishops," Bishop McKnight elaborated.

The faithful receive special support in the sacraments, instituted by Christ to give grace, at important moments in life's journey.

"And in this community of believers we know as the Church, Jesus wants us to share in each other's joys and sorrows as we help one another experience the beatitudes of life with faith, devotion and trust in the Lord," the bishop said.

See ACOLYTES, page 19

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Seminarian Gage Neisen formally admitted to candidacy

Continuing his studies and formation for possible ordination to Priesthood

By Jay Nies

Seminarians for the Jefferson City diocese and local parishioners joined Bishop W. Shawn McKnight at Mass Aug. 4 in Queen of Peace Church in Ewing, home church of seminarian Gage Neisen.

There, the bishop formally accepted Mr. Neisen into candidacy for the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

"From this day on, you must cultivate more fully your vocation, using especially those means that can be offered to you as help and support by the ecclesial community entrusted with this task," Bishop McKnight told Mr. Neisen.

The Rite of Admission to Candidacy is a pivotal step in the journey to the ministerial Priesthood. It is celebrated when a seminarian has reached a maturity of purpose in his formation and has demonstrated the necessary qualifications for ordination.

Mr. Neisen completed the college portion of his seminary studies at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, Texas, this year and has now begun theology

studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

In the presence of the bishop and the people, Mr. Neisen expressed his intention to complete and be fully invested in his preparation for priestly ordination, in order to serve Christ and the Church faithfully.

Bishop McKnight emphasized that just as all who are baptized are drawn into something much larger than themselves, "discernment of a vocation to the Priesthood cannot merely depend upon the will or decision of the candidate alone."

The signs of a vocation must also be evident to the Church, especially to those in authority who are responsible for ensuring that priestly vocations are authentic.

"This takes prayer — lots of prayer on the part of the candidate — but also on the part of the Church," said Bishop McKnight.

It also requires a great deal of patience and active preparation.

The bishop promised that he and the rest of the local Church will continue to pray for Mr. Neisen as he moves ahead with his formation.

Perpetual mission

As a candidate for Holy Orders, Mr. Neisen is now bound



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight administers the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders to seminarian Gage Neisen (left), on Aug. 4 during Sunday Morning Mass in Queen of Peace Church in Ewing. Queen of Peace is the home parish for Mr. Neisen, who is a seminarian at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

more closely to the altar of the Eucharist — sacrament of charity and sacrament of unity for the Church.

"Christ's apostolic mission to crucify sin and death and to bring forth new life of the resurrection has continued down through the centuries through the work and ministry of his

Apostles and their successors," the bishop noted.

Despite evil in the world and scandal in the Church, "Christ continues to break the chains of slavery to sin, to heal the brokenhearted, to nourish the hungry, to bring glad tidings to the poor, to be the Bread of Life," he stated.

He reminded Mr. Neisen: "In publicly presenting yourself as a formal candidate for the Sacrament of Holy Orders, you are manifesting your internal intention to join in this apostolic work."

The bishop urged Mr. Neisen to live according to the Gospel and be strengthened in faith, hope and charity.

"By practicing these virtues, you will grow in the spirit of prayer and in zeal to win all mankind for Christ," the bishop said.

Answer to prayers

Bishop McKnight asked God to bless Mr. Neisen, "so that he may persevere in his vocation — and clinging to Christ, the Priest, with sincere charity — may be able to take up the apostolic office worthily."

Joining the bishop at the altar were Father Callistus Okoroji, pastor of Queen of Peace Parish and of St. Joseph Parish in Canton, and Father Paul Clark, diocesan vocation director and director of seminarians.

Mr. Neisen and eight of his nine fellow seminarians of the diocese, each preparing to return to studies and formation after spending the summer in the diocese, assisted the bishop during the Mass as servers and in various other roles at or near the altar.

The bishop lauded the people in parishes throughout the diocese who bring their prayers for more priestly vocations into their weekly vigils of Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

"We would do well to remember how dependent we are upon God and the prayers of the good people of his Church for us to be here for this Rite of Admission to Candidacy," he said.

Bishop McKnight thanked all the seminarians for attending the Mass and for their help and participation in events in the diocese during the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage for five days in June.

A luncheon provided by Queen of Peace parishioners was served in the parish hall after Mass.

Fr. Flatley: Spiritual or religious ... Can I be both?

The following is part of a series of reflections by the diocesan moderator of spiritual formation for the Jefferson City diocese:

By Father Matthew Flatley

As a second-career vocation to Priesthood, I often found myself studying with students much younger than I.

They frequently said, "I am spiritual but not religious."

I was never entirely sure how to understand this claim, but I believe it is important to try.

Does this help to explain the large number of "nones" among former Catholics?

These are folks who check off none when asked to identify their religious affiliation.

And what Catholic priest has not heard the sad lament of so many older parents, bemoaning the fact that most of their adult children no longer attend Mass?

How do we best create a religious experience

that attracts a person who is genuinely seeking an encounter with the Holy Spirit?

Most especially, if they are convinced they do not need institutional religion?

Many young people today tell me they seek to experience God as a verb and not a noun. They state that they are more interested in how a person lives and treats others, rather than what a person proclaims to believe, or what creed they profess.

Mind you, we need our creed. We need the dogma and doctrine of religion.

These teachings and traditions set the boundaries and construct the yoke, which keeps us safe.

They instruct us in the moral life. And yet we read from St Paul: "And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian" (Galatians 3:25).

Does spirituality express what faith proclaims and religion teaches?

See FR. FLATLEY, page 14



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Recollections of parish picnics and happy marriages

Couples share stories of courtship in the churchyard

By Jay Nies

"Why don't you ride my mule back to the shop?"

Stephanie Farnan looked around for a beast of burden with a stubborn disposition.

"I led her on for a little bit and then said, 'It's that machine up there,'" Doug Farnan recalled.

She had no idea how to operate the two-passenger ATV, but he told her it's just like driving a car.

Several hours later, Stephanie called her mother.

"I think I just met the man for me, but I forgot to ask his name," the daughter stated.

She made a point of finding out the next day.

Mr. and Mrs. Farnan were one of several married Catholic couples from around the diocese who shared the story of how they met at a parish picnic — and what that seemingly chance encounter led to.

Doug had been working in the quilt booth for several past St. Joseph Parish Picnics in Salisbury.

Itching for more excitement, the town's Kawasaki dealer and former ATV instructor suggested bringing a few of the nimble vehicles up to the parish grounds for rides on picnic day.

A few years later, the couple in charge of the picnic took him up on the offer.

That was Stephanie's first or second year as principal of St. Joseph School.

"We'd seen each other around but hadn't really met or talked," Doug recalled.

But when she walked by while he was setting up, he said, "You need to come by and try this. The kids at school are going to be talking about this all week."

It was the most popular attraction at the picnic that year.

The pastor later asked Stephanie to help make sure all the booths were closed down and cleaned up before heading home.

She helped Doug get his ATVs back to his shop a few blocks away.

Doug and Stephanie were both exhausted, but they

wound up staying up well past midnight, visiting.

A couple of days later, she dropped into his shop while he was working.

They talked some more while she helped reassemble a restored motorcycle.

He started thinking, "I'm pretty impressed with this gal!"

They wound up taking a ride on the motorcycle. That weekend, they took a long road trip together.

A week later, they traveled even farther.

Doug's previous attempt at marriage had failed, and he wasn't looking for a wife.

But he and Stephanie enjoyed each other's company, and he showed her how to ride.

He remembers praying: "Lord, I already tried doing it my way. If you want me to have somebody, you have to put them in front of me."

"He did," said Doug.

The couple got married in St. Joseph Church in December of that year and are still going strong, almost 21 years later.

To go or not to go?

Parish picnics and fall festivals are long and storied traditions in parishes throughout the Jefferson City diocese.

They're also great opportunities to have fun and meet people.

"I've seen so many people connect over buying a cold beverage and pouring one out for someone next to you," said Tori Berendzen, a member of Our Lady of Snows Parish in Mary's Home.

"Even just sitting down at a table and sharing a meal with people you've never met," she said. "We're still meeting new people that way."

She and her husband Jeremy became acquainted at the Mary's Home parish picnic 21 years ago.

Tori now serves as one of the head cooks during the annual event, billed as the diocese's largest.

Jeremy grew up in Wardsville, but his parents are from



Mary's Home and would take him to the picnic every year.

Tori grew up in Mary's Home and knew Jeremy's grandmother, but Tori's and Jeremy's paths never crossed.

He was living in Ashland and studying at the University of Missouri in Columbia. She was living in Jefferson City and studying at Lincoln University.

She had gotten off late from her job at the Lake of the Ozarks.

It was rainy and muddy.

"I kind of went back and forth about whether I wanted to go to the picnic at all," she recalled.

She decided at the last minute to go with her cousin, Jess.

Jeremy was visiting with one of his cousins around the biergarten when Tori arrived, and she struck up a conversation.

The attraction was instant.

"And that was pretty much it," Tori recalled.

Later that night, they wound up driving around gravel roads, talking and listening.

"We had a lot of fun," said Jeremy.

They started dating and got engaged in September of the next year.

The following July, they got married in Our Lady of Snows Church, where several generations of ancestors to both of them also had their weddings.

The couple bought a house and some land in Mary's Home in 2006.

"We were ready to start having a family," said Tori. "We wanted all of our kids to have their sacraments here."

They're active parishioners

and spend about three full days helping to get ready for the picnic each year.

"Our four kids also help out," Jeremy noted.

Tori said it was always important for her to meet and marry someone who shares her Catholic faith, along with similar values and interests.

As soon as she met Jeremy's daughter, she began feeling called to be his wife.

"All the pieces started coming together," she said. "I felt I was there to be part of her family life and his."

Jeremy could see the same.

"They hit it off like they were natural mother and daughter," he recounted. "It worked perfectly."

Mysterious ways

Richard Schulte enjoyed making friends at Catholic Youth Organization dances and at the dances parishes would hold during their picnics.

"It was a neat way to meet people, and if you weren't scared to death of dancing, you could meet a girl that way," he said.

"I was one of the lucky ones," he added.

Roberta Schulte liked dancing and went to a dance at the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Picnic in St. Thomas.

"I had a friend who taught me how to do 'the Hustle,'" she recalled. "I was toward the corner of the room and showing the girl I was with how to do it."

Richard had never seen her before. He noticed that she danced differently from every-

one else.

"There was something that drew me to her," he recalled. "She was doing moves I never saw before. I was intrigued."

Her bell-bottom jeans flared out over the clogs on her feet, highlighting the effect.

"That's where it started," he said. "I asked her to dance. We hit it off, and there it went."

Before long, they were married.

"And we've been happily married ever since," said Richard. "Forty-seven years and counting."

He noted that he and Roberta have been blessed with great sons and daughters and a steady family life.

"I think faith has been a big part of that," he said.

A friend encouraged them early-on to move to Holts Summit, where St. Andrew Parish had been recently established.

Less than six months later, they knew everyone in the parish by name.

Roberta came from a large family. Her mother and her mother-in-law insisted on gathering up their large clans for meals and fellowship.

"Our moms would always say we need to get together," said Richard. "And the only way to do that is to stay in touch. You need that one-on-one contact to stay involved and stay connected."

Richard and Roberta have friends who live in St. Thomas, and they never miss going back for the parish picnic, where it all began for them.

"Trust and forgiveness"

Sylvester and Mary Jo Kessel, members of St. Lawrence Parish in St. Elizabeth, don't recall too many specifics from the night they first laid eyes on each other at the Our Lady of Snows Parish Picnic in Mary's Home.

Neither recalls where on the parish grounds they met, how they were introduced to each other, what they were wearing

QUESTION CORNER

Why is confirmation a requirement to be a godparent?

By Jenna Marie Cooper
OSV News

Q: I wanted my aunt and uncle to be godparents for my new baby. Both my aunt and uncle went through 12 years of Catholic school. But the priest told us my uncle couldn't be godfather to my baby because he never received confirmation. This doesn't make sense to me because I'm sure my uncle knows the faith well. Couldn't he at least be part of the baptism as a Christian witness? (Winona, MN)



A: Even while it might be disappointing for you in this instance, canon law does require that godparents be baptized and confirmed Catholics.

For reference, canon 872 of the Code of Canon Law describes the role of a baptismal sponsor: "Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it."

We often call baptismal sponsors for infants "godparents," as their role is to assist the parents in raising their children in the faith. And although this is not explicitly stated in our current canon law, a traditional understanding was that godparents would take over responsibility for their godchild's religious education if something happened to the parents that left them unable to attend to this themselves. Perhaps due to the custom of godparents serving as sort of "back-up parents" as far as faith formation is concerned, canon 873 allows for the possibility of two godparents, one female godmother and one male godfather, even though one godparent alone is sufficient.

Canon 874, Paragraph 1 lists the necessary qualifications of a godparent, including among other things that they be at least 16 years old (unless the local bishop has decided otherwise) and that they be someone other than the child's parents.

This same section also indicates that a prospective godparent must be someone who can reasonably serve as a good Catholic role model, noting that they cannot be "bound by any canonical penalty" such as excommunication and that they must "have the aptitude" for fulfilling the role of a godparent. But more significantly to your question here, canon 874 directly states that a godparent must "be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on."

Logically, this does make sense. It would be difficult to guide anyone through the process of Catholic initiation if you are not fully initiated yourself; and similarly, a godparent needs to love and actively practice the faith if they are going to hand it on effectively. While intellectual knowledge of Catholic teaching (such as the kind imparted by religion classes in Catholic schools) is important, ultimately it cannot be a substitute for the lived experience and expression of the faith.

Canon 874, Paragraph 2 does mention the possibility of a non-Catholic Christian serving as a formal "witness" to the baptism in conjunction with a Catholic godparent. But this is not an option for a baptized Catholic, even if the Catholic has not yet been confirmed.

Of course, it is not possible to give specific advice based on limited second-hand information. But, depending on how soon the baptism of your child is set to occur, it could be that the easiest way to resolve this situation is simply for your uncle

See QUESTION, page 19

Papal Audience

August 28, 2024



Dear brothers and sisters:

In this audience, I invite you to join me in thinking of and praying for our brothers and sisters who even now seek to escape war, violence, persecution and disasters and set out in search of a land where they can live in peace and security. Many of these migrants, including young children, suffer greatly and die along the way. Most of these tragedies

could be prevented. The teaching of Scripture is clear: God especially loves his children who are poor and in need, and we are called to help and defend them. Rather than more restrictive laws and the militarization of borders, what is needed is an expansion of secure and regular means of access, and a global governance of migrations based on justice, fraternity and solidarity. May we not turn a blind eye to these brothers and sisters, support those who seek to assist them and, above all, pray fervently for just solutions to this grave humanitarian crisis.

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims taking part in today's audience, especially the group of students and teachers from Norway. Upon all of you, and your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless you!

Mass on the Quad



Several hundred young people, mostly students at the University of Missouri, Columbia College and Stephens College in Columbia, attend Mass in Traditions Plaza in the middle of the University of Missouri campus the evening of Sunday, Aug. 26. The annual Mass is the annual kick-off for Catholic life on campus.

— Photo by Annie Williams

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Reflections on Sundays and Labor Day

By Lucia A. Silecchia



Anyone who has spent time with a toddler likely knows one great mystery of young minds: fierce opposition to naps.

This is a mystery to me because, as an adult in a busy world, I often find myself wishing that mandatory naps were a part of my everyday life.

Yet, to those much younger than I, rest is something to be resisted with every ounce of strength.

This is true even if it is loving, caring adults who know that rest refreshes and re-creates, and that lack of rest is a recipe for a difficult day.

Before I criticize my youngest sisters and brothers too much, though, I have to ask if we adults do the same thing.

I know that Sunday is a day we are commanded to “keep holy” and that it

is a day to be set aside for rest, just as God Himself rested on the seventh day.

I know that Sunday should be devoted first and foremost to the worship of God and, then, for that sacred rest that allows us to re-create ourselves and spend time caring for and being cared for by our loved ones.

I know that there is a loving God who planned this order of things, knowing that rest refreshes and renews.

Yet, it is so easy to resist this plan. Sundays, it seems, have become just as hectic as the other six days of the week.

Stores bustle with shoppers. Work emails are sent and received.

On-line orders are filled and ubiquitous delivery trucks prowl the neighborhoods.

The early morning cacophony of lawn mowers and string trimmers breaks the peace of quiet streets, while Sunday traffic jams rival those of weekdays.

Youth sports — even in Catholic leagues and Catholic schools — main-

tain grueling Sunday schedules.

Many employers, customers and clients now expect 24-7 availability, not merely 24-6 access.

The urge to keep up with others and not fall behind makes it ever more difficult to see Sunday as a special day, distinct and different from the others.

It is easy to look back with nostalgia at a time when so-called “blue laws” slowed the treadmill of life a bit and may have made it easier to keep Sundays as a day of worship and rest.

Nevertheless, even though it seems harder now, the importance of a restful, prayerful Sunday may be more urgent than ever before.

As autumn beckons, many of us will be resetting our routines to embrace the busier life that starts anew when the activities of our communities, parishes, and schools resume after the summer hiatus.

This may be exactly the right moment to consider how our Sundays will look in our new routines.

It may be the time to look at the commitments we make for our Sundays and ask whether they bring us closer to God, give us time with loved ones, and allow us to rest for the week ahead.

For some whose work is essential for protecting the health and safety of others, Sunday labor is indeed a gift to their sisters and brothers — and a gift for which I am deeply grateful.

Our attitudes toward Sundays are especially worth reflecting upon as our nation celebrates Labor Day.

As we honor all who labor, this holiday is a time for gratitude for all those who worked and work tirelessly to improve the conditions of the workplace.

Unsafe working conditions, long hours, dangerous child labor and exploitative wages were some of the harms that our predecessors fought hard to change.

In a particular way, labor leaders

See SILECCHIA, page 19

Those who sing pray twice

By Cardinal Timothy Dolan
OSV News



You’ve seen those “bulletin bloopers.” I enjoy them. Here’s one: “The topic for next week’s sermon will be ‘What will hell be like? Come early and listen to the choir.’”

Thank God that can’t be said about most of the choirs I’m grateful to hear at Sunday Masses here in the archdiocese. Ours at St. Patrick’s Cathedral is acclaimed.

One of the multiple blessings of the last six decades since the close of the providential Second Vatican Council has been an emphasis on congregational singing and the development of excellent parish choirs.

I, for one, highly admire and appreciate the devotion and skill of our musicians, choir members, directors and leaders in song.

Of course, we hear criticism. Yet, our choirs, musicians and cantors are the first to acknowledge that much still needs to improve, and that we Catholics are, sadly, not too well known for our singing, as are, for instance, the Evangelical churches.

One complaint I do hear is that, at times, the choir can dominate, or “put on a show.” Choirs are at their best, these critics observe, when they enhance, not replace, congregational music. I would agree.

Some also cringe at a choir that

seems to draw too much attention to themselves, and even expect applause at times. We of course sing to praise God, not ourselves, as our musicians will remind us. We thank God for the talents he has given us, not the voices who use them beautifully to glorify him.

At times the choir is so good that the Mass seems to take second place. It’s almost like the Mass occurs to fill in the pauses as the choir prepares for its next “number.”

Well, do I remember the first time I entered a Baptist church, as our parish youth group was invited to a youth revival. What struck me was that the center of attention was, not the altar, the tabernacle, or the crucifix, but the choir! That, of course, was not my experience as a Catholic. The choir, we believed, sang with the people, not at them.

We, of course, do not go to Mass for the music, although we sure love it when the music helps our worship. Nor do we even attend Mass for the sermon, as important as that is. No, we go to unite ourselves with Jesus in his sublimely infinite and eternal sacrifice of praise, supplication, a contrition on the Cross.

Music, singing, the choir, the sermon are all very significant means to that but never the end in themselves.

This all comes to mind with the feast of St. Augustine, Aug. 28, who taught, “Those who sing pray twice!”

Thanks to all who help us do that!

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan is the archbishop of New York.

REFLECTION

Firstborn of all creation

By Mark Saucier

In Luke, Gabriel appears to Mary and announces that she will give birth to one who will be called “Son of God.”

Flummoxed by the news, she probably didn’t recall that “Son of God” was not an uncommon title among the rich and ruling of the ancient world.

Alexander the Great, King Hammurabi of Babylon, Gilgamesh of Epic fame, and the pharaohs of Egypt all claimed divine parentage, each a Son of God.

Caesar Augustus, Roman emperor when Jesus was born, claimed not only to be Son of God and God from God, but other familiar titles “Redeemer,” “Liberator,” and “Savior of the World.”

But there is something very different between Jesus as the Son of God, and all these other caesarean honorifics.

Kings and emperors used titles to justify, expand and consolidate their power. It was a “me thing,” with the emphasis in “Son of God” on the son, not on “God.”

A lowly born tradesman turned itinerant preacher, a miracle-worker and martyr, Jesus was not a ruler but a revelation, not an earthly monarch but a divine manifestation.

The Epistle to the Hebrews describes Jesus as “the reflection of God’s glory and the exact representation of the Father’s being.”

Nobody ever said that about Caesar Augustus.

Every act that Jesus performed — every kindness, compassion, healing and forgiving — was a revelation of the qualities of God.

God was the source of all the power, love and mercy which distinguished the life of the Son.

It is interesting, though, that Jesus referred to himself more often, not as the Son of God, but the Son of Man.

It is easy to get into the theological weeds here, but for those of us who prefer the simple and the pragmatic, there is still a lot of meaning.

As Son of God, Jesus is the revelation of the nature of God. As Son of Man, he reveals the possibility for all of us in relation to that God.

Every act that Jesus performed — that kindness, compassion, healing and forgiving — was not just a revelation of the qualities of God, bringing God to us.

It was an invitation for us to do the same, a path bringing us to God.

“Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect,” he bids us.

As both Son of God and Son of Man, Jesus shows a path by which we may become as divine as humanly possible.

And as fully human as divinely possible.

Encounter

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Nourishing hope: The crucial role of supporting food pantries



By Chelsea Robbing

Within all communities, amidst wealth and prosperity, there exists a stark reality for many individuals and families: food insecurity. This widespread issue affects millions globally, including within our own neighborhoods.

As the Director of Health and Nutrition Services at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO), I witness firsthand the profound impact that food insecurity has on individuals and families. It is not simply a matter of access to food but also a crucial determinant of overall health and well-being.

Food insecurity is more than just a lack of food; it encompasses the uncertainty of having sufficient, nutritious food to live a healthy life.

Many factors contribute to food insecurity, such as poverty, unemployment, high living costs and limited access to nutritious food options.

Families and individuals facing food insecurity often find themselves making impossible choices between pay-

ing for food or other essential needs, like rent or medical care.

Food pantries, like ours at CCCNMO, play a pivotal role in addressing immediate hunger needs.

They serve as a vital safety net, providing essential food items to those who are struggling to make ends meet.

Beyond just providing sustenance, food pantries offer a sense of hope and dignity to individuals and families during challenging times.

They ensure that no one in our community has to go to bed hungry.

At our food pantry, we strive not only to alleviate hunger but also to promote health and nutrition.

We prioritize offering a variety of nutritious foods, including fresh produce, proteins and whole grains.

This ensures that the families we serve have access to balanced meals that contribute to their overall well-being.

Operating a food pantry does come with its own set of challenges.

Meeting the growing de-



mand for food assistance requires a constant influx of donations and volunteers.

Additionally, ensuring that the food distributed is nutritious and culturally appropriate adds complexity to our overall operations.

Despite these challenges, the dedication and commitment of our staff and volunteers enable us to make a meaningful impact on the lives of the neighbors we serve.

Support from the community is truly instrumental in the success of food pantries.

Whether it is through food donations, monetary contributions or volunteer hours, every bit of support helps us extend our reach and serve more individuals and families in need.

The collaborations with local businesses, schools and

organizations also play a vital role in our ability to provide additional support to our community members facing food insecurity.

It is crucial to recognize Hunger Action Month, while we reflect on the importance of supporting food pantries as a time dedicated to raising awareness and taking strong action against hunger.

Throughout September, communities come together to advocate, donate and volunteer to combat food insecurity.

It serves as a significant reminder of the ongoing challenges faced by millions and highlights the urgency of our collective community efforts.

During Hunger Action Month, we invite everyone — both individuals and organizations — to join us in making a difference.

Whether it is by organizing food drives, hosting fundraising events or spreading awareness through social media, everyone can contribute to alleviating hunger in our communities.

Together, we can deepen our impact and ensure that food pantries have the re-

sources they need to support those most in need.

'The work we do is complex, food is not.'

Food insecurity is a complex issue that requires collective action and commitment to address it effectively.

At our local food pantry, I am inspired daily by the resilience and courage of the individuals and families we serve.

Together, through compassion, generosity and advocacy, we can create a future where everyone has access to nutritious food and the opportunity to thrive.

Supporting food pantries is not just about filling stomachs; it is about nourishing hope and dignity for everyone.

Let us stand together in our continued fight against hunger and food insecurity, ensuring that no one in our community is left behind.

Together, we have the power to make a difference — one meal, one family, one community at a time.

As we approach Hunger Action Month, let's renew our dedication to this cause and enhance our efforts to foster a more resilient and compassionate society.

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Members of Class of 2024 offer advice to incoming freshmen

By Jay Nies

When Jake Ryan was a high school freshman, he made friends with half-a-dozen seniors, most of whom he's still in touch with.

"And they really just showed me how to enjoy high school and how to grow in faith and also have fun and things like that," said Jake, who graduated this spring from Fr. Tolton Regional High School in Columbia.

He rose up through the ranks, determined to pass the favor forward.

"And I was talking to a few younger students after a baseball game right before graduation, and they said 'thank you,' and I realized that I had done what I wanted to do and showed them a little bit about how to grow and live their lives," he said.

The lesson: "Make friends with the upperclassmen."

Jake was among a handful of recent Catholic high school graduates who in interviews with a reporter passed tidbits from their accrued experience along to incoming freshmen.

"Always believe in yourself and stay true to everything that you believe in," advised Jackson Manning, who graduated from Sacred Heart High School in Sedalia this spring.

"Step out of your comfort

zone and join the clubs that you maybe are thinking about joining but are scared," said Ella Patterson, a member of the Class of 2024 at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City.

"Just join and maybe you'll end up being the president of the club by your junior or senior year," she said.

Helias Catholic graduate Ava Morris encouraged new freshmen to take advantage of all the opportunities their school provides.

"Especially the opportunities to grow your in faith in God," she stated. "That will help you out in the long run."

Sacred Heart graduate Ximena Lopez warned against procrastinating.

"It is never too early to start trying hard," she said. "Because if you don't, you're really gonna regret it your senior year."

Fellow Sacred Heart graduate Ellie Coruna extolled persistence.

"If you're playing a sport, keep doing that throughout high school," she said. "Stick to it."

Meanwhile, Helias Catholic graduate Anna AuBuchon counseled pacing and moderation in order to avoid the other extreme.



Anna AuBuchon, Mason French, Sam Wyrick, Ava Morris and Ella Patterson, members of Helias Catholic High School's Class of 2024, gather for a photo in the school's St. Pius X Chapel after being interviewed this spring. They were among the graduating seniors of Catholic high schools in the diocese who shared advice for this year's incoming freshmen.

— Photo by Jay Nies

"No matter how important school is or clubs or activities or your faith or your friends — anything you do that you overdo, you'll eventually give up on," she stated.

She reminded freshmen that four years is a long time to maintain full focus on a single aspect of life.

"So, take a break and remember that there's more than one important thing in the world — none more important than God, obviously!" she said.

Helias Catholic graduate Mason French advised putting

God first always, and never taking other people's criticism too deeply to heart.

He noted that high school is a marathon, not a sprint.

"So, move at your own pace to get through your classes and your time in school," he said.

Tolton Catholic graduate Audrey Rischer advised new freshmen never to be embarrassed about who they are or what they enjoy.

"Don't be afraid to participate and to be open about your faith and even your hobbies," she said.

"We're all living kind of similar lives, we're all in the same boat, so don't be afraid to be different," she advised.

Helias Catholic graduate Sam Wyrick said to stop and be consciously present to things that are going on.

"Just enjoy because it's a quick four years and the next thing you know, you'll be graduating," he said.

He also advised maintaining a strong faith life for all four years of high school, "and if that's good for you, you know you'll continue your faith in college and it will help you out in the long run."

Tolton Catholic graduate Sophie Holtmeyer emphasized the importance of trying new things.

"Get involved in activities you've never even thought about before," she said.

It always helps to know you're in an affirming environment.

"If it's the people you're afraid of interacting with, everybody here is welcoming, and you will always find your people," said Sophie. "You will find your way no matter what."

"It's up to you," she stated. "Go out and explore. Don't stay inside the box. Always be outside the box."

Speaker sees a time of new beginnings amid transformation of religious congregations

By Dan Stockman
OSV News

Orlando, Florida

Though the historical era of armies of women religious functioning as a workforce for the Catholic Church is over, the sister at the forefront of efforts to guide congregations through their transformations says it is also a time of new beginnings.

Sister Anne Munley, the associate director for the Emerging Future Initiative of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Scranton, Pennsylvania, said most sisters in the United States are well aware they are living the first part of the Paschal Mystery.

But having met with congregations across the nation, she has also seen evidence of the second part: Resurrection.

"In a world steeped in division and starved for meaning and right relationship, we are growing in awareness of our call to be a transformative presence of God's unconditional and all-inclusive love," Sr. Anne told the nearly 800 sisters gathered for LCWR's annual assembly in Orlando. "We are growing in awareness of shoots of new life springing forth as we draw closer toward communion with one another in God."

After nearly four years of meetings, interviews, workshops, small groups and leadership hubs as part of the Emerging Future Initiative, her address Aug. 15 was meant to be an update for members on the trends she is seeing. (LCWR represents about two-thirds of the nearly 36,000 U.S. sisters.)

Citing statistics from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, Global Sisters

Report said the number of Catholic sisters in the United States peaked at 181,421 in 1965, and the rate of decline is expected to slow and the numbers to stabilize.

There are four trends that Sr. Anne said "have emerged clearly" from the process:

- A shift in identity and perception of charism;
- A shift in understanding of mission;
- A shift toward reimagining leadership;
- A shift toward greater interdependence.

Sr. Anne said congregations are learning that charism is not what differentiates congregations from each other, but what unites them.

"We are not our institutions or our ways of organizing or governing ourselves. At the core of our identity as religious is a collective call to be a presence

of love in a suffering and divided world. The structures that we will need are those that support this end," she said. "There is a growing sense of a broader charism of religious life that is prompting us to focus on the essence of religious life and what we can be and do together as we journey in a common quest for God."

There is also a growing understanding that "mission" and "ministry" are not interchangeable terms, and that religious life is much less about doing — ministry — and much more about being — mission.

"For many, ministry provided a profound sense of identity and meaning, so much so that transitioning to retirement often triggers loss of purpose and wonderings such as 'Who am I now?' and 'How can I contribute?'" Sr. Anne

Mass at the State Fair



Father Brad Berhorst, associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, celebrates Mass Aug. 11, assisted by Deacon Nestor Montenegro, during this year's Missouri State Fair. About 200 people attended the Aug. 11 Mass, and about 100 attended Mass on the Fairgrounds a week later, on closing day.

— Photos by Jennifer Cordia



Pray, work and advocate for protection of all laborers

U.C. Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, D.C.

"Our faith calls us to pray, work, and advocate for protections that allow all laborers to thrive," said Archbishop Borys Gudziak and Bishop Mark J. Seitz in a joint reflection for Labor Day (Sept. 2).

The bishop chairmen called for a more just economy that honors the human dignity of all who labor, inclusive of those who have newly arrived in the country, as well as those whose families have been here for generations.

The bishops also addressed affronts to the dignity of children, who have been identified by some as supplemental sources of labor amid widespread worker shortages.

"The Church offers a vision for the future that does not require our society to choose between a thriving economy, economic justice, dignified conditions for all workers, and safeguarding the most vulnerable among us," the bishops state, calling attention to the plight of those who work in industries without protections due to their immigration status.

Achbishop Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia is chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop Seitz of El Paso is chairman of the Committee on Migration.

To read the entire statement, visit: usccb.org/resources/labor-day-statement-2024.

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Pope Francis: Adoring, receiving Eucharist makes Christians into missionaries

By Justin McLellan
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

When Christians spend time with Jesus in adoration or receive him in the Eucharist, they cannot help but spread his love with others, Pope Francis said.

"When you have met Christ in adoration, when you have touched him and received him in the Eucharistic celebration, you can no longer keep him to yourself, but you become a missionary of his love to others," the pope wrote in a letter to Bishop Marie Fabien Raharilamboniaina, president of bishops' conference of Madagascar.

In the letter published Aug. 23, Pope Francis praised the country's Eucharistic congress, which, he said, "aims to bring the sons and daughters of your Christian communities back to basics, helping them to rediscover the meaning of Eucharistic adoration and their appetite for spending time with Christ."

Encountering Christ in adoration and receiving him at Mass "is a process that helps each person grow into the Christian he or she is called to become," the pope wrote.

The congress Aug. 23-26 coincides with preparations for the final assembly of the Synod of Bishops on synodality in October, the pope said, and he prayed that it would help participants in the congress "rediscover the importance of meeting, praying and committing themselves with and for others, following Jesus in the Eucharist."

Pope Francis also asked, "since

the faith in the real presence of the Lord is a great challenge," that the young people present at

of Jesus in the Eucharist."

"Help them to make their own lives an offering to God, united to that of Jesus on the altar, to make him better known, loved and served," he said.

The pope prayed that the Eucharistic con-

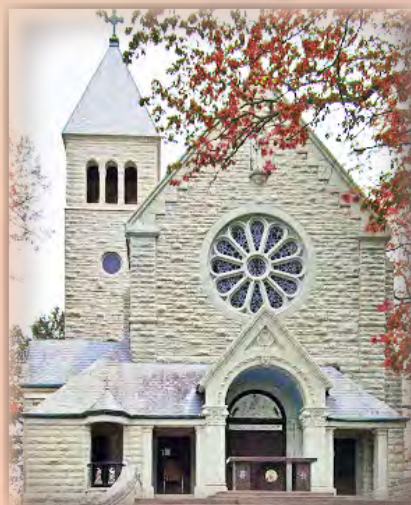
gress "help their brothers and sisters to have the experience

of Jesus in the Eucharist." "cultivate feelings of charity and

"Help them to make their own lives an offering to God, united to that of Jesus on the altar, to make him better known, loved and served."

— Pope Francis

Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows Starkenburg, Mo.



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Pilgrimage at 10 am

Traditional German Dinner

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Confessions at 12:30 pm

Benediction at 1 pm

Outdoor Mass at 2 pm

Shrine & Valentine Hall handicap accessible.
For info, visit risensavior.diojeffcity.org or call (573) 236-4390

From I-70...65 miles west of St. Louis, take Highway 19 south for 7 miles to Big Spring, Highway K west for 6 miles, Highway P south for 4 miles to Starkenburg and the Shrine.

solidarity toward all people, especially those in difficulty, for whom the path of life becomes more difficult every day."

"There are many discouraged people who look to the

future with skepticism and pessimism, as if nothing can bring them happiness," he said. "Bring them the Lord's hope, be witnesses to his compassion and merciful love."

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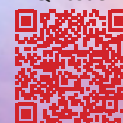
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Diocese of
Jefferson City

PICNICS

From page 7

or what songs they danced to that evening.

"Probably at the beer stand or in the dance hall," Sylvester surmised.

They do know that they liked each other.

"For one thing, she was awfully easy to talk to," said Sylvester. "That, and she said she'd go out with me again."

They've been married for 58 years.

Sylvester was born in St. Elizabeth but had moved with his family to St. Louis.

Mary Jo had grown up in Frankenstein but had moved to Jefferson City to take a job.

She caravanned to Mary's Home with a neighbor and some girlfriends from work.

"I wasn't going to the picnic to find a guy," she said. "I was just going to have fun like we always did. A group of friends would get together and visit and dance and have a good time."

Sylvester and his cousin Mike, who lived in Jefferson City, also made plans to head

to Mary's Home that evening.

"We were more or less on the lookout for girls," Sylvester conceded.

"How's that for honesty!" his wife replied.

Since she was already acquainted with Sylvester's cousin, he was likely their point of contact.

Sylvester and Mary Jo danced and talked and danced some more.

"They key is to be a little outgoing," Sylvester noted in retrospect. "You have to be ready to smile at someone you meet and say hello."

At the end of the evening, Sylvester offered to drive Mary Jo back to Jefferson City. But she was staying at a friend's



house nearby, so he drove her there and bade her goodnight.

They made a point of seeing a lot more of each other after that.

They got married in Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Frankenstein.

As members of St. Law-

rence parish, they remain very active in the Church and in the community.

They agree that most of their days together have been good, but not all.

"We always knew we were in it for the long haul, and we always figured out how to make it work," said Sylvester.

"Trust and forgiveness," Mary Jo said stated with tenderness. "You work through it."

"Building the team"

Jeremy Berendzen said Picnic Day always starts in church and ends down the hill, surrounded by the festivities.

He and Tori would like to bask in nostalgia at this year's picnic, but he'll be on the morning shift making mashed potatoes and on clean-up detail later, and she'll be on head-cook duty most of the day.

"Then, maybe we'll go out and have a couple of cold beverages at the biergarten," said Jeremy.

Tori noted that being a head cook has much less to do with cooking than ordering food and making sure everything runs smoothly.

"It is absolutely exhausting and completely time- and energy-consuming," she acknowledged. "I keep doing it because I don't ever want the picnic to stop."

"It's so important for people to have this fellowship and visit with people they may not

get a to talk with otherwise or who they might not have been in touch with since the last picnic," she said.

For people who want to meet people, Tori recommended being open and friendly.

"For me, it was just going up to someone and talking to him," she said. "He was attractive and was talking to people I knew, and I in-

serted myself into the conversation."

She said she can't imagine what life would be like if she hadn't met her husband and become a wife and mother.

"Having that partnership with my husband is so important," she stated. "And next to that, building the team that is our family is so incredible."

Their marriage works because it's built on faith, she said.

"A very good life"

Doug Farnan is convinced that marriage and family life are a vocation well worth pursuing.

"Yes, yes, absolutely!" he said. "Just make sure it's a calling from God and not a selfish reason that you're doing it for."

Roberta Schulte suggested praying for families, specifically for guidance to stay united through all of life's joyful and sorrowful mysteries.

"We've been very blessed," she stated.

"I've told my kids," said her husband, Richard, "that I've had a very good life, been very fortunate, awesome family, and if I died tomorrow, I would consider myself a lucky man."

As an aside, Tori Berendzen asked for prayers for good weather for this year's Mary's Home picnic.

"You don't want it too hot or too rainy," she said. "Good weather is the largest factor in our success."

FR. FLATLEY

From page 6

Perhaps we Catholics should try to find better ways to make proclamations around our personal beliefs and faith experience.

It might be fair to say that most Catholics do not normally make public proclamations. We do not typically say, "I have been born again" or "Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior."

But I wonder if we should try to find a Catholic way of proclaiming these beliefs?

In fact, I am not sure we would even say, "I am Spiritual." I wonder why?

Come on, Catholics! Do we love Christ? Do we have a personal relationship with Jesus our Savior?

Do we discuss our faith ex-

periences with one another?

If so, how do we best convey our Spiritual experiences, so as to draw others ... to the warmth of Christ's love?

Will they know we are Christians by our love?

I believe that programs such as Christ Renews His Parish and Cursillo are so particularly powerful because they give Catholics permission to explore spirituality.

In these programs, we are invited to personally profess and share our faith with one another, to be vulnerable and to wash each other's feet.

Religion teaches that every human is created in the image of God, and good Religious formation can teach the path,

which leads to the likeness of God.

But how is that likeness shining through us?

Are we reflecting the Spirit of God, or keeping it to ourselves?

Brothers and sisters, let us seek unity in our faith, rather than division, and strive to build up the Kingdom of God, here and now.

In the end, we must ask, "How do we best lead others to the Holy Spirit and back home to their faith tradition?"

Let us be companions on this faith journey.

Let us understand that religion and spirituality both have a role to play.

They are the two shores ... holding, carrying and making way, the path ... for this Great River of Grace to flow.

May that grace flow within and through us and out to others, attracting them to the same light.

Fr. Flatley is pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City.

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MARY'S HOME

From page 1

are certain. We should seek her intercession today. And in doing so, we should know that a mother so loving would never deny her children all those things granted in accord with God's will."

Good things

Before school, the students and teachers had gathered around a crucifix at the end of the classroom hallway and begun their day with prayer.

Mrs. Belshe's kindergartners led off their classroom instruction time by singing together: *"Oh, my Jesus. O, my Jesus! Be with us, to-oo-day! Guide and gua-ard us with your lo-ove a-and show us you-our way!"*

With an enrollment of 59, Our Lady of the Snows is one of 37 Catholic grade schools and three Catholic high schools in the diocese, each committed to providing quality Catholic education in a Christ-like environment — guiding, enlightening, educating and nurturing the children in their care.

"This school is like a big community," said Madelyn, an eighth-grader at Our Lady of the Snows. "Everyone is willing to help whenever you need it. It's a big happy community."

She said it's good to know that the people around her "have your back, and you have the whole school behind you."

"The teachers help me when I need it the most," said Nicholas, an eighth-grader. "They help me understand the words, help me grow."

Ally, a fifth-grader, is brand-new to the school.

"It like it. It's fun," she said.

Anything new or surprising?

"A lot of things!" she fired back. "Good things."

Third-grader Liam likes that his school is Catholic.

"We get to learn about Jesus and prayer, and we get to go to church," he said.

Third-grader Colton concurred: "I can learn more about my Catholic faith, like prayers and going to church."

Jax, also a third-grader, said he likes the school for the same reasons, as well as the great teachers.

Vivian, a fifth-grader, pointed out that lunch in the cafeteria is excellent. Her favorite offering is grilled cheese, which was served the previous day.

"It's really good," she said.

Fifth-grader Brooklin agreed that the lunches are good, adding: "I also like my principal."

Maddie, a fifth-grader, likes the teachers and school staff.

"They're nice," she said. "They help us with things when we ask them to."

That makes her feel good and want to be helpful to other people, there in school and out beyond it.

"I like that it's Catholic," said Henry, a fifth-grader.

Why does that matter to him?

"So you can learn about Jesus and God," he said.

Why does that matter?

"Because I want to."

Leading by example

Ally, whose favorite subjects are math and PE, said her goal is to be smarter by the end of this school year.

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.

Vivian wants to get better at math and reading.

Her classmate Henry plans to improve in spelling and other subjects.

During class, Mr. Vandike's seventh- and eighth-graders caught sight of the preschoolers in the schoolyard and briefly dwelled on what they miss most about their own preschool days.

"Naps!" said Jacob.

"Snack time!" a few others called out at once.

Mr. Vandike reminded them that "as long as you have part of yourself as an inner-kid and act like a kid every now and then, you'll stay young."



Mr. Vandike's seventh- and eighth-grade class at Our Lady of the Snows School in Mary's Home takes on their third day of the new school year after attending an all-school Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Aug. 15.

— Photo by Jay Nies

Each year, the school assigns a pre-school "buddy" to each seventh- and eighth-grader. They sit next to each other at Mass and occasionally take part in other school activities together.

"We get to be leaders," said Gus, an eighth-grader.

"It lets us be good role-models," eighth-grader Jessi added.

"To show them what they need to do," said Ellie, a seventh-grader.

"To help show them right from wrong," Jessi added.

In setting that example and preparing to be leaven in a larger community when they move on to high school, the seventh- and eighth-graders also give up some of their free time on Fridays to do projects such as setting up tables for weddings, funeral luncheons or other parish functions.

"They know it's service, but they also enjoy doing it and have fun with it," said Mr. Vandike, now in his 22nd year teaching at the school.

He said he enjoys his time with the students.

"They're very open-minded to learning, they're great role models and they want to set a good example for everyone who's younger than they are," he said.

"They take this role very seriously," he stated, "and they are all striving to be the best they can be and growing into

the young adults that they are, so they can have the knowledge and most importantly the spiritual aspect to help guide them through high school and life as they get older."

He asked his students whether any of their parents, grandparents or siblings also went to Our Lady of the Snows School.

Over half said yes. At least two said their great-grandparents also went there.

Mindful that God is likely calling most of them to the vocation of Marriage and family life, several said they hope to send their own children to Our Lady of the Snows School someday.

"Because it's a great school," said Madelyn.

"Because it's a Catholic school," said Ellie.

"The environment is so much better," said Jessi.

Intercession

A prayer is posted on the wall outside Mrs. Belshe's kindergarten classroom: "Dear God, help us be the best we can be, kind to one another, and to have you in our hearts. Fill our minds with learning, our lessons with fun, and our school with love. Amen."

"My prayer for my students this year is that they make great spiritual and academic gains," Mrs. Belshe stated.

This is Miss Grellner's seventh year teaching at Our Lady of the Snows.

"It's great to be back!" she said. "It's really nice to be with my students again. I want them to have a happy year and to learn everything they need to know about God and to grow closer to him."

"My prayer," said Mr. Vandike, "is that they continue to grow in their faith spiritually and academically as they become the future of the Church, and continue being good role models for the younger students."

Students shared their own requests for prayers.

"For us to have a great year," said Jax.

"That we all grow stronger," said Nolan, a fifth-grader.

"That we can pass our classes and become what we want to be," said Liam.

"I want you to pray for anyone in the world to have a safe school year," said Colton.

"That we don't get hurt," said Oliver, a sixth-grader.

"And to not get sick," Hatti added.

Home

On great days, not-so-great days and every day in between, Mrs. Varner accentuates the positive.

"We try to lift it up in prayer and truly find ways to praise God and look around us and find something to be thankful for," she said.

"Because there most certainly is a moment in every day that we have to be thankful for."

She believes helping the students understand that is part of everyone's job at the school: "Yes, to help guide them academically, but also to help them grow in and deepen their faith."

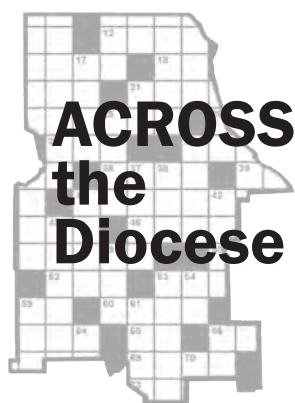
One of Mrs. Varner's most influential mentors worked in education for more than 45 years.

It was her mother, Lucille Limbach.

"My mom taught me to encourage, love and support those around me," Mrs. Varner stated.

A former student at the

See SCHOOL, page 17



By Father Donald Antweiler

ACROSS

1. Missouri has more than 1,000 Conservation Areas, or CAs, comprising over one million acres to preserve and protect Mo.'s natural ____.
8. "____ Simon met a pie-man, going to the fair..." —Mother Goose nursery rhyme.
12. Mine product.
13. No runs, no hits, no ____.
15. Letters for Saudi Arabia or South Africa.
16. Letters for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, former name of process for coming into the Catholic Church.
18. "It is a marvel that ____ man in such desperate case as is the King can moon around in this torpid way..." —*Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc*, by Mark Twain.
19. Button on a blender.
21. The ____ Catholic Church.
23. Email address ending for a university.
25. Relatives.
26. Prayer ender.
28. "Can any of you by worrying ____ a moment to your life-span?" (Luke 12:25).
30. Stomach muscle.
31. "If it weren't for the dozen Task Force cops listening ____, you might have thought I was a priest hearing a confession," —*Run For Your Life*, by James Patterson.
32. In business, letters for Net Operating Assets, the bottom line for a business.
33. Letters for Ralph Lauren, a fashion company.
34. Letters for Nat. Security Agency; U.S. codebreaking agency.
36. Letters for North Atlantic Treaty Org.; political & military alliance founded in 1949 to deter Soviet ex-

pansionism, forbid revival of militarism in Europe through strong North Am. presence, and helping European integration.

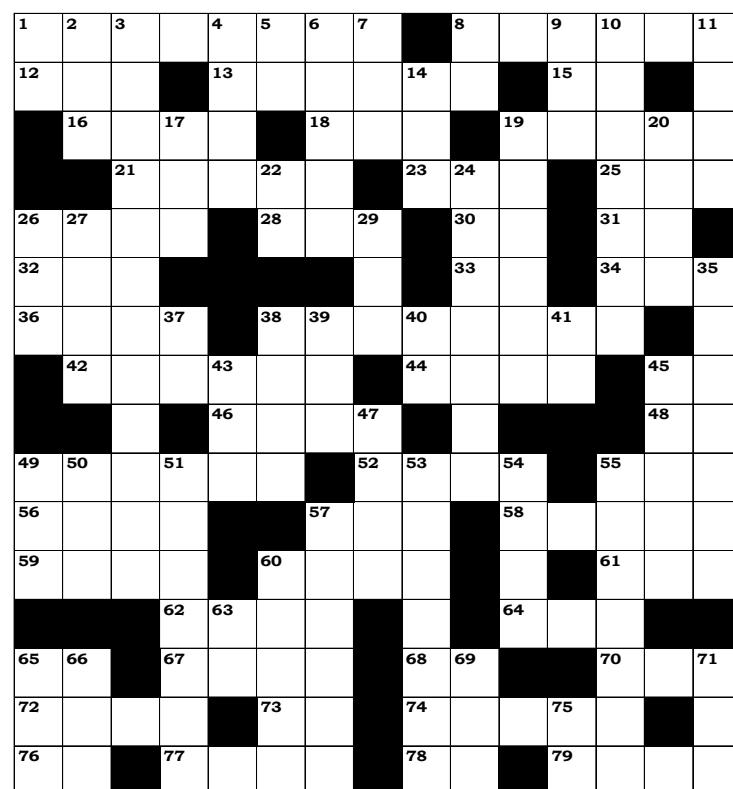
38. Some CAs can offer boating, ____, horseback riding or bird-watching options.
42. Check out Mo. CAs for hunting, fishing, hiking or ____ trails and primitive camping.
44. A religious group setting itself apart from a larger group, as a denomination or cult.
45. The Bayou State (abbr.).
46. "Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears ____'" (Genesis 1:11).
48. In business, letters for Operating Intelligence; this enables business decisions to be based on real-time data.
49. There is a CA "within a 30-____ drive from pretty much anywhere in the State," —Mo. Dept. of Conservation.
52. What might be in Dobbin's feedbag.
55. Letters for Vehicle Identification Number; every vehicle has its own.
56. ____-retentive; a psychological condition from childhood resulting in being excessive about cleanliness or orderliness, esp. in times of conflict.
57. ____ Weasley, friend of Harry and Hermione, in the Harry Potter books and movies.
58. "If you want to make God laugh, tell him about your ____," —Woody Allen.
59. "Our prayer is honest ____ when our lives back it up," —*Sacred Fire*, Ronald Rolheiser.
60. The size of CAs ____ greatly, from 7,356 acres (Weldon Spring) to 4 acres (an access to a stream).
61. Q-U.
62. "There is more than one way to ____ a cat." This unfortunate phrase, meaning there is more than one way to do something, goes back to a short story by an American humorist in 1840.
64. ____-Tai; rum cocktail.
65. Letters for Artificial Intelligence.
67. "Song ____ Blue;" in-

spired by the second movement of Mozart's Piano Concerto #21; Neil Diamond's ballad in 1972 soared to #1 on the charts.

68. Doggone ____!
70. "Formation...has no ____, for priests never stop being disciples of Jesus," —letter to Italian Bishops, Assisi; *With the Smell of the Sheep: Pope Francis Speaks to Priests, Bishops, and Other Shepherds*, ed. Giuseppe Merola.
72. I prefer ____ or false questions to a test.
73. Letters for Electrical Engineering degree.
74. "As (Jesus) was sitting on the ____ of Olives opposite the temple area..." (Mark 13:3).
76. "[St. Jose] Brochero was an ordinary man, frail like the rest of us, but...able to come out from the cavern of I-____-my..." —letter of Pope Francis to the Bishop's Conference of Argentina, 2014.
77. To be impudent or rude to another (e.g., parents).
78. Bicycle-riding alien.
79. "We had to learn to look at our daily lives, at everything that crossed our path each day, with the ____ of God; to see his estimate of things, places, and above all people," —*He Leadeth Me*, by Walter Ciszek, S.J.

DOWN

1. Land ____!
2. "To ____ is Truman," —Republican joke circa 1946; *Wit and Wisdom of Harry S. Truman*, ed. Alex Ayres.
3. Mo. CAs also focus on providing natural habitats that support diverse wildlife populations and provide outdoor ____ and educational opportunities, and for research.
4. CAs are not only beautiful and beneficial for getting into the outdoors but also are not as populated as State Parks which often serve ____ sports and social gatherings.
5. The Natural State (abbr.).
6. The ____ River flows for 226 miles south to its mouth on the Mo. River near Brunswick, Mo. in our diocese. Its 7,900-sq.-mile watershed drains the most water by far, flowing



from northern Mo. to the Mo. River.

7. A very long time.
8. Letters for Sacred Scripture.
9. Letters for Mo. State Univ. in Springfield; at almost 26,000 students, it is the second largest univ. in Mo.
10. Some CAs are more developed (e.g., staffed interpretative centers); others deliberately much less (e.g., an unpaved ____ lot).
11. "Patience wasn't something that came easy to Jack Ryan, but maybe ____ old dogs really could learn new tricks," —*Zero Hour*, by Don Bentley.
14. A type of whiskey.
17. A charged particle.
19. The ____ primarily uses CAs for fishing, hunting, nature observation and conservation education.
20. One, in Munich.
22. Original 12-step org.
24. "The ____ hour is just before the dawn," —Thomas Fuller, theologian & historian (1608-61).
26. St. ____ Parish, in Warsaw, Mo.
27. Land now in Jordan, in ancient times often in conflict with the Israelites. "For three crimes of ____, and now four, I will not revoke my word..." (Amos 2:1).
29. "Astride a big gray horse, watching from a hillside, Washington is supposed to have said in anguish, 'Great God! What brave fellows I must this ____ lose!'" —"What the Fog Wrought: the Revolution's Dunkirk," Aug. 29, 1776, David McCullough.
35. "We are never so defenseless ____ suffering as when we love," —Sigmund Freud.
37. Mild affirmative.
38. The word "genuflection" comes from the Latin meaning "to bend the ____."
39. "I've observed with both my mother and father that as we ____, the filters drop and one's true character shines through," —Neil Bush, son, in *Character Matters: And Other Life Lessons from George H.W. Bush*, by Jean Becker.
40. "Quite by surprise, I went from someone embarrassed by my affection for the saints to someone who counted it ____ one of the joys of my life," —*My Life with the Saints*, by James Martin, S.J.
41. Companion to OT.
43. Suffix for journal or terror.
45. "This is how you are to eat it: with your ____ girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand..." (Exodus 12:11).
47. "...knock and the ____ will be opened to you," (Matthew 7:7).
49. ____ Zedong, founder of Communist China.
50. Holiday or Days.
51. Part of General/President

CLUES continued on page 17

CLUES

From page 16

- U.S. Grant. Before the Civil War, he married and started a family in south St. Louis County, Mo. (see Grant's Farm).
53. "_____ someone tells me that I can't do something, I want to do it more," — Taylor Swift.
54. Junk emails.
55. A main purpose of CAs is to get us outside to encounter and respect the great outdoors in all the _____ that our beautiful State has to offer.
57. Some CAs have specific purposes (e.g., maintaining forest-fire tower sites, or protection and management of wetlands or native prairies). Others exist to help people learn or practice outdoor skills (e.g., shooting or archery _____).
60. "Use your sharp sickle and cut the clusters from the earth's _____, for its grapes are ripe," (Revelation 14:18).
63. The Jayhawks of _____ have been a long-time nemesis of Mizzou.
65. Money machine.
66. Anger.
69. Small child.
71. Two, in Tijuana.
75. Dir. from St. Joseph Parish in Fayette to Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City.
- See ANSWERS, page 19

Pope to Middle East bishops: 'Keep hope burning'

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Francis asked Catholic bishops in the Middle East to always be "signs of hope, a presence that nurtures words and gestures of peace, brotherhood and respect."

"May the Lord always give you the strength to witness faith in him, including through respectful and sincere dialogue with everyone," the pope told members of the Conference of Latin Bishops of the Arab Regions Aug. 28 during their plenary meeting in Rome.

Repeatedly offering prayers for the bishops and their people, the pope noted how "the Middle East is experiencing moments of heightened tensions, which in some contexts are erupting into open clashes and flashes of war."

The role of Christians, and especially of bishops in such a situation, the pope said, is to "keep hope burning!"

SCHOOL

From page 15

A former student at the school, she became its principal three years ago after 32 years in public school teaching and administration.

She said watching her colleagues in and out of the classroom is a master class in evangelization and Catholic discipleship.

"It's amazing here," she said. "I tell my husband on a daily basis how much I grow in my faith, being around faithful people and a faithful community."

Fellow educators, parents, students — "all of them," she said.

"Within these walls, there's not a single, solitary person who doesn't teach me something," she stated.

She marvels at how students look out for one another, weaving a safety net under each other and making it clear that "it's okay to reach out to anybody in that net."

She said the Our Lady of Snows parish and school are a single community, with parishioners willingly accepting their role as stewards of the school's mission, whether they have



Mrs. Belshe's kindergartners are happy to be at school. — Photo by Jay Nies

grandchildren of current students will be able to receive a quality, faith-based education at the school, in the footsteps of their forbears.

Having once been a student there herself, she noted that the Church remains the center of the community, with Catholic discipline, character and spirituality enriching the entire experience.

"What we can do here has grown with knowledge and accumulated experience," she said. "We now know so much more about kids, about learning, about passing on our faith, that we didn't know back then."

The main objective is still to help every child get to heaven, while preparing and learning how to live and function well up until then.

Mrs. Varner noted that hospitality is one of the pillars of the Stewardship Way of Life, and one that Our Lady of the Snows School thrives on.

"If you come here, you're going to fit in," she said. "We will bring you in. You will feel at home here."



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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

Aug. 30-31

Camdenton, St. Anthony Parish Labor Day Weekend Garage Sale, Fri. 7 am-4 pm, Sat. 7 am-2 pm

Sep. 1

Freeburg, Holy Family Parish picnic, 11:30 am-midnight; **Mary's Home**, Our Lady of Snows Parish picnic, 11 am-7 pm

Sep. 6

Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School Soccer trivia night, 5-11 pm, auxiliary gym

Sep. 8

Belle, St. Alexander Parish pro-life breakfast, 7-11 am; **Folk**, St. Anthony of Padua Parish picnic, 11 am-6 pm

Sep. 15

Bonnotts Mill, St. Louis of France Parish Fall Festival, noon-6 pm; **Krakow**, St. Gertrude Parish picnic, 11 am-6 pm; **Marshall**, St. Peter Parish Annual Harvest Festival, 11 am-3 pm; **Meta**, Citizens Civic League Fall Festival, 11 am-6 pm, Citizens Civic League Park; **Russellville**, St. Michael Parish picnic, 11 am-5 pm

Sep. 22

Frankenstein, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Fall Supper, 11 am-6 pm; **Fulton**, St. Peter Parish Fall Festival, 11 am-6 pm

Sep. 26

Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School homecoming parade, 6:30 pm, uptown

Sep. 27

Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School alumni homecoming event, 9-11 pm, Last Flight Brewing Company

Sep. 29
Vienna, Visitation Parish Fall Festival, 11 am-5 pm

Meetings & Conferences

Sep. 18

Holts Summit, Protecting God's Children for Adults (VIR-TUS® Training), 10:30 am-12:30 pm, St. Andrew Parish

Sep. 22

Jefferson City, *My Perfect Wife, Her Perfect Son*, reading and book signing by author Joe Benevento, 1-2:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish

Sep. 28

Columbia, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Come & See, a Montessori-style religious education program, 9 am-noon, St. Thomas More Newman Center, for info or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/catechesis-of-the-good-shepherd/

Sep. 28-29

Des Moines, IA, 2024 Christ Our Life Conference, Wells Fargo Arena, for info or to register visit christourlifeiowa.com

Sep. 29

Holts Summit, Protecting God's Children for Adults (VIR-TUS® Training), 1-3 pm, St. Andrew Parish

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

septiembre 14

Columbia, Planificación Familiar Natural — Familia de las Américas, 9 am-noon, Sagrado Corazón, para información sobre instructores y clases contacte a Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 o por correo electrónico a ecasastro@diojeffcity.org, para más

información sobre este método, visite diojeffcity.org/natural-family-planning/ y/o familyplanning.net/es

septiembre 27

Columbia, Retiro de Quinceañera, 9 am-3 pm, Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 en su celular o en WhatsApp o por correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org

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

Sep. 4

Jefferson City, Men's Night of Reflection, "History of Our Diocese," presentation (after monthly XLT Adoration) with Msgr. Robert Kurwicki, 7-8:30 pm, St. Joseph Cathedral School cafeteria

Sep. 5

Laurie, "Ministry on the Move! Solving Problems Like Mary," women's ministry event with Sterling Jaquith and Barb Prasad, 10-11:30 am, St. Patrick Parish, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry-upcoming-events/

Sep. 6

St. Martins, "Ministry on the Move! Peace in Any Storm," women's ministry event with Sterling Jaquith and Barb

Prasad, 6:30-8:30 pm, St. Martin Parish, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry-upcoming-events/

Sep. 6-8

Conception, MO, "Encountering Christ" Benedictine-style silent retreat, for info or to register, visit conceptionabbey.org/guests

Sep. 7

Kirkville, "Ministry on the Move! Solving Problems Like Mary," women's ministry event with Sterling Jaquith and Barb Prasad, 10-11:30 am, Kirkville Newman Center, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry-upcoming-events/

Sep. 8

Salisbury, "Ministry on the Move! Peace in Any Storm," women's ministry event with Sterling Jaquith and Barb Prasad, 11:30 am-2 pm, St. Joseph Parish, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry-upcoming-events/

Sep. 9

Columbia, Monthly CoMo Charismatic Prayer gathering, 7-8:30 pm, Korean Martyrs Room, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish

Sep. 18

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

Sep. 19-22

Edina, Men's Cursillo Weekend #74, St. Joseph Parish Center, for info or to register contact jeffcity.diocese.cursillo@gmail.com

Sep. 21

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

Liturgical

Sep. 8

Starkenburg, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows Fall Pilgrimage, 10 am-3 pm; **Vienna**, Diocesan Catholic Rural Life Mass, 2 pm, Maries Creek Farm, followed by picnic-style meal, for info or to RSVP, visit diojeffcity.org/event/rural-life-mass or call 573-308-9665 or 573-202-4592

Sep. 10

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

Oct. 2

Starkenburg, "A Night of Hope and Healing," for families and friends who have lost a child including those in miscarriage and stillborn, candlelight Mass at 6 pm, followed by a prayer service, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, to RSVP visit stghermann.diojeffcity.org/a-night-of-hope-and-healing/

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

Health & Wellness

Sep. 17

Meta, Blood drive, 2-5 pm, Citizens Civic League main room



RELIGIOUS

From page 11

said. "Mission flows from baptism, and while a given religious may no longer be in active ministry, she is always engaged in the deeper call of mission."

Many congregations are seeing leadership as less of an administrative function and more of a spiritual function, she said.

"I saw a resurgence of desire to simplify the administrative aspects of institute leadership so that there could be greater attention to the spiritual dimensions

of leadership," Sr. Anne said. "At its essence, leadership is a journey of the heart. Spiritual leaders ... are attuned to the movement of the Spirit in the life of the group and in the signs of the times, and courageously call the group to this awareness."

She said religious life is being de-Westernized, and there is a greater awareness that different ways of praying, leading, living mission and being in solidarity are gifts to congregations, the church and the world.

"Leadership teams repeatedly cited the importance of diversity and interculturality for religious life and mission," Sr. Anne said. "As religious communities we have much to learn and share with one another as we live into shifting intercultural and intergenerational realities within and beyond our institutes."

Sr. Anne said younger sisters' attitudes often inspire leaders to better understand what religious life really is and needs to be.

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

Anniversaries

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph
Jim & Pat Biggerstaff, 50 years
Joseph & Diane Stockbauer, 50 years

Jefferson City,
Immaculate Conception
Sylvester & Helen Lock, 60 years

Jefferson City, St. Peter
Ken & Thelma Werner, 65 years

Salisbury, St. Joseph
Richard & Carlene Hartmann, 60 years

Birthdays

Marshall, St. Peter — **Alice Markes**, her 93rd on Aug. 16

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Leona Mengwasser**, her 91st on Sep. 7

Marriages

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph
— **Brenda Veit & Alex Henderson;**
Anna Porting & Brett Looten

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle —
Elizabeth Lueckenhoff & Anthony Bax

Baptisms

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Blair Catherine Agan**, daughter of Logan Agan & Grace Schulte; **Carter Lucas Meyer**, son of Nathan & Stephanie Meyer

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior
— **Bo David Van Booven**, son of Cole & Kali Van Booven

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Ella Lynn Eggen**, daughter of Casey & Stephanie Eggen

Deaths

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Norma Esser; Ralph Rapp**

Columbia, St. Thomas More Newman Center — **Joan Pottinger**

Eldon, Sacred Heart — **James Marco; Stephen Wood**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Jennie DeClue; Shirley LePage**

Slater, St. Joseph — **James Himmelberg; Marcella Young**

QUESTION

From page 8

to receive the sacrament of Confirmation as soon as possible.
Many dioceses have sacramental preparation programs specifically designed for Catholic adults who “missed” Confirmation in their youth and are now seeking the sacrament. And, depending on the circumstances, it is also possible for your parish priest to request the faculty (i.e., the “power”) from the local diocesan bishop to confer the sacrament of Confirmation himself.

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.

PRAYER OF ABANDONMENT

FATHER,
/ ABANDON MYSELF INTO YOUR HANDS; DO WITH ME WHAT YOU WILL.
WHATEVER YOU MAY DO, / THANK YOU: / AM READY FOR ALL, / ACCEPT ALL.

LET ONLY YOUR WILL BE DONE IN ME, AND IN ALL YOUR CREATURES —
/ WISH NO MORE THAN THIS, O LORD.

INTO YOUR HANDS / COMMEND MY SOUL:
/ OFFER IT TO YOU WITH ALL THE LOVE OF MY HEART,
FOR / LOVE YOU, LORD, AND SO NEED TO GIVE MYSELF,
TO SURRENDER MYSELF INTO YOUR HANDS WITHOUT RESERVE,
AND WITH BOUNDLESS CONFIDENCE,
FOR YOU ARE MY FATHER.

—ST. CHARLES DE FOUCAULD

SILECCHIA

From page 9

influenced by Catholic social teaching fought strenuously for the right of workers to have their Sundays as a day of worship and rest. In 1891, Pope Leo XIII spoke of this in *Rerum Novarum*.

In addressing the obligation to protect workers on their days of rest and worship, he wrote that a worker “has interests in which he should be protected by the State; and first of all, there are the interests of his soul. ... From this follows the obligation of the cessation from work and labor on Sundays and certain holy days... [I]t should be rest from labor, hallowed by religion. Rest (combined with religious observances) disposes man to forget for a while the business of his everyday life, to turn his thoughts to things heavenly,

and to the worship which he so strictly owes to the eternal Godhead....” It is sadly ironic that this right to Sabbath rest, so valiantly fought for, can be so quickly and voluntarily surrendered.

As a new season comes and we celebrate the dignity of workers, there is a chance to think of Sundays anew, to recommit to their sacred purpose, and celebrate the holy rest of ordinary time.

Lucia A. Silecchia is Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Faculty Research at the Catholic University of America’s Columbus School of Law. “On Ordinary Times” is a biweekly column reflecting on the ways to find the sacred in the simple. Email her at silecchia@cua.edu.

ACOLYTES

From page 5

Bishop McKnight spoke of the diversity of gifts God bestows on his Church through the active participation of each member, and how this is reflected in the Church’s communal worship.

“Dear sons in Christ called to serve at the altar as acolytes,” the bishop said to the 14, “recognize the importance of having a diversity of charisms represented in the multiplicity of ministers in the liturgy. “It takes all of us with our different gifts, charisms, talents, roles and responsibilities to carry out the Lord’s Eucharistic command: ‘do this in memory of me,’” the bishop said.

He reminded them that as acolytes, they are to help the deacon and minister to the priest at Mass, as well as occasionally being called upon to give Holy Communion to the faithful at the liturgy and to the sick.

“Because you are specially called to this ministry, you should strive to live more fully by the Lord’s sacrifice and to be molded more perfectly in its likeness,” the bishop told them.

“You should seek to understand the deep spiritual meaning of what you do, so that you may offer yourselves daily to God as spiritual sacrifices acceptable to him through Jesus Christ,” he said.

He urged them to show sincere love for God’s holy people, the Church, especially for the weak and the sick, and to be obedient to the command the Lord gave his Apostles at the Last Supper: “Love one another as I also have loved you.”

“Make your life worthy”

Father Stephen Jones, pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, concelebrated the Mass.

Assisting at the altar were Deacon John Schwartze, diocesan director of deacon formation; and Deacon Mike Berendzen, diocesan director of ministry and life of permanent deacons.

The Acolyte candidates joined the bishop and concelebrating priests in the opening procession to the sanctuary, then took their place in the two front pews.

Each wore a simple white alb with a white cincture tied around the waist.

Bishop McKnight prayed over the 14, asking God to accept them for their new role in the Church.

“Grant that they may be faithful in the service of your altar,” the bishop prayed. “In giving to others the bread of life, may they grow always in faith and love, and so build up your Church, through Christ our Lord.”

To each who knelt before him, the bishop ceremonially presented a paten of bread for the Mass, saying, “Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of His Church.”

At Communion, all the newly instituted acolytes came forward into the sanctuary to receive and then distribute the Body and Blood of Christ.

Crossword puzzle answers

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

Isn't that the truth?

The students of Immaculate Conception School in Loose Creek display their new T-shirts and banner on Aug. 20 with the school's motto for the new school year: "Wahrheit: The truth will set you free." "Wahrheit" is German for "truth."

— Photo from the Immaculate Conception School, Loose Creek Facebook page



Off to a good start



Deacon Nestor Montenegro and Father Joseph Corel of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia welcome the students and faculty of Sacred Heart School to Mass in the Sacred Heart Chapel on Aug. 22, their first day of school.

— Photo from the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Parish Facebook page

In the beginning



The students of Immaculate Conception School in Macon attend their Welcome Back to School Mass with Father William Peckman, pastor, on Aug. 20. — Photo from the Immaculate Conception School Facebook page

On Eagle's Wings



Whit Thomas and Sam Sherman, members of the St. Peter High School Youth Group in Marshall, became Eagle Scouts, Scouting's highest honor, at a Court of Honor on June 30. — Photo by Carol Wolfe

Bible Accent

In the Book of Joshua, we can read more about the battles the Israelites fought after entering the Promised Land.

Chapter 6 contains the details of the Israelites' very first battle, which was against the city of Jericho.

The people of Jericho heard that the Israelites were coming to take the land God had promised them. The city was in a state of siege, with no one entering or leaving.

"Have all the soldiers circle the city, marching once around it," God told Joshua. "Do this for six days, with seven priests carrying ram's horns ahead of the ark."

"On the seventh day," God continued, "march around the city seven times, and have the priests blow the horns. When they give a long blast on the ram's horns and you hear the sound of the horn, all the people shall shout aloud. The wall of the city will collapse, and the people shall attack straight ahead."

Joshua and the Israelites did exactly as God told them, and Jericho was defeated.

The Israelites burned the city and everything in it except for the silver, gold, and articles of bronze and iron, which they placed in the treasury of the house of the Lord.

St. Peter Claver

St. Peter Claver was born in Catalonia, Spain, in 1580 and entered the Society of Jesus in 1601. The Jesuits sent him to college in Majorca, Spain, where he met St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, who inspired him to become a missionary in the New World. Peter went to South America in 1610 and was the first Jesuit to be ordained a priest in Cartagena, Colombia, a port of entry for West African slaves. He ministered to slaves aboard ships and ashore before they were sold. By his count, he instructed and baptized more than 300,000 slaves. Peter died in 1654, and we remember him on Sept. 9.



Joshua and the Israelites promise to follow God

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

After leading the Israelites in the desert for 40 years, Moses died.

God spoke to Moses' aide, Joshua.

"Moses my servant is dead. So now, you and the whole people with you, prepare to cross the Jordan to the land that I will give the Israelites," God told Joshua.

"Only be strong and steadfast, being careful to observe the entire law which Moses my servant enjoined on you. Do not swerve from it either to the right or to the left, that you may succeed wherever you go," God warned.

The land God had promised the Israelites was occupied by their pagan enemies who served false gods. With God's help, the Israelites waged many battles over several years and finally defeated their foes.

God then told Joshua to divide the land among the 12 tribes of Israel.

Many years later, after God had given the Israelites rest from all their enemies, and when Joshua was old and advanced in years, he summoned all Israel, including the elders, leaders, judges and officers.

"You have seen all that the Lord, your God, has done for you against all these nations; for it has been the Lord, your God, who fought for you," Joshua said.

"Therefore be strong and



Illustration by Linda Rivers

be careful to observe all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, never turning from it right or left, mingling with these nations that survive among you," Joshua continued.

"You must not invoke their gods by name, or swear by them, or serve them, or bow down to them, but you must hold fast to the Lord, your God, as you have done up to this day."

Joshua warned the people not to break their covenant with God by serving false gods, because the people would quickly perish from the land

God had given them.

"If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve," Joshua said. "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

"Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of other gods. ... Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God," the people replied.

Read more about it...

Joshua 1, 23 & 24

1. Who led the Israelites across the Jordan?

2. What did God and Joshua want the Israelites to observe?



Who was Joshua's father?

(Hint: Joshua 1:1)

Answer: Nun.

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. If a sentence is false, write the correct answer on the line at the end of the sentence.

- ___ Joshua sent three spies to scope out Jericho. (Joshua 2:1) _____
- ___ Joshua set up 10 stones where the people crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land. (Joshua 4:9) _____
- ___ God stopped providing manna to the Israelites in the Promised Land. (Joshua 5:12) _____
- ___ Joshua attacked the city of Ai with 300,000 warriors. (Joshua 8:3) _____

Answers: 1. F (2); 2. F (12); 3. T; 4. F (30,000).

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New Catholic poetry collection offers a new way to pray

Contemporary Catholic Poetry, An Anthology, by April Lindner, Ryan Wilson eds., Paraclete Press (2024), 240 pages, \$35

Reviewed by Mike Mastromatteo
OSV News

In the 2014 chapbook the *Catholic Imagination in Modern American Poetry*, distinguished poet and educator James Matthew Wilson celebrates that the “Catholic imagination” continues to inform and inspire American poetry.

He also suggested in this slim volume that a Catholic sensibility “still plays a credible role in the ever ancient, ever new work of forming our culture.”

Perhaps it was with this in mind that editors April Lindner and Ryan Wilson — both poets in their own right — assembled the new Paraclete Press offering, *Contemporary Catholic Poets, An Anthology*.

James Matthew Wilson is one of 23 poets featured in the new collection, which also includes work from novelists Julia Alvarez and Sarah Cortez, and a host of established and

emerging poets from throughout the U.S.

The co-editors have chosen wisely by including James Matthew Wilson and Dana Gioia (former poet laureate of California) in their collection.

Both have been at the forefront in revitalizing the Catholic voice in contemporary U.S. art and letters.

The editors consider “contemporary” any U.S. poet born after the year 1950. They have also limited inclusion in the anthology to poets who write within the context of their Catholic faith.

In striving to illustrate the full spectrum of the U.S. Catholic experience, the editors have included long and short poems, rhyming and blank verse efforts, and plain prose readings that adroitly exhibit a sense of meter and measure.

In Dana Gioia’s “The Angel With the Broken Wing,” the poet examines the comfort and suffering of true belief:

*“For even the godless feel something in a church,
A twinge of hope, fear? Who knows what it is?
A trembling unaccounted by*

*their laws,
An ancient memory they can’t dismiss ...*

*There are so many things I must tell God!
The howling of the damned can’t reach so high.
But I stand like a dead thing nailed to a perch,
A crippled saint against a painted sky.”*

The aforementioned James Matthew Wilson’s poem “On a Palm” laments a loss of true spirituality against the lure of superstition.

In this poem, the author muses on the closing down of an inner-city palm reader’s shop:

*“I’m glad the window’s dark,
For Rent sign hung.
But, when I see my hands gripped round the wheel,
The knuckles growing cracked and lined with age,
I think how there is no one who will peel
Them open, lay the fingers gently straight,
And study all those traceries of fate.”*

There are also poems that emphasize suffering, recovery, redemption and an awareness of forces greater than this world has to offer. Author Kate Daniel’s short poem “Getting Clean,” offers the following:

*“Even the addicts who are atheists learn this lesson:
There is something*

Movie Ratings



Adults and Adolescents

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG)



Adults

The Convert (not rated)
Fly Me to the Moon (PG-13)
Horizon: An American Saga – Chapter 1 (R)
It Ends With Us (PG-13)
Trap (PG-13)
Twisters (PG-13)



Limited Adult Audience

Alien: Romulus (R)
Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F. (R)
Longlegs (R)



Morally Offensive

Blink Twice (R)
The Crow (R)
Deadpool & Wolverine (R)
Maxxxine (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

*bigger than they are,
and unlike them,
it lives forever.”*

Ryan Wilson and April Lindner have included some of their own work in this collection. Lindner’s “Our Lady of Perpetual Help” inspires spiritual musings on observing a closed-down inner-city church:

*“Our Lady of Perpetual Help is gray,
A dead incisor in a wary smile.
A crevice in her wall allows a glimpse into the chancel, where a sodden mattress and dirty blanket indicate that someone finds this place a sanctuary still,
takes his rest here, held and help apart from passersby, their cruelties and their kindnesses,
watched over by the night’s blind congregation,
by the blank eyes of a concrete saint.”*

One of the most poignant offerings in the entire collection is Franz Wright’s “Letter, January 1998.” Here the lyrical poet turns an examination of conscience into a prayerful verse:
“If I could tell someone.

*The humiliation I go through when I think of my past can only be described as grace.
We are created by being destroyed.”*

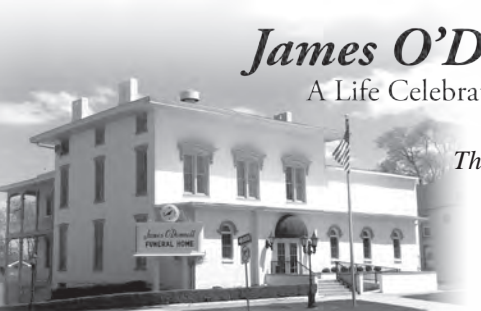
This new anthology is an enjoyable read not only for scholarly readers, but also for those whose most recent taste of poetry occurred in the last year of high school English class.

In their preface, the editors have added useful information of the importance of poetry, especially for those with Catholic sensibilities.

“They (poems) also speak intimately of heartfelt truths, describe local haunts, and address ordinary people directly. They meditate on living, on dying, and on the passage of time. They tell us stories, they tell us lies, and they tell us stories that reveal the truth through lying. ... They enchant us with beauty and appall us with terror. Above all, poems remember.”

While the Catholic flavor is not readily apparent in all of the entries, each challenges the reader to discern sacramental elements in often prosaic situations.

Mike Mastromatteo is a writer, editor and book reviewer from Toronto.




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- Roll the account over to an individual retirement account (IRA).
- Cash it out, which is subject to potential tax consequences.

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Window into history

This hagiographic stained glass collage depicting aspects of the priestly ministry of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, installed this spring in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City, includes an image of St. Joseph Church in Edina (upper right), where Fr. Tolton preached a mission on the Solemnity of St. Joseph in 1889. Fr. Tolton (1854-97), was born into a family of enslaved people in Missouri and grew up 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.

— Photo by Jay Nies

CHURCH

From page 4

priests, including Father Michael Penn and Father Paul Clark of this diocese; two religious brothers; and three permanent deacons, including Deacon Berry.

"Another chapter"

Until the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City was completed in 1968, the Edina church was the diocese's largest church building.

Some still refer to it as "the Cathedral of the North."

Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe of Jefferson City, now deceased, rededicated St. Joseph Church in 1974, on its 100th anniversary.

The church's interior was remodeled extensively in 1965, 1988 and 2010.

A massive, four-year restoration project was almost finished when a fire broke out in an area above the sacristy on Aug. 15, 2013, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. More than 60 volunteer and full-time firefighters from Edina and surrounding communities responded to the fire.

There were no injuries. An extra layer of sheetrock



Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki preaches the homily during a Mass to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the construction of St. Joseph Church in Edina.

— Photo by Dot Kriegshauser

said the whole diocese was grieving over what had been lost.

"But before long, that grief will turn to excitement and anticipation," he said. "God will use you — the living stones of the Holy Roman Catholic Church in this corner of His vineyard — to repair this place of worship and open yet another chapter of his glorious mission here."

Bishop Gaydos returned to bless the restored church a year after the fire.

St. Joseph Parish now includes the

people from the former Mission of St. Aloysius in Baring.

Statuary from the Baring mission now adorns the Edina church.

In 2019, during St. Joseph Parish's 175th-anniversary Mass, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight reminded the people that they, themselves, are a temple of the Lord.

"This magnificent edifice is the sacramental representation of the presence of God and his Church, the people, in this community," the bishop asserted. "God calls us to build upon the foundation of what our ancestors in the faith have built."

applied during the renovation helped contain the fire, but the sacristy was gutted, the electrical system destroyed, and the church's interior filled with pungent ash and soot.

Two 19th century stained glass windows from Germany were destroyed.

Arriving from Jefferson City the day of the fire, Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos

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.

Daily Readings

Sunday, Sep 1

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dt. 4:1-2, 6-8
Ps. 15:2-5
Jas. 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
Mk. 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Monday, Sep 2

1 Cor. 2:1-5
Ps. 119:97-102
Lk. 4:16-30

Tuesday, Sep 3

St. Gregory the Great, Pope and doctor of the Church
1 Cor. 2:10b-16
Ps. 145:8-14
Lk. 4:31-37

Wednesday, Sep 4

1 Cor. 3:1-9
Ps. 33:12-15, 20-21
Lk. 4:38-44

Thursday, Sep 5

1 Cor. 3:18-23
Ps. 24:1bc-4ab, 5-6
Lk. 5:1-11

Friday, Sep 6

1 Cor. 4:1-5
Ps. 37:3-6, 27-28, 39-40
Lk. 5:33-39

Saturday, Sep 7

1 Cor. 4:6b-15
Ps. 145:17-21
Lk. 6:1-5

Sunday, Sep 8

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is. 35:4-7a
Ps. 146:6-10
Jas. 2:1-5
Mk. 7:31-37

Monday, Sep 9

St. Peter Claver, priest (USA)
1 Cor. 5:1-8
Ps. 5:5-7, 12
Lk. 6:6-11

Tuesday, Sep 10

1 Cor. 6:1-11
Ps. 149:1b-6a, 9b
Lk. 6:12-19

Wednesday, Sep 11

1 Cor. 7:25-31
Ps. 45:11-12, 14-17
Lk. 6:20-26

Thursday, Sep 12

The Most Holy Name of Mary
1 Cor. 8:1b-7, 11-13
Ps. 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24
Lk. 6:27-38

Friday, Sep 13

St. John Chrysostom, bishop and doctor of the Church
1 Cor. 9:16-19, 22b-27
Ps. 84:3-6, 12
Lk. 6:39-42

Saturday, Sep 14

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Nm. 21:4b-9
Ps. 78:1bc-2, 34-38
Phil. 2:6-11
Jn. 3:13-17

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for September:

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

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Still striving

Following this year's Mass on Aug. 4, Msgr. Kurwicki, Fr. Nzabonimpa and Deacon Berry blessed a new statue of the Blessed Mother in the churchyard.

Afterword, parishioners and friends gathered in the nearby Knights of Columbus Hall for lunch and several presentations on the history of the parish and on the construction and ongoing preser-

vation of the church.

Msgr. Kurwicki noted that St. Joseph's first several pastors were missionaries from Ireland, that the previous pastor was a missionary from Nigeria and that the current pastor is a missionary from Uganda.

"We know of one possible saint having preached from this sanctuary," he stated. "Who knows how many others there may wind up being?"

Diocesan podcast addresses proposed Missouri Amendment 3

Catholics and all people of faith and goodwill are encouraged to listen to the latest Diocese of Jefferson City Podcast, which highlights aspects of proposed Amendment 3 to the

Missouri Constitution.

Missouri voters will decide whether to approve the amendment, which would open the door to practically unrestricted access to abortion at any stage of pregnancy and would be very difficult to change or reverse, in the General Election

on Nov. 5.

The 17-minute podcast is hosted by Mary Madelyn Mertes, assistant director of catechetical formation for the Jefferson City diocese, and includes interviews with Jamie Morris, executive director and general counsel of the Missouri

Catholic Conference (MCC), the public policy agency of the state's three Roman Catholic dioceses; and Kathleen Lavery, communication director for the MCC.

The podcast can be found online at diojeffcity.org/podcast.



VISITATION CATHOLIC CHURCH

FALL Festival

Fresh Sausage & Fried Chicken Dinner
Mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, sauerkraut, coleslaw & dessert
\$15 each / Kids \$7.50 each (dine in only)

SEPTEMBER 29
SUNDAY 11AM - 5PM

Full dine-in service in air-conditioned Hall
Drive-through carryout — enter from Hwy. 63 onto 8th Street & follow the signs

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Fall Pilgrimage to Starkenburg

DATE: September 8
TIME: 10 am

The Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg will hold its 2024 Fall Pilgrimage on Sunday, Sept. 8.

It will include Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament beginning at 10 a.m., followed by a Rosary procession through the Shrine grounds and the outdoor Stations of the Cross.

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

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available following the meal.

Benediction will take place at 1 p.m. at the outdoor altar, followed by Mass at 2 p.m.

The blessing of religious articles will take place during the Mass, which will conclude the pilgrimage.

The Shrine is located 10 miles northwest of Hermann, at 197 Hwy. P, Rhineland, Mo. 65069.

The Shrine is handicap accessible.

For more information or

directions, call 573-236-4390, or visit risensavior.diojeffcity.org.



Holy Family PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, September 1
Freeburg, MO

Chicken and Roast Beef Dinner
with Real Mashed Potatoes
Served 11:30 am-7 pm
CARRY-OUTS ONLY - \$16
Outdoor & indoor (A/C) seating - no table service

Games & Prizes (starting 1pm) • Quilt Auction (5pm)
Kiddie Tractor Pull (sign-up 2:30pm/start 3pm)
Sandwich Stand & Refreshments

Live Music—Secondhand Munchies (2-5pm)
Shiloh (8pm-midnight)



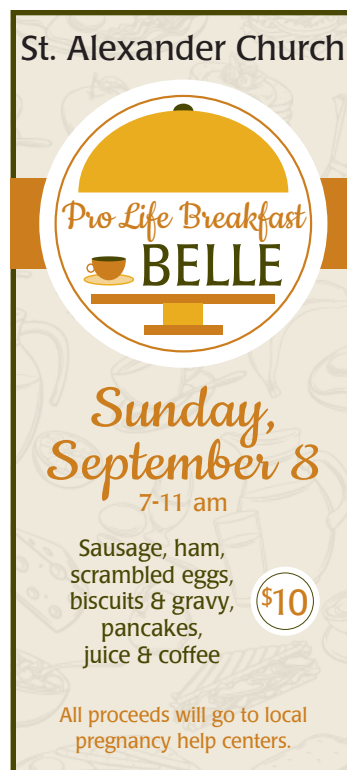
Our Lady of the Snows PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, September 1
Mary's Home

Fried Chicken & Gluten-free Roast Beef Dinner
Served Cafeteria Style from 11am-7pm
Adults \$15 Children (6-12) \$7 5 & under free
Carry-outs available

Quilt Fortune Wheel ** Games & Prizes ** Kids Games
Crafts & Country Store ** Sandwiches & Refreshments
Homemade Pastry Auction

Handicapped parking. No outside drinks or coolers on grounds.
Cash or checks only.



St. Alexander Church

Pro Life Breakfast BELLE

Sunday, September 8
7-11 am

Sausage, ham, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, pancakes, juice & coffee **\$10**

All proceeds will go to local pregnancy help centers.



ST. MICHAEL CHURCH RUSSELLVILLE

FALL FESTIVAL DINNER

Sunday, September 15

Adults \$16 — Kids 6-11 \$7
Pork sausage, roast beef, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, bread & pie
Served from 11 am-5 pm

LIVE MUSIC BY COPPER CREEK BAND (1-4 PM)
PRIZES - QUILT SILENT AUCTION
KIDS CORNER - COUNTRY STORE REFRESHMENTS

THIS WEEKEND ONLY — Mass on Saturday 9/14 @ 5:30 pm (no Mass on Sunday 9/15)