

From MU to the S.J.

Jesuit Father Daniel Ever-
son, ordained to Priesthood
this summer, shares how
God and many people
helped him find his calling.
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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

October 25, 2024 • Vol. 68 No. 9

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Wakeboarding teen honors God on the water



High-school senior Brody Spriggs, a member of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark, excels in the intense water sport of wakeboarding, in which he recently placed first in U.S. competition and third in international competition. "The Lord has put this in my life, and it's something he has allowed me to be able to do well at and take it as far as I can," he said. — Photo by Jacob Wagler

Bishop McKnight: A Novena for the Electorate

The full text of the "Novena Prayer for the Electorate —
Mercy, Respect, Civility" can be found on Page 18

By Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

The act of voting is an expression of faith.

When we make our choices this Election Day, we are empowered in that moment to advocate for justice, uphold human dignity, and promote the values of the Gospel in society.

We can influence policies to better align with our faith and the teachings of Christ. Our collective voice as Catholic voters can help foster a community that more strongly reflects our ideals of charity and mercy.

Our Catechism makes it clear that engaging in the electoral process is not an option. Rather, voting is an obligation

of our faith.

Thus, I urge all of you to make the most of this opportunity to live out our faith as we go to the polls on Nov. 5. To all our Catholic faithful: Please vote!

Yet, as the election draws near — and as we continue to study the issues and prepare our consciences — we must also acknowledge that we are living during a moment of extraordinary division in our nation.

As Christians, it is important that we respond to this challenge with an extraordinary moment of prayer.

Beginning this Sunday, and continuing for nine days, I invite everyone in the Diocese of Jefferson City to join me

MAKING CONNECTIONS
Bishop McKnight

See MAKING CONNECTIONS, page 17

By Jay Nies

Brody Spriggs fell in love with wakeboarding the moment his board tore through the current.

Now, it's his life's passion.

"It feels like gliding on top of the water. Such a cool feeling!" said Brody, 17, a four-time regional, two-time reigning national wakeboarding champion, who recently placed third in international competition in Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.

For this high-school senior who grew up on the Lake of the Ozarks, wakeboarding is much more than a sport. It's a porthole into the spiritual delights of creation and his own niche within it.

"I definitely see God's handiwork in everything I'm doing, and I feel he's working inside me for me to be able to do the things I do," said Brody, a lifelong member of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark.

"I wouldn't feel this type of energy and be able to do these things if somebody wasn't working in this," he stated. "I think that's God inspiring me to pursue my dream. I want to pursue it with him."

Wakeboarding is an intense water sport that's somewhat similar to trick waterskiing.

But instead of skis, the wakeboarder clamps his feet to a curved, torpedo-shaped board, grabs onto a 70-foot line attached to a motorboat and performs gravity-defying feats in, around and high-above the ruts carved by the boat's propeller into the water.

"So, you're back there throwing your body around, hoping you're going to land all these tricks," Brody explained.

Competitors earn points for each

See WAKEBOARD, page 19

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10/11/24

Pray for deceased priests

Oct. 26 — **Fr. John J. Hans**, Immaculate Conception, Shackelford (1965); **Msgr. Joseph A. Vogelweid**, St. Peter, Jefferson City (1981); **Fr. Edwin N. Sturm**, St. Joseph, Martinsburg (1983)

Oct. 27 — **Fr. Patrick H. Hoffmann**, St. Joseph, Canton (1990); **Fr. Clarence E. Wiederholt**, Our Lady of Snows, Mary's Home (2023)

Oct. 30 — **Msgr. Patrick J. Gilfillan**, Immaculate Conception, Macon (1964)

Nov. 7 — **Msgr. Denis P. Mulcahy**, Immaculate Conception, Brookfield (1967)

Nov. 10 — **Fr. J. David Maher**, Annunciation, California (2019)

Nov. 1 is holy day of obligation

Chancery closed on that day

Friday, Nov. 1, the Solemnity of All Saints, is a holy day of obligation.

Catholics are obligated to attend Mass that day or a vigil Mass the evening before, to commemorate all the saints who are in heaven with God forever.

The diocesan Chancery offices will be closed on that day.

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Diocese of Jefferson City

Columbia Lourdes Parish evangelization mission

DATE: November 10-12
TIME: 7 - 8:45 pm

Deacon Ralph Poyo, presenter and founder of New Evangelization Ministries, will lead a parish mission from Sunday through Tuesday, Nov. 10-12, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia.

This three-night presentation will focus on every Catholic's calling to a deeper life of faith and how that faith allows them to encourage and evangelize others.

The theme will be: "Call

to the Deep: Becoming Who God Created You to Be," led by Deacon Ralph Poyo.

Sessions will be from 7 to 8:45 p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 903 Bernadette Drive, near Stadium Boulevard and Interstate 70.

All are invited and welcome to attend any or all sessions.

The event is free of charge, but a free-will offering will be taken up.

Additional information, including a promotional video, can be found online at:

ourladyoflourdes.diojeffcity.org

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Immaculate Conception Parish, Kertz Hall
Jefferson City

J.C. St. Peter Veterans Day Mass

DATE: November 11
TIME: 9:30 am

St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City will have its annual Veterans Day Mass at 9:30 a.m. on

Monday, Nov. 11.

Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, VG, pastor, will preside and preach the homily.

All are invited to attend and join in praying for veterans.

The Mass is offered for all those who have served this country in war or peace.

Veterans and service personnel are encouraged to wear their caps/and or uniforms.

Mass will be livestreamed on the St. Peter Church Facebook page (facebook.com/saintpeterchurch).

The next print edition of The Catholic Missourian will be dated Nov. 8.

The Catholic Missourian

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

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

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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Director of Safe Environment Needed



The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is searching for a Director of Safe Environment. The Director is responsible for implementing, overseeing and maintaining programs and policies in accordance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. This office represents the bishop in efforts to create a compassionate and healing place for victims of clergy sexual abuse and to ensure a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults throughout the diocese. Visit diojeffcity.org and click on "Career Opportunities" under the About Us tab for a full job description and the link to apply.

Accountant Needed



The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking an experienced Accountant to support the Controller and Chief Financial Officer of the diocese. Essential functions would include ensuring that financial reports for the chancery office are completed accurately and on time. The ideal candidate will have 3-5 years experience working for a nonprofit organization, with a good knowledge of financial statements, general ledger, account and bank reconciliations, and Sage Intacct and QuickBooks Online software. A Bachelor's degree in accounting, business administration or related field is preferred. Visit diojeffcity.org and click on "Career Opportunities" under the About Us tab for a full job description and the link to apply.

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DIocese of Jefferson City



Statement of the Missouri Catholic Conference on Amendment 3 (Constitutional Right to Abortion)

The following statement is from Missouri's Roman Catholic bishops, functioning as the officers of the Missouri Catholic Conference, the Church's public-policy agency in this state. It is signed by Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City, Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of St. Louis, Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. of Kansas City-St. Joseph, and Bishop Edward M. Rice of Springfield-Cape Girardeau.

We, the Catholic Bishops of Missouri, are committed to protecting the sanctity of human life in every circumstance and every stage of de-

velopment. In Missouri, the dignity of life in its earliest stages is being threatened by Amendment 3, which will appear on Missouri's November 2024 ballot. This proposed amendment to our state constitution is an extreme proposal that would allow full-term abortion with no protections for the preborn child, including when the child is capable of feeling pain. The proposed amendment would effectively eliminate common-sense state regulations that have protected Mis-

souri women for years. These include health and safety requirements for abortion clinics; the requirement that only a medical doctor be allowed to perform abortions in the state; and that parents of a minor be

CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF MISSOURI


Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
General Chairman
Archbishop of St. Louis


Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.
Vice Chairman
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph


Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight
Executive Chairman
Bishop of Jefferson City


Most Reverend Edward M. Rice
Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Approved October 14, 2024

loit to allow abortion in the seventh, eighth or ninth month of pregnancy. Amendment 3 would also prohibit any type of penalty for someone who assists a person in “exercising their right to reproductive freedom.” This broad protection would prohibit women and families from suing an abortion provider who harms them.

The legalization and deregulation of abortion would represent a tragic step backward in our work to protect all human life at all stages. For these reasons, we urge Catholics and all persons of good will to oppose Amendment 3.

U.S. church contributes to synod through its diversity, delegate says

Catholic News Service
Vatican City
The U.S. delegates at the Synod of Bishops on synodality are contributing to discussions on the future of the Catholic

Church by bringing the diversity of the U.S. Church to the Vatican, a U.S. synod delegate said. “I think we do have a lot to contribute to the conversation

as an American church,” Father Iván Montelongo, a synod member from the Diocese of El Paso, Texas, told Catholic News Service Oct. 22. The U.S. church, he said, is unique in that it comprises the “richness of people who have lived their Catholicism in different ways in their countries of origin and now find themselves now in the United States.”

As a result of its diversity, “we live synodality in very particular ways” in the U.S. church, he said, particularly by including different voices in the governance of the Church through the active participation of the laity.

“We have laity in our dioceses, in ecclesiastical offices, in positions of authority already in our dioceses; we have many women chancellors already,” he said, while “in some parts of the world, they’re not there yet.”

A canon lawyer, Father Montelongo said church law leaves “plenty of room to work” on facilitating synodal structures within the universal and U.S. Church, such as by expanding parish and diocesan pastoral councils and revitalizing diocesan synods. “But we’re not limited by what canon law establishes; it’s a minimum, but a synodal style goes beyond that,” he said.



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

OCTOBER

Oct 25-27

Retreat Master for Diocesan Deacon Fall Retreat, Cathedral and Chancery

Oct 27

Mass for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 10 a.m., Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City

Oct 31

Installation Mass of Archbishop Richard G. Henning, Boston, MA

NOVEMBER

Nov 2

Women's Ministry Fall Retreat, 11:30 am, Cana Hall, Jefferson City; Fr. Tolton Catholic High School Blaze of Glory Gala, 6 p.m., Columbia

Nov 3

Youth Rally Mass, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 5 p.m., Jefferson City

Nov 6

Mass for Deceased Priests, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 11 a.m., Jefferson City

Nov 7

Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, 11 a.m., Chancery

Nov 10-14

USCCB General Meetings, Baltimore, MD

Nov 14

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) 60th Anniversary Reception, 6 p.m., Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See, Washington, D.C.

Nov 15


CARA Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.



Notice of Appointments

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

- PRIESTS**
Reverend Monsignor Marion J. Makarewicz, acceptance of resignation as Dean of North Deanery, effective Oct. 15, 2024.
Reverend R. William Peckman, appointed Dean of North Deanery, effective Oct. 15, 2024.

From the Office of the Chancellor,

Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL
Chancellor

Bishop McKnight's October prayer intention for our Local Church

For a greater conversion of hearts to God who loves us so much; that in living the stewardship way of life, we may avoid any sense of entitlement in our relationships with God and one another.

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

Por una mayor conversión de los corazones a Dios que tanto nos ama; que al vivir el estilo de vida de la buena administración, podamos evitar cualquier sentido de derecho en nuestra relación con Dios y con los demás.



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

Community steps up, Mary's Home parishioner delivers emergency aid to area affected by hurricane

By Jay Nies

"If you feel the need to do something and you just can't let it go, you should do it."

Aaron Kempker offered that advice after making a massive delivery to a hurricane-ravaged area of Tennessee this month.

"I also recommend having a good group of friends to help you," he said. "It might grow into something you weren't ex-

he said. "I never would have dreamed that it would have gotten to where it got."

A Facebook request for donations brought an impressive response.

"I thought we'd be lucky enough to fill a cargo trailer," said Mr. Kempker. "It quickly turned into 'I'm taking a bigger trailer.' That quickly turned into 'I need more people.'"

at 3 p.m. on the 11th," he said.

In between, they traveled some 1,500 miles.

He found out ahead of time that Crossroads Community Church in Newport was accepting donations in a large warehouse just outside the area of devastation.

Volunteers from all over the country were there to assist.

Mr. Kempker described it as "a smooth chaos operation down there."

"They had a whole pile of forklifts and pallet jacks," he said. "It took them about 15 minutes to unload all of it."

Volunteers will distribute the items to people left homeless by the flooding.

"The town we went to had been flooded, but the

water had gone down by time we got there," said Mr. Kempker.

"It must have happened so fast," he said. "You couldn't tell from the outside what happened on the inside, but there was stuff sitting out on the street from people cleaning out the buildings. So you knew the water got in there."

The volunteers who received the donations at the warehouse were greatly appreciative, "but they didn't even have time to sit down," said Mr. Kempker.



Aaron and Jessica Kempker, members of Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Mary's Home, gather with their children and a group of friends in front of one of the flatbed trailers they helped load up with donated necessities for Mr. Kempker to deliver to hurricane-ravaged Erwin, Tennessee.

pecting ... like it did with me."

Mr. Kempker is a member of Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Mary's Home.

He and a group of friends recently delivered three large trailers of bottled water, non-perishable food, disposable diapers and other emergency necessities to Erwin, Tennessee.

The area was recently swamped with record rainfall from Hurricane Helene.

Mr. Kempker saw videos of the flooding on TV and social media.

"I knew I had to do something," he said. "I asked my wife about it several times. I didn't know what to do. It was all I could think about for a few days."

"I couldn't let it go," he said. "Something was making me do it. I don't know what."

He decided to gather up whatever provisions he could and take them to where they'd do the most good.

"These people had lost everything," he noted. "I remember thinking that if it was me, I would be hoping someone would do something to help me."

"There wasn't a whole lot I could do, but doing something is better than doing nothing,"

Word got around. Students from Cole County R-V Schools gathered items. Individuals and local businesses chipped in money.

A business in Linn set up a drop-off location.

"We wound up with a little over \$14,000 in donations in less than a week," Mr. Kempker noted.

He's amazed at how people from his community and beyond stepped up to help.

"It was overwhelming at times," he said. "But, I was very proud of the community for all the help and hard work. I certainly couldn't have done it alone, that is for sure."

He spent most of the money on bulk quantities of items on the official request list.

He spent the week sorting the items, with help from his wife, Jessica, their three oldest children, and some friends.

They and a group of volunteers then spent an evening stacking and securing the items onto pallets and lifting them onto flatbed trailers with a Bobcat.

Mr. Kempker; his grandfather, June; and several friends from work departed at 11 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 9.

"I got back to my driveway

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Dr. Mary Healy is professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and a bestselling author and international speaker. She is one of the first three women ever to serve on the Pontifical Biblical Commission and is a consultant to the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.



NEWMAN
PARISH

Dr. Mary Healy

Biblical Healing, Then and Now

Sunday | November 10, 2024 | 1 PM - 6:15 PM

St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish
602 Turner Avenue, Columbia, MO

1:00 pm - Welcome and Introduction

1:10 pm - Praise and Worship

1:30 pm - 1st Talk - Jesus, the Healer

2:30 pm - Break

3:00 pm - 2nd Talk - Walking in the Supernatural

3:50 pm - Prayer for Empowerment in the Spirit

4:30 pm - Healing Service

6:15 pm - Conclusion

Spanish Translation Provided!

Scan to register!



Catholic author, mother, speaks of keeping proper focus in hardest of times

By Jay Nies

"Just make the cake."

Jennifer Hubbard's brother simply wouldn't let her off the hook.

He wanted her to maintain the traditions that had brought joy to her family before her 6-year-old daughter died in one of the nation's most notorious mass shootings.

Ms. Hubbard's 8-year-old son Freddy was back at school after a summer of mourning for his sister, and it was time to celebrate his first day by baking a school-bus-shaped cake.

Just like in years past.

"You make this cake and frost it and there would be this mini-celebration of a mini-milestone and new adventures to come," Ms. Hubbard explained to a luncheon crowd of women at St. Patrick Church in Laurie.

"My brother called and asked how I was doing, and I told him Freddy was back at school, and it wasn't getting any easier, 'and now I have to bake this stupid cake,'" she recalled.

"And he says, 'Just make it. You're gonna be glad you made it.'"

Ms. Hubbard baked the cake, weeping through every step, and it wound up not even looking like a school bus.

"And Freddy came home and looked at the cake and looked at me and said, 'You made the cake!'" she recounted with glistening eyes.

To this day, she's grateful to her brother for loving her and respecting her grief but not letting her skip something difficult that needed to be done.

"I bristled at him," she noted. "But because I made that cake, I also made the turkey for Thanksgiving. And I put up the Christmas tree. And I still make a bus cake for Freddy each year before he goes back to college."

Ms. Hubbard, an award-winning Catholic author, writer and presenter, spoke at a women's luncheon Oct. 1 to benefit the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, in Laurie.

She shared practical and spiritual insights that have come to her since her daughter,

Catherine, died in the 2012 mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, Connecticut.

The title of her presentation was "You Steer Where You Stare."

"When things become really complicated in your life and you know the storm clouds are brewing, where do you stare?" she asked. "Where do you look? I think that's the indicator of where you're going to end up."

She encouraged everyone present to stay grounded in their relationship with God and never stop looking ahead, to him, to heaven, especially in times of difficulty.

That, she's convinced, is key to being able to put the Psalmist's words — "This is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!" — into action every day, in every season, even in the face of crippling tragedy.

Don't hold back

Ms. Hubbard is author of *Finding Sanctuary*, about how God mended his relationship with her in the midst of her shock and grief. She also writes reflections that are regularly published in the *Magnificat* devotional magazine.

She's president and executive director of the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary, named for her daughter, who loved horses.

Ms. Hubbard warned her audience against focusing too heavily on the past, or keeping a ledger of suffering and sacrifice instead of looking to God in anticipation of his glories still to come.

She also counseled against holding back one's own grief, anger and sadness while praying.

"I feel sometimes, when we hold our emotions because we think God can't handle it, we're putting ourselves at a higher level than God," she said. "He wants it all! Sometimes, it isn't

pretty and makes us vulnerable. But sometimes, it's where he hears us the best."

She called to mind a moment of driving alone and having all the horror of Catherine's death suddenly creep up on her, and remembering the unspeakable grief and confusion her 8-year-old son was experiencing.

"I started to saying to no one in particular, 'Why is this happening to me?'" she recounted.

Her mumbling quickly escalated.

"There I am, yelling at our Lord," she recalled. "And it ended with, 'And you could have stopped it and you didn't!'"

She gasped and quickly apologized to God.

"I was expecting a lightning bolt to come down out of the sky," she said.

"And you know what happened? The most amazing peace that I'd ever experienced!"

Proficient in speaking and writing, Ms. Hubbard has tried for a decade to find words to describe the serenity that consumed her at that moment.

"And I can't," she said.

She's come to understand that her stance that day was "one of a prize fighter, ready to go the mat."

"But, my stare was at our Lord," she said, and he gave her that peace.



Award-winning Catholic author, writer and presenter Jennifer Hubbard pauses for a photo with her audience after giving a presentation titled "You Steer Where You Stare," at a women's luncheon Oct. 1 to benefit the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, in Laurie.

— Photo by Jay Nies

Called to forgive

Ms. Hubbard has struggled mightily in the 12 years since Catherine died.

"What I know about each of my seasons of struggling: I'm more acutely aware of where my stare is being pulled," she said.

And each time she turns her gaze back on the Lord, he puts another layer of protection around her heart, giving her strength to minister to others who are in their own seasons of grief.

"When we live through trials of loss, of devastation, of diagnosis, of whatever, we have the experience to be servants to those who go through it after us," she said.

She called to mind the outpouring of support she received from her family, friends and members of her school and church communities.

"I know it was the prayers and the number of Masses offered — those were the things that kept me standing," she said.

Ms. Hubbard prays every day for the man who's responsible for the death of her daughter and 19 other children and six adults.

It's still very hard, "but yes, I do pray for Adam all the time," she said.

"He's a human being," she stated. "Do I condone what he did? No. Do I forgive him as a person? Yeah! I have to. We're called to forgive."

"I'm not going to hold hatred and anger and resentment in my heart against him," she said. "Absolutely not. That's not who I am."

"When you hold those emotions in your heart, and

See HUBBARD, page 17



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Consensus among members plays major role at synod, theologians say

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Members of the synod on synodality are only moving along the paths where there is consensus, said a group of theologians assisting the synod.

However, while there may not be consensus on several issues when the second session of the Synod of Bishops ends Oct. 27, those questions will not disappear but will be studied further, the theologians told reporters during a Vatican briefing Oct. 16.

Father Dario Vitali, a professor of dogmatic theology at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University, is the coordinator of theological experts assisting the synod.

Fr. Vitali attended the briefing with two other theologians helping the synod: Father Ormond Rush, a professor at the Australian Catholic University, and Klara-Antonia Csiszar, a professor of pastoral theology at the Catholic University of Linz, Austria.

Theology plays an important role in helping the Church learn and develop a new synodal style and culture, Csiszar said through an interpreter.

The theological experts have been present throughout the synod sessions to assist members in this "learning process."

They provide guidance where there are gaps, help motivate participants when they do not see any possibilities for moving forward or when exhaustion often occurs, and help with criticism and constructive feedback, she said.

For example, Fr. Rush said, he was recently called to help one of the small working groups that found some confusion about the notion of "*sensus fidei*" or the "supernatural sense of the faith" of the whole people of God, a Latin term which appeared in the Second Vatican Council's 1964 document, "*Lumen Gentium*."

He said he explained "how through faith and Baptism each individual is given this gift, not only of '*fides*,' faith, but also of a '*sensus fidei*,' a sense of the faith. That is, this capacity to apply it and interpret it in daily life."

The synod on synodality is about listening to the Holy Spirit, to the Word of God and to the experience and the "*sensus fidei*" of each individual from many parts of the world, "and to come to some kind of consensus in the Church," Fr. Rush said.

Theology's fundamental task, he said, is helping "Christian communities interpret and apply, for a particular time or a particular place, the meaning of the Christian Gospel."

With its conversations in the Spirit, the synod "provides an indication, we could say, a



Wyatt Olivas, a U.S. delegate to the Synod of Bishops and a student at the University of Wyoming, films Pope Francis on his phone while Julia Oseka, also a U.S. delegate and a student at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, looks on in the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican Oct. 21.

— CNS photo/Vatican Media

horizon and a direction for the journey, and that is expressed through consensus," Fr. Vitali said. "Consensus is exactly the concrete way by which ... the Church can walk today."

This is important for the third phase of the synodal process, he said, which is giving what came out of the second session back to the particular churches and the bishops' conferences for their reaction or "reception."

"Certainly, there is pushback on the very notion of synodality," Fr. Rush said, and perhaps that pushback also comes from the fact there have not been concrete responses at the synod's two sessions to several questions that have been raised.

"This is the matter of culture where particular cultures have issues with regards to, for example, the role of women and particularly these issues of LGBTQI+ and so on," he said.

People at the synod have been speaking up about gender and identity, he said, but there have also been others "who were uncomfortable about this. And so probably even over two sessions of the synod, there won't be a consensus of the whole Church."

However, Fr. Rush said, those questions that have no consensus "won't go away."

"There are ongoing study groups that will be looking at these issues" as well as the teaching authority of episcopal conferences, which some are opposed to because of concern over what happens if the teachings are different in different parts of the world, he added.

A synodal assembly expresses a direction, Fr. Vitali said, and a synod has the authority, freedom and duty to study all issues and do "research within the Church, which is theology."

"Theology certainly performs this task of advancing a deepening of the various issues so that it will be able to lead in the future toward a consensus. Where there might be consensus, there would open up a different scenario for the journey of God's people," he stated.

Synodality takes time, tension is a natural part of it

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Three weeks into the second session of the Synod of Bishops, journalists wanted to know what outcomes the synod members were moving toward, but several synod members said it is too soon to tell.

The 2021-2024 process for the synod on synodality

"is preparing us to be women and men capable of listening to others who think differently, who see things in a different way," Canadian Cardinal Gérald C. Lacroix of Québec told reporters Oct. 17.

"If we continue as the people of God, as a Church, to work in this direction, I think we will give the world a witness that it is possible to listen to each other and to make good judgments, to make good choices," the cardinal said at the synod's daily briefing for journalists.

But asked about the synod's thinking on specific topics — ranging from whether parish pastoral councils should be mandatory rather than simply encouraged or whether bishops' conferences should have greater authority in making decisions about liturgical translations — he and the other synod participants said the process has not finished yet.

Cardinal Lacroix told the reporters that some of the issues being discussed, including the power of bishops' conferences, have created tension in the synod hall, "and this is good" because it is a sign of life, and a sign of the variety of cultures and experiences represented by the synod members.

"We can't just debate and decide, we have to reflect," the cardinal said.

Bishop Pedro Cipolini of Santo André, Brazil, told reporters, "Sometimes ideas need time to mature. The Church's challenge isn't to respond to all questions but to be faithful and respond to the Holy Spirit."

But one thing is clear, the bishop said, the synod recognizes that "changes are necessary in the face of everything that has been treated in the synod. Some things must change."

"In ecclesial language, in

biblical language, the word 'change' translates as conversion," and that is a process that takes time.

The bishop said he saw three areas where synod members agree there must be change or conversion: a pastoral conversion that recognizes it is no longer enough to evangelize within the walls of the parish, but the Church must reach out, including digitally; "structural conversion," in the way parishes, dioceses, bishops' conferences or even the Roman Curia are organized, "and this is more challenging"; and conversion to a "synodal spirituality," that is focused on Jesus and on concretely witnessing to him in daily life.

"It is necessary to learn to give thanks for old things that have already fulfilled their function, and to welcome the new that the Holy Spirit is indicating at every moment in this world," the bishop said.

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Diocese of Jefferson City

Columbia Newman Center helped Jesuit priest find his calling

By Jay Nies

Daniel was feeling drawn to the Priesthood, but marriage was still very much on his mind.

He and Bridget, a fellow University of Missouri student and fellow parishioner of the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia, had gone on their first date on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.

"That was a little wink from the Holy Spirit," he recalled, "as if to say, 'You can do this, but it's going to be a hard thing.' And it was."

Daniel had been open and honest from day 1 about where the Holy Spirit might be leading him.

About a year into the couple's relationship, he knew he had to break it off and give his full attention to priestly discernment.

"That was one of the hardest things I've ever done," recalled Jesuit Father Daniel Everson, a 2012 University of Missouri graduate who was ordained to the Holy Priesthood this past spring.

"She came and knocked on my door, and we stood there quietly," he recalled. "That's when I told her I am called to be a priest."

The same Spirit

Fr. Everson began his life in St. Louis.

His parents were friends with a Jesuit priest at Saint Louis University and wanted their son to be baptized in St. Francis Xavier "College" Church.

The church was closed for renovation, so the Baptism took place across the street in the chapel of Jesuit Hall, a residence for priests on campus.

His parents forgot to bring the white baptismal gown they had bought for the occasion, so the priest wrapped the white stole from his vestments around the newly baptized baby.

"I think the Holy Spirit was sending us a sign early on that this is where I would end up," Fr. Everson surmised.

He went to Our Lady of Sorrows School in St. Louis and later became friends with the pastor, Monsignor James Telthorst.

In sixth grade, he and his classmates were given a choice of four Scripture passages to read and summarize for homework each evening.

Daniel would tackle all four and quietly read his summaries in his bedroom, like he was preaching a homily.

"I look back and see that now as an inkling that preaching was something I wanted to do," he said.

"And it still is something I want to do — to have that role and the training and the preparation and the privilege of proclaiming God's Word in that way."

But even more than that, he was set on becoming a professional baseball player.

He planned to make the



Jesuit Father Daniel Everson

varsity team his freshman year at Saint Louis University High School (SLUH), land a baseball scholarship to a prestigious university and tear up the Major Leagues after graduating.

That's not how it went. He struggled to make the freshman team and then struggled some more.

He sank into despondency, calling God's existence into question and all but ceasing to pray.

But he did agree to help with a Catholic retreat for the eighth-graders in his parish.

While taking part in the rituals and helping put on a skit about the Paschal Mystery —



Archbishop Emeritus Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis ordains Jesuit Father Daniel Everson, a graduate of the University of Missouri who was very active at the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia, to the Holy Priesthood on June 8 in St. Francis Xavier "College" Church in St. Louis.
— Photo by Therese Meyerhoff

the life, death and resurrection of Jesus — he was overcome by the power of God's mercy.

"I had been turning away from God for about a year," he recalled. "It was so powerful to witness that dramatization of God's love, to realize that that God would take me back."

He looks back on the following Holy Week as "when I decided to really be Catholic."

"Maybe I'm not a professional baseball player, but I am a child of God, and this is really where I want to be," he remembers thinking.

He joined his parish's newly formed youth group, which grew to include four neighboring parishes.

Msgr. Telthorst invited him to proclaim the readings at Sunday Mass and to serve as youth representative to the Parish Council.

"That was a great opportunity to get some experience to help run a parish and be an active Catholic and an adult Catholic," said Fr. Everson.

For a high-school theology class, young Daniel had to interview someone he knew about the Christian choices they had made, including their vocation.

He chose Msgr. Telthorst.

"And that, I would say, was the foundation for spiritual direction," said Fr. Everson. "He and I never labeled it that, but

we would certainly met regularly after that."

When Msgr. Telthorst was reassigned, he wrote a farewell reflection in the parish bulletin on a passage from "*Lumen Gentium*," the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church:

"Remember that the same Holy Spirit that descended on the Apostles is the same Holy Spirit that is in us and moving in us today."

Sweet home

The future priest's career plan turned from baseball to journalism.

He chose to go to the University of Missouri, because he liked the Journalism School there and the welcoming spirit at St. Thomas More Newman Center.

He wound up spending most evenings at the center.

"There were activities, whether social or catechetical or communal or service, and if I could be there, I was there. I just loved it," he said.

Questions about his vocation inevitably reemerged.

"I thought about how I was doing two things at this university: journalism and 'Catholic stuff,'" he said. "I was getting a lot more peace and joy out of the Catholic stuff."

"It was like: 'This is where you are most yourself, where God has called you to be, and you experience the peace and joy in that,'" he recalled.

The Dominican priests who staffed the Newman Center at that time gave powerful witness and inspiration, notably through their excellent preaching.

Daniel had contacted the Chicago province of the Dominicans and began seriously considering that order.

See FR. EVERSON, page 21

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QUESTION CORNER

Should general absolution be a more regular practice?

By Jenna Marie Cooper
OSV News

Q: My brother says that since there are fewer confession times these days, priests should give a general absolution following the "Confiteor" at Mass and encourage those in serious sin to follow up with a regular confession. His argument is that we are losing souls on a metaphorical battlefield, so we should take that measure. What do you think?



A: Even if your brother's heart is in the right place, in most places this would not be allowed in canon law. And even if this kind of routine general absolution was a possibility in countries like the United States, I question how pastorally effective it would actually be.

For some background, "general absolution" is sacramental absolution a priest confers on a large group of people all at once, without having heard the spoken confessions of each individual's sins. As one might expect, the Church reserves general absolution for fairly extreme situations.

Canon 961 of the Code of Canon Law describes the two scenarios where general absolution would be appropriate. The first is when "danger of death threatens and there is not time for the priest or priests to hear the confessions of the individual penitents." An illustration of this would be a priest onboard an airplane about to crash, or immediately prior to an inescapable and deadly natural disaster. Clearly, this would not be the situation in the vast majority of parishes at a regular Sunday Mass!

The second scenario where general absolution could be a legitimate option is when: "there exists a grave necessity, that is, given the number of penitents, there are not enough confessors available properly to hear the individual confessions within an appropriate time, so that without fault of their own the penitents are deprived of the sacramental grace or of holy communion for a lengthy period of time." The law seems to envision this use of general absolution as applying to unusually remote mission territories that may lack the presence of a priest for perhaps weeks or months on end.

There are some places, even within the United States, where this may indeed be the case. But if a parish is able to have at least a weekly Sunday Mass, then there would likewise seem to be enough of a priestly presence in that area to allow penitents to have their individual confessions heard within a reasonable time frame. So if we follow canon 961 to its logical conclusion, the very availability of weekly Mass would normally render general absolution at those Masses illicit.

Yet even beyond all these canonical considerations, the simpler solution — which is happily also the less controversial one — to the problem of infrequent or inconveniently scheduled confession times is for parishes to schedule more frequent times for confessions, and/or to schedule confessions for days and times that fit better into working parishioners' calendars.

There really is no need to skip over this clear-cut and obvious remedy in favor of a relatively obscure canonical option. (And on an immediate practical note, while many Catholics feel more comfortable making "drop in" confessions during the set periods on the parish schedule, if the parish confession schedule will not work for you, it's good to keep in mind that most parish priests are open to hearing confessions by appointment as well.)

Finally, the dynamics of interior conversion and the spiritual life can be very subtle and rarely fall into easy formulaic categories. But based on a broad understanding of human nature, I would ask whether "forcing" absolution on those who

See QUESTION, page 23



— CNS photo/Lola Gomez

Papal Audience
October 23, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, we now turn to the Sacrament of Marriage. Within the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit is the bond of love between the Father and the Son. As a sacrament of loving union between a man and a woman, Christian Marriage is a reflection of that eternal relationship between the Divine Persons, a mutual self-giving that gives rise to profound and enduring joy. Let us ask the Spirit to sustain married couples and families in their vocation to be joyful signs of God's eternal love, Christ's sacrificial love for the Church and the promise of that love to bring lasting peace to our broken world.

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those coming from England, Denmark, Norway, Madagascar, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Canada and the United States. Upon all of you, and upon your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!

Saints served generously, creatively, pope says at canonization Mass

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Francis called on the faithful to yearn to serve, not thirst for power, as he proclaimed 14 new saints, including Canada-born St. Marie-Léonie Paradis, founder of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family, and 11 martyrs.

"Those who dominate do not win, only those who serve out of love," he said Oct. 20.

"When we learn to serve, our every gesture of attention and care, every expression of tenderness, every work of mercy becomes a reflection of God's love," he said. "And so, we continue Jesus' work in the world."

The pope said the new saints lived Jesus's way of service. "The faith and the apostolate they carried out did not feed their worldly desires and hunger for power but, on the contrary, they made themselves servants of their brothers and sisters, creative in doing the good, steadfast in difficulties and generous to the end."

On World Mission Sunday in St. Peter's Square, during the synod on synodality, the pope created the following new saints:

- Italian missionary Giuseppe Allamano (1851-1926) founder of the Consolata Missionaries.
- Eight Franciscan friars, in-



People gather in St. Peter's Square before the start of Mass for the canonization of 14 new saints with Pope Francis on World Mission Sunday at the Vatican Oct. 20.

— CNS photo/Lola Gomez

cluding Manuel Ruiz López, and three Maronite laymen who were martyred in Syria in 1860. Seven of the Franciscans were from Spain and one was from Austria while the Maronite laymen were blood brothers. They were murdered in St. Paul's Church and convent in Damascus the night between July 9 and 10, 1860, by Druze militants.

• Canada-born Mother Marie-Léonie Paradis, founder of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family. Born in L'Acadie, Quebec, in 1840, she had various teaching assignments in Canada before being sent to teach at St. Vincent's orphanage in New York. She died in 1912 in Sherbrooke, Canada.

• Sister Elena Guerra (1835-1914), an Italian nun who founded the Oblates of

the Holy Spirit.

Tens of thousands of people attended the Mass, including the more than 300 cardinals, bishops and others taking part in the Oct. 2-27 synod on synodality. Dignitaries from Canada, Spain and Italy, including Italian President Sergio Mattarella, were present for the canonization and Mass.

In his homily, the pope pointed to the new saints as inspiring examples of "men and women who served in martyrdom and in joy" and who remained faithful servants "throughout the troubled history of humanity."

"This is what we should yearn for: not power, but service. Service is the Christian

See SAINTS, page 17

The battles we fight

By Jaymie Stuart Wolfe
OSV News



"Choose your battles" is generally good advice.

It's wise to acknowledge that not every fight can be won; that we may not have the resources to sustain a war on many fronts; that victory sometimes costs us more than we can afford.

But if you're born (or baptized) on the battlefield, things become more complicated. It's hard to resist the urge to take up the cross and march like a crusader into every engagement, especially when

we see the destruction around us, know the stakes are high and suspect we are outnumbered.

The practice of offering an abbreviated form of Pope Leo XIII's prayer to St. Michael at the end of every Mass is, once again, widespread. And that's a good thing, because if living our Catholic faith in today's world could be summarized in a single word, "embattled" would be a strong contender.

And yet, God does not call any of us to go looking for a fight.

That's because we're not often equipped to win a contest against an enemy that prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour, (see 1 Peter 5:8).

Perhaps more importantly, we also

tend to forget that the battle God calls every one of us to engage in is a spiritual one, fought on the open fields of our hearts.

That is why the Catechism of the Catholic Church includes an entire section devoted to what it calls "The Battle of Prayer."

As the Catechism explains: "Prayer is both a gift of grace and a determined response on our part. It always presupposes effort. The great figures of prayer ... all teach us this: prayer is a battle. ... The "spiritual battle" of the Christian's new life is inseparable from the battle of prayer" (CCC 2725).

After we've abandoned mortal sin, after we've decided to follow Jesus wholeheartedly, prayer is most often where we

falter.

Prayer is the most sustained battle of the Christian life. It is where our faith is both fed and tested. It is how our quest for salvation plays out.

In prayer, we open our hearts to God. Through prayer, God opens his heart to us.

If we want to follow Christ, we must pray. And that is never easy.

What is easy is the discouragement we face when we try and fail.

Despite our best intentions, the daily Rosary or Mass easily become more like every other day. We skip time with God when we are pressed for time. And that makes us vulnerable to one of the enemy's

See STUART WOLFE, page 23

The future of Ordinary Time

By Lucia A. Silecchia



My team did not make it to the World Series.

They got close — very close. Alas, the playoffs did not end well for them.

I am not the most devoted fan since I usually do not follow the team's progress until the excitement of the later part of the season when the stakes are higher, and the disappointment greater.

Yet, I noticed something after the post-season loss. Almost everyone said, "Wait until next year," or "Better luck next year," or "Spring training will be here before you know it."

Some may be revisiting the past, reflecting on missed opportunities, strategic errors, and misplayed games. Nevertheless, most people who shared my disappointment were already looking ahead to a new season, a fresh start, and another chance for the victory that slipped away in 2024.

I wonder if there is a lesson to be learned here.

So often, when there is a disappointment, loss, or missed opportunity, it is easy to spend time and energy only looking backwards.

It is tempting to rewind past events and contemplate all that could have and should have been done differently or better.

There is certainly a place for this in life. After all, it is by looking back and recognizing mistakes and failings that we know how best to change our ways and avoid the missteps of yesterday.

But there is also great wisdom in the attitude of my fellow fans who are choosing, with hope, to look toward tomorrow.

They see what was, and understand the disappointment of what went wrong.

They also see the hope in a new beginning. They see the challenge that lies ahead in the opportunity to start a new season when winter passes and, with a clean slate, aim for what eluded them this year.

Life gives us so many new chances, and new seasons to start again, with a clean slate, to live differently.

Every time we tell others that we forgive them, every time we walk away from an old temptation, and every time we turn back to God after some time away from Him, a new season begins.

What came before is, of course, important. But it is not nearly as important as what lies ahead.

When we look to our tomorrows, we may not be planning a lineup, curating a team, or studying the strategy behind America's national pastime. We are doing the frighteningly joyful work of hope.

It is the hope that, with the help of God, all that has come before will prepare us to live a new and better life.

It is the hope that, with the love of family and friends, we can put our weaknesses behind us and be stronger in those things that matter.

It is the hope that with greater faith and love we will live our tomorrows better than our yesterdays.

It is the hope that nothing that has come before has the last word on what lies ahead.

It is the hope that, like all who root for my team, an underdog can reach for the good and beautiful because, yes, the last *shall* be first.

For a time, it will be winter. But spring training — herald of a new season and the hope it brings — starts in February, the heart of winter.

It will be the new start for today's disappointed fans who say, "wait until next year."

This, hope, though, is not limited

to baseball fans who have been waiting nearly four decades to see their team

See SILECCHIA, page 23

REFLECTION

Happy landing

By Mark Saucier

I heard the disruption of the quiet fall afternoon from inside the house. It sounded as if everything was enveloped in a cloud of incessant clicks and whistles.

Stepping outside, I found the noise coming from the trees above me. At first, I couldn't make out anything in the foliage, but then I began to see dark patches of feathers.

It was a chattering of European starlings. A suitable term, since it seemed as if they were all talking at once, though it was impossible to decide if what I heard was mating calls, idle gossip, or perhaps their common prayer.

A few birds took to the air, followed by more until there were hundreds flying together. It was a murmuration, and I could almost hear the swoosh as they circled, dove and climbed as one.

There were no collisions, no vying for the front of the flock, and no birds taking off on their own. They simply graced the sky with their aerial ballet.

As they dissolved in the distance, I became aware that I was happy. In that moment, while nothing in my life had changed, I was at peace with it all.

I remembered author Kurt Vonnegut talking about his Uncle Alex, a Harvard-educated insurance salesman in Indianapolis. Uncle Alex used to complain that, in general, human beings seldom noticed when they were happy.

Vonnegut said his uncle often acknowledged the sweet times. Drinking lemonade under an apple tree on a summer day, Uncle Alex would remind everyone, "If this isn't nice, what is?"

My encounter with the starlings was nice. My petty concerns paled in the light of this gift of nature, this avian ode to the beauty and unity of creation.

I realize that, at my age, I don't have the day-to-day responsibilities and attendant worries of a younger person. It's a hard world out there, at times cruel and threatening. A blithe "*bakuna matata*" won't cut it.

But practically every day, there are some of those "sweet" moments Uncle Alex recognized.

It could be anything, and maybe that's why we fail to register it, why we don't see its effect on us.

It could be holding a child, the hug of a friend, the smell of a flower, the calm of silence, an unexpected call, or sometimes even a simple "thank you."

Marking these moments with our own "If this isn't nice, what is?" is the basis of gratitude.

And without gratitude, there is no hope.

Encounter

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri: A Year of Learning, Growth, and Inspiration



By Litz Main, Executive Director

As I reflect on my first year as executive director of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, I am filled with profound gratitude and admiration.

The past year has been one of learning about our organization, the diverse communities we serve, and the rich culture of the Diocese of Jefferson City.

But most importantly, I've had the privilege of getting to know the dedicated team members who bring our mission to life every day.

Though I may have contributed in some ways, my efforts pale in comparison to the unwavering commitment of our team members — individuals who have devoted decades of their lives to serving others, helping newcomers and long-standing residents alike to find hope, healing and the chance to thrive.

Their quiet strength and tireless dedication embody what it means to serve with compassion and represent God's love in every action.

One such individual is Lorna Tran, who has been a beacon of hope and kindness for 43 years as the Director of both Refugee Services and Family Immigration.

Lorna pours her heart into her work, serving those who have experienced unimaginable hardships and persecution.

Over the decades, she has listened to the heart-breaking stories of individuals and families forced to flee their homes, leaving behind everything they knew.

Many spent years waiting to be vetted and invited to our country, hoping for a safe future.

Once they arrive, Lorna's role is far more than a job — it is a ministry of empathy and support.

She has guided each person on their journey to self-sufficiency within the strict timelines set by the U.S. government, ensuring that they can navigate this new chapter and repay the

travel expenses they incurred on their way to the United States.

It is no small feat, and she has done it with a depth of compassion and perseverance that inspires everyone around her.

But Lorna has not walked this journey alone. Standing by her side for the past 25 years is Senad Music, a refugee himself, who came to the United States from Bosnia with a desire to help others find the same opportunities for safety and success that he was given.

He has been Lorna's right hand, offering not only logistical support but the empathetic understanding of someone who knows these struggles firsthand.

Senad's commitment to this work led him to become a fully accredited Department of Justice representative — a title not easily achieved.

This designation allows him to provide legal assis-

tance to those seeking a path to a stable future.

In his role, Senad does more than navigate paperwork; he stands beside our clients, advocating for them with both expertise and deep empathy.

Joining this challenging and rewarding endeavor is Alice Loethen, who for the past 35 years has brought her remarkable talents to our agency, serving our neighbors regardless of their faith, culture or circumstances.

Alice is also a DOJ-accredited representative, dedicating herself to the often-overlooked work of ensuring that every person has a voice, a champion and a pathway to security and hope.

And then there's Jeanne Burkemper, our finance officer, who has devoted the past 13 years of her life to ensuring accurate and timely financial reporting while also bringing a spark of joy and humor to our team.

Jeanne's upbeat spirit and encouraging words are often just the lift we need in times of challenge.

Another gem in our organization is Solomon Hadera, our Regional Data Support Specialist.

For 11 years, Solomon has approached every challenge with a smile that can light up

any room and a positivity that is infectious.

He sees each obstacle as an opportunity to serve better and to love more fully.

For these esteemed members of our team, there is no challenge we cannot overcome if we approach our work and our neighbors as Jesus taught us: to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31).

Every day, they show what it means to love through action, to extend a hand with grace and to create a community where everyone has a chance to flourish.

I am in awe of their perseverance and faith. Their passion for our mission is palpable, and their willingness to meet every person with dignity, respect, and compassion is the living expression of Christ's love.

It is an honor to serve alongside them and to learn from their example.

As I step into my second year with Catholic Charities, my hope is to continue supporting this incredible team in every possible way.

Together, we will keep building on the foundation of love and service they have created, ensuring that we remain a source of hope and healing for those in need.

Their stories are not just a testament to the power of commitment — they are a celebration of what it means to live out the Gospel in action.

I am proud to be part of this journey, walking alongside these extraordinary individuals, serving our community and helping to provide care and create hope for all those we are blessed to encounter.

To my team: thank you for your example, your passion and your dedication.

May we continue to serve boldly and compassionately, inspired by Christ's example and guided by His love.



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Texas bishop visits St. Patrick, land of his roots

By Jay Nies

Richard and Rose Riney's great-great-grandson most reverently approached his ancestors' final resting place.

Sunlight shone off the headstones and his pectoral cross.

"Coming here is like a discovery of unknown ancestry," Bishop Michael J. Sis of San Angelo, Texas, marveled aloud.

He was one of many descendants of the founding families of Shrine of St. Patrick Parish in St. Patrick who gathered in this north-eastern Missouri hamlet for a family reunion the weekend of Oct. 5-6.

"To come and visit the graves of my ancestors is deeply meaningful to me, and to be able to come and pray in this shrine is truly a pilgrimage of faith," Bishop Sis told his assembled kin.

"And it's very important to me personally to get to see all of YOU and how God is at work in your lives through good times and through bad, how he continues to sustain and nourish you through the years," he said.

Bishop Sis offered the Sunday Mass and preached the homily to a near-capacity congregation in the shrine the morning of Oct. 6.

Father Robert Fields — pastor of Shrine of St. Patrick Parish, St. Michael Parish in Kahoka and St. John Parish in Memphis



Bishop Michael J. Sis of San Angelo, Texas, whose ancestors helped found Shrine of St. Patrick Parish in St. Patrick in the 1830s, blesses holy water to be sprinkled on the congregation at a Mass he is celebrating with Father Robert Fields (center), pastor, and the people of St. Patrick and surrounding parishes on Oct. 6. Assisting them is Deacon Luke Mahsman of Hannibal and Palmyra.

— Photo by Jay Nies

— and Franciscan Father James Wheeler, a son of Shrine of St. Patrick Parish, concelebrated.

Bishop Sis blessed the water in the baptismal font and sprinkled it on the assembly at the beginning of Mass, illuminated by sunlight through vibrant Celtic stained glass.

"We're conscious of these beautiful windows, each depicting a saint," he declared. "So many saints who accompany us in worshipping Our Lord in the Mass! All of us are hoping to be future saints, and that path begins with our Baptism."

It was Respect Life Sunday, and the regularly scheduled readings highlighted marriage and family life — including Jesus's teaching on the perma-

nence of marriage and on welcoming children as one would welcome him. (Mark 10:16).

Bishop Sis, in his homily, noted that some people think the Catholic Church takes a hard line on issues of marriage and family.

"But, honestly, all we're really trying to do is be faithful the teachings of Jesus that were proclaimed in the Gospel today," said Bishop Sis. "That's all we're trying to do: be faithful to our Lord Jesus."

He noted that safeguarding human life from conception to natural death can lead to inconvenience, sacrifice and even

suffering.

"But also many blessings!" he proclaimed. "In all cases, our Catholic faith teaches us not to shy away from inconvenience or sacrifice whenever the sanctity of life is at stake."

He emphasized that making sacrifices for the good of another human being leads to

growth in holiness.

Jesus makes it clear that children are a precious gift.

"They are a blessing and enrich the lives of their parents," Bishop Sis noted. "Psalm 128 proclaims an expression of blessing upon a person when

See BISHOP SIS, page 12

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BISHOP SIS

From page 11

it says, 'May you see your children's children.'"

After Communion, Fr. Fields invited all the children to gather at the front of the shrine. Bishop Sis asked and answered questions and described the symbolism behind his mitre (pointy hat), zucchetto (skull cap), crosier (bishop's staff) and other symbols of him being a bishop.

He also spoke of the seventh candle on the altar — the one announcing that the local diocesan bishop is present.

"ou'll notice that it's not lit," he told the children. "That's because I'm not *your* bishop. If your bishop, my friend, Bishop McKnight, were here with you today, then this candle would be lit."

"Good people"

The downstairs hall at the shrine was adorned with displays, photos, albums, genealogy charts and historical ephemera from various branches of the families represented at the reunion.

Some came from several states away with memories of previous family gatherings tucked away in their minds or in their parents' or grandparents' photo albums.

Others have spent their whole lives a short distance from the shrine or moved back more recently to retire or work the old family homestead.

Many spoke of the fun they had while growing up and coming back to visit the farms and the beautiful shrine, which was completed in 1957.

Timeless stories pivoted and overlapped when told from different perspectives.

Smiles and laughter abounded.

"We don't all get to see each other so much," one relative stated.

Parishioners sold chances to win a handmade shamrock-patterned quilt to raise money for restoration of headstones in the cemetery.

Bishop Sis won the quilt, and he plans to give it to his mother in Texas, who treasures her beautiful memories of visiting the shrine as a child.



LEFT: Bishop Michael J. Sis and Father Robert Fields pray the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass in the Shrine of St. Patrick in St. Patrick Oct. 6. **RIGHT:** Bishop Sis and Dennis Schutte of St. Louis, whose family has a farm near the shrine, point to photos of their common relatives on a display during a family reunion the weekend of Oct. 5-6 in St. Patrick.

— Photos by Jay Nies

After sharing a meal and a great deal of visiting, people came forward to introduce the members of their families and talk a little about where they live and what they do.

Dennis Schutte of St. Louis, a descendant of the parish's founders, whose family still owns a farm within the Shrine of St. Patrick parish boundaries, served as emcee.

Fr. Wheeler sang a few bars of "Getting to Know You" from "The King And I," as an expression of joy at becoming acquainted and reacquainted with relatives he previously never knew.

"You know, wherever you go, there are always good people," he said. "That's what I'm experiencing."

He noted that everyone, including priests, experiences brokenness and need healing.

"You have a spirituality and

in the Church, including advocacy work to abolish the death penalty.

"I'm grateful to be here, and I bless you and I thank God for all you, and pray for you," she said. "We've got a lot of challenges in this life, so we need to stay close to the Lord, stay close to Jesus, and keep on praying for each other."

"God's coworkers"

Bishop Sis talked about how his mother, Janice (Murphy) Sis, grew up in Kansas but made frequent trips back to St. Patrick for family gatherings.

Raymond and Janice Sis got married and moved to Bryan-College Station, Texas, so Raymond could teach at Texas A&M.

Bishop Sis was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Austin in 1986, after studying at the University of Notre Dame and at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

He served in parish and campus ministry, as vocation director and as vicar general before being appointed bishop of San Angelo in 2014.

He now leads a mostly rural diocese that's as vast as Indiana but only has about 120,000 Catholics. Many of the Catholics are of Hispanic origin or lineage.

For his motto, he selected the phrase "*Dei Sumus Adiutores*" — "We are God's co-



workers" (1 Corinthians 3:9).

"Serving as a Catholic bishop in today's world has its challenges," he noted. "It's also very fulfilling and spiritually rewarding work."



Bishop Michael Sis stands by the burial place of his ancestor, Richard Riney, who helped establish what is now Shrine of St. Patrick Parish in St. Patrick. The shrine can be seen in the background.

He loves the people and territory of his diocese.

"It's a beautiful place to live and serve God's people," he said.

The first Rineys in North America settled in St. Mary's County, Maryland, in the 1700s. From there, some moved to western Kentucky, and then to what is now St. Patrick.

"And from there to many other places!" Bishop Sis noted.

Richard and Rose (Simp-

son) Riney and several family members settled in Clark County, Missouri, in 1833.

The following year, they helped build the first Catholic church near their settlement, originally known as North Santa Fe.

Richard and Rose's relatives included Zachariah Riney, a Catholic, who is believed to have tutored young Abraham Lincoln.

Bishop Sis visited St. Patrick for the first time while traveling with his parents in 2011, and came back with them for a reunion in 2017.

He grew up without much contact with his extended family over the years, "because most of my relatives live in Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, and we always lived in Texas, so we were always far away."

"But I'm very grateful to be able to reconnect with you and meet you now, much later in my life," he told the group.

Bishop Sis reminded the people that they were taking part in more than just a get-together with family and relatives.

"You have also made a pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Patrick in the town of St. Patrick!" he said.

"You came here to pray the Mass in this holy place that was established by ancestors of yours, to give glory to God in the only town in the world that is named for St. Patrick," he stated.

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.

you have a holiness that we priests need to hear from you," he told the laypeople present. "And we also have some that we want to share with you."

Sister JoAn Schullian OSF, a Hospital Sister of St. Francis living in Decatur, Illinois, spoke of growing up in Quincy, entering religious life and serving in numerous capacities

MESSENGER

October 2024

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A quarterly publication by the Missouri Catholic Conference - The public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Missouri.

AMENDMENT 3: A MISLEADING AND DANGEROUS PRO-ABORTION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

On November 5, 2024, Missourians will go to the polls to vote not only for the next president of the United States, but also to decide if abortion should be part of our Missouri Constitution. When something is enshrined in a state constitution, there can be many unintended consequences that cannot be readily remedied by the legislature. Such is the case with Missouri's pro-abortion Constitutional Amendment 3.

MISLEADING BALLOT LANGUAGE

The language of the amendment is broadly written with few terms defined. It begins with the following statement:

2. The Government shall not deny or infringe upon a person's fundamental right to reproductive freedom, which is the right to make and carry out decisions about all matters relating to reproductive health care, including but not limited to prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, birth control, abortion care, miscarriage care, and respectful birthing conditions.

This language implies that prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, birth control, miscarriage care, and respectful birthing conditions are at risk if Amendment 3 is not passed. This is not true. This section also promotes the dangerous lie that women who have a miscarriage or an ectopic pregnancy will not receive the necessary medical care without the passage of Amendment 3. Neither ectopic pregnancy treatment nor miscarriage care are considered abortions under current



Missouri law. Dr. Alexa Williams, OB/GYN recently told Jennifer Brinker of the *St. Louis Review*:

"This is where Amendment 3 is confusing because it essentially is promoting a right to all women's health care, which initially sounds like a positive idea — until you notice that abortion care is intermingled into the mix with no restrictions, no safety standards, no parental consent for minors and no limitations on taxpayer funding," said Dr. Williams

Current medical terminology is a reason why miscarriage care has become intertwined with abortion, Dr. Williams added.

The term for miscarriage often used in a medical setting is "spontaneous abortion," which is defined as an early unintended pregnancy loss.

This term is different from "elective abortion," "induced abortion" and "medication abortion," all of which involve medication or surgery as a direct means to remove the embryo

or fetus and placenta from the uterus, she said.

Recognizing the challenges in interpreting medical terminology, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and other health-care organizations formalized a common set of definitions for women's health care in obstetrics and gynecology.

ReVITALize Gynecology Data Definitions no longer recommends the use of the term "spontaneous abortion" and instead suggests "miscarriage" or "intrauterine pregnancy loss."

An ectopic pregnancy, where a pregnancy occurs outside of the endometrial cavity (typically within the fallopian tube), is considered nonviable and likely to present significant risks to the mother's life, Dr. Williams said.

Removal of the fallopian tube is a common treatment option, she said, adding that the indirect result of this surgery is a loss of a nonviable

pregnancy, where typically there is no cardiac activity and low pregnancy hormone levels.

"Practicing as conservatively as possible in regard to the law, if ectopic pregnancy management would be considered an indirect 'abortion,' there is an exception for any procedure that would be a medical emergency, which has certainly been well established in the setting of ectopic pregnancies," Dr. Williams said.

ELIMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

Subsection 2 provides this broad right to reproductive freedom to every "person". When dealing with constitutional provisions and state laws, the terms used matter. By using the word "person", instead of "adult" or "woman", anyone under the age of 18 could have an abortion without their parents' consent or even notification.

NO SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR WOMEN

Amendment 3 states:

3. The right to reproductive freedom shall not be denied, interfered with, delayed, or otherwise restricted unless the Government demonstrates that such action is justified by a compelling governmental interest achieved by the least restrictive means. Any denial, interference, delay, or restriction of the right to reproductive freedom shall be presumed invalid.

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In addition, Amendment 3 states that the “compelling governmental interest” must not limit a “person’s autonomous decision-making”. This means that “reproductive freedom” is protected to a greater level than other constitutional rights, including life, liberty, property, due process, equal protection, speech, and religion.

This nearly unlimited right would effectively eliminate all safety standards and regulations for abortion and other areas of “reproductive freedom.”

Jay Nies, editor of *The Catholic Missourian*, discussed this issue:

Not only would it allow practically unrestricted access to elective abortion at any stage of pregnancy, it would override safeguards in Missouri law that help protect women from unsafe abortions.

Among these provisions are the requirement that only a medical doctor be allowed to perform abortions in the state; that parents of a minor be notified before she can have an abortion; and that abortion clinics comply with the state’s health and safety standards for outpatient surgical centers and be located close enough to a hospital that a woman can get treatment if life-threatening complications arise.

“If these or any of the other safety measures are perceived as a delay or denial of an abortion, they are plainly unconstitutional under this amendment,” stated Jamie Morris, executive director and general counsel for the Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC), public policy agency of the state’s four Roman Catholic dioceses.

In 2018, when abortion was legal in Missouri, an unannounced inspection of the Planned Parenthood clinic in Columbia, discovered black mold, rust and bodily fluid on equipment that had recently been used to treat patients. The clinic was also unable to secure a physician that had hospital admitting privileges within 30 minutes of the clinic. The

state refused to renew Planned Parenthood’s license due to unsanitary conditions.

In addition, this new right would mean that, at least prior to viability, courts will have to invalidate Missouri’s law prohibiting abortion due to the sex, race, or Down syndrome diagnosis of the preborn child.

ABORTIONS ALLOWED INTO THE SECOND AND THIRD TRIMESTER

Amendment 3 allows abortion for any reason before “fetal viability”, which is defined as:

the point in pregnancy when, in the good faith judgment of a treating health care professional and based on the particular facts of the case, there is a significant likelihood of the fetus’s sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures.

...according to Dr. Hern, the viability of a fetus is determined not by gestational age, but by a woman’s willingness to carry it.

A preborn child can survive outside of the womb at 22 to 24 weeks of pregnancy. This means that elective abortions for any reason are allowed for approximately the first six months of pregnancy, which is after the time science has shown that an unborn child can feel pain.

In addition, Amendment 3 offers a loophole that allows abortion into the 7th, 8th, and 9th months of pregnancy as it states:

Under no circumstance shall the Government deny, interfere with, delay, or otherwise restrict an abortion that in the good faith judgment of a treating health care professional is needed to

What you will see on the Ballot is NOT what the Amendment says

Official Ballot Title Amendment 3

Proposed by Initiative Petition

Official Ballot Title:

Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to:

- establish a right to make decisions about reproductive health care, including abortion and contraceptives, with any governmental interference of that right presumed invalid;
- remove Missouri’s ban on abortion;
- allow regulation of reproductive health care to improve or maintain the health of the patient;
- require the government not to discriminate, in government programs, funding, and other activities, against persons providing or obtaining reproductive health care; and
- allow abortion to be restricted or banned after Fetal Viability except to protect the life or health of the woman?

State governmental entities estimate no costs or savings, but unknown impact. Local governmental entities estimate costs of at least \$51,000 annually in reduced tax revenues. Opponents estimate a potentially significant loss to state revenue.

Fair Ballot Language:

A “yes” vote establishes a constitutional right to make decisions about reproductive health care, including abortion and contraceptives, with any governmental interference of that right presumed invalid; removes Missouri’s ban on abortion; allows regulation of reproductive health care to improve or maintain the health of the patient; requires the government not to discriminate, in government programs, funding, and other activities, against persons providing or obtaining reproductive health care; and allows abortion to be restricted or banned after Fetal Viability except to protect the life or health of the woman.

A “no” vote will continue the statutory prohibition of abortion in Missouri.

If passed, this measure may reduce local taxes while the impact to state taxes is unknown.



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→	What the Amendment Says	→	What the Amendment Does
	<p>NOTICE: The proposed amendment revises Article I of the Constitution by adopting one new Section to be known as Article I, Section 36.</p> <p><i>Be it resolved by the people of the state of Missouri that the Constitution be amended:</i></p> <p>Section A. Article I of the Constitution is revised by adopting one new Section to be known as Article I, Section 36 to read as follows:</p> <p>Section 36. 1. This Section shall be known as "The Right to Reproductive Freedom Initiative."</p> <p>2. The Government shall not deny or infringe upon a person's fundamental right to reproductive freedom, which is the right to make and carry out decisions about all matters relating to reproductive health care, including but not limited to prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, birth control, abortion care, miscarriage care, and respectful birthing conditions.</p> <p>3. The right to reproductive freedom shall not be denied, interfered with, delayed, or otherwise restricted unless the Government demonstrates that such action is justified by a compelling governmental interest achieved by the least restrictive means. Any denial, interference, delay, or restriction of the right to reproductive freedom shall be presumed invalid. For purposes of this Section, a governmental interest is compelling only if it is for the limited purpose and has the limited effect of improving or maintaining the health of a person seeking care, is consistent with widely accepted clinical standards of practice and evidence-based medicine, and does not infringe on that person's autonomous decision-making.</p> <p>4. Notwithstanding subsection 3 of this Section, the general assembly may enact laws that regulate the provision of abortion after Fetal Viability provided that under no circumstance shall the Government deny, interfere with, delay, or otherwise restrict an abortion that in the good faith judgment of a treating health care professional is needed to protect the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant person.</p> <p>5. No person shall be penalized, prosecuted, or otherwise subjected to adverse action based on their actual, potential, perceived, or alleged pregnancy outcomes, including but not limited to miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion. Nor shall any person assisting a person in exercising their right to reproductive freedom with that person's consent be penalized, prosecuted, or otherwise subjected to adverse action for doing so.</p> <p>6. The Government shall not discriminate against persons providing or obtaining reproductive health care or assisting another person in doing so.</p> <p>7. If any provision of this Section or the application thereof to anyone or to any circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of those provisions and the application of such provisions to others or other circumstances shall not be affected thereby.</p> <p>8. For purposes of this Section, the following terms mean:</p> <p>(1) "Fetal Viability", the point in pregnancy when, in the good faith judgment of a treating health care professional and based on the particular facts of the case, there is a significant likelihood of the fetus's sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures.</p> <p>(2) "Government",</p> <p>a. the state of Missouri; or</p> <p>b. any municipality, city, town, village, township, district, authority, public subdivision or public corporation having the power to tax or regulate, or any portion of two or more such entities within the state of Missouri.</p>		<p>Eliminate parental notification or consent.</p> <p>Prohibit any regulation of abortion.</p> <p>Allow abortion at any time for any reason.</p> <p>Put women at risk. No medical doctor required.</p> <p>Shield negligent health care professionals.</p> <p>Open the door to taxpayer-funded abortions.</p> <p>Permit abortion even when the preborn child can feel pain.</p>
<p>Do not be fooled by the Ballot Language or Fair Ballot Language you will see at the polls. This language does not completely convey the far reaching effects of this misleading pro-abortion constitutional amendment. For more information about Amendment 3 visit us at mocatholic.org.</p>			

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protect the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant person.

This means that a health care provider could justify a late-term abortion due to a woman’s emotional and psychological concerns.

NEGLIGENT PROVIDERS PROTECTED

Negligence associated with reproductive care would be enshrined in Missouri’s constitution as Amendment 3 states:

5. No person shall be penalized, prosecuted, or otherwise subjected to adverse action based on their actual, potential, perceived, or alleged pregnancy outcomes, including but not limited to miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion. Nor shall any person assisting a person in exercising their right to reproductive freedom with that person’s consent be penalized, prosecuted, or otherwise subjected to adverse action for doing so. (emphasis added)

A woman or minor who is injured as a result of “reproductive care” cannot sue the negligent individual(s) who caused the harm. Because “reproductive freedom” includes more than

abortion, this provision would also affect a woman injured during a hysterectomy, in-vitro fertilization process, or during the birth of her child.

“HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL” ≠ DOCTOR

Amendment 3 leaves questions of fetal viability and whether an abortion is necessary for the physical or mental health of the woman to the judgment of “a treating health care professional”. This term is not defined in Amendment 3 and includes more than just licensed physicians in other areas of Missouri law. In Missouri, a health care professional can be a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, pharmacist, psychiatrist, dental hygienist, or a podiatrist.

In addition to the problem of allowing non-physicians to make these determinations, there is a problem with such decisions being made by the individual who is providing—and has an interest in—the abortion. Consider the case of Dr. Warren Hern, a late-term abortion provider in Colorado, who was interviewed in The Atlantic in 2023. The article states that, according to Dr. Hern, the viability of a fetus is determined not by gestational age, but by a woman’s

willingness to carry it. When the author asked Dr. Hern what he would say to a healthy woman 30 weeks along who came to his office: “Every pregnancy is a health issue! There is a certifiable risk of death from being pregnant, period,” said Hern.

TAXPAYER-FUNDED ABORTIONS

Amendment 3 opens the door to taxpayer-funded abortions by stating:

6. The Government shall not discriminate against persons providing or obtaining reproductive health care or assisting another person in doing so.

After Michigan voters recently approved a constitutional amendment establishing a right to abortion, the ACLU filed a lawsuit stating that to withhold funding for abortion through Medicare or Medicaid is unconstitutional. To withhold abortion funding is considered discriminatory against low-income individuals.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT VS. LAW

When thinking about the unknowns of Amendment 3, it’s important to remember that these provisions

will be going into Missouri’s Constitution. Unlike laws passed by the Missouri General Assembly, lawmakers cannot simply amend constitutional provisions that have unintended negative consequences. For citizens to “fix” problems with Amendment 3, they will have to go back through the time-consuming and costly process to propose a constitutional amendment and then wage an expensive campaign in the hope that voters will approve the amendment at the next general election.

YEARS OF LITIGATION

Amendment 3’s nearly-unlimited “right to reproductive freedom” will lead to years of litigation, as interested parties try to determine the outer limits of what is protected, not just for abortion, but “all matters related to reproductive freedom”. Any law seen as interfering, denying, or delaying this new right will likely be tested.

The vague language of Amendment 3 virtually guarantees that Missouri citizens will not truly know its full impact unless they pass—and litigate—it. As Jamie Morris told The Catholic Missourian, “It’s never good government to drop something into the state constitution that we’re going to have to litigate for years and years to figure out what it truly does.”

Visit mocatholic.org for a list of resources for women and families by diocese.



Pregnancy Resource Centers

- Birthright Counseling St. Louis
- Birthright of Hillsboro
- Birthright of Tri-County (based in Eureka, MO)
- Birthright of Wentzville
- Birthright of St. Charles
- Caring Hearts Pregnancy Resource Center (in Potosi in Washington County)
- Hand'n Hand Women's Center (Jefferson County)
- Options for Women (St. Genevieve County)
- Parkland Pregnancy Resource Center (Farmington, St. Francois County)
- Pregnancy Help Center South County
- Thrive St. Louis



Family Resources

Food
Housing
Adoption
Foster Care
and more

- Archbishop Robert J. Carlson Adoption Grant
- Bridge of Hope Lincoln County (short-term housing and related help)
- Cardinal Ritter Senior Services
- Family Forward
- Fathers & Families Support Center
- Feed My People Food Help Program
- Gateway Area World Wide Marriage Encounter
- Good Shepherd Children & Family Services (adoption, foster care, maternity home, parenting classes)
- Oasis Food Pantry (St. Charles area based)
- Safe Families for Children (crisis care)
- Archdiocesan Marriage and Family Life
- Our Lady's Inn Maternity Homes



Hope, Healing, Forgiveness

- Archdiocesan Abortion Healing Ministry
- Hope After Abortion
- Support After Abortion
- Gabriel's Retreat Ministries
- Spiritual Direction and healing prayer through the Catholic Renewal Center
- Catholic Charities of St. Louis
- Masses, Rosary, Holy Hour
- Rite of Naming & Commendation: designed to meet the needs of parents whose child(ren) died prior to birth because of miscarriage, accident, or abortion.
- After Abortion Healing for Men

Questions or comments regarding The Messenger content should be directed to communications@mocatholic.org

MAKING CONNECTIONS

From page 1

in the powerful act of praying a Novena.

Our Novena prayer will not focus on any candidate or party. We will not ask God to grant us the election results we desire.

Rather, we will pray for each other, and for ourselves, as we navigate this contentious political atmosphere — it is a Novena for the Electorate.

As Christians, let us use the gift of prayer to seek peace and unity. Let us ask God to grant us his grace as we encounter others in society. Let us work to be promoters of civility in public discourse.

We will pray for compassion, understanding, and respect for one another — especially when opinions differ.

Your opportunity to participate in this Novena begins at Mass. It will be prayed during every Mass offered in the Diocese of Jefferson City beginning this



Sunday and lasting through Nov. 4.

However, I also invite you to make the Novena for the Electorate a part of your personal daily prayer life. It can be prayed at home, in your parish groups, by yourself or with your loved ones and friends.

In addition, there will be special opportunities to gather in prayer on the two Sundays during our Novena. Learn more about these on our website: diojeffcity.org/electorate-novena.

For your convenience, the entire text of the Novena is printed on Page 18.

Please join us, raise your voice and unite with us in prayer. Let us all ask for God's grace and wisdom in these final days before the election.

I ask God's blessing on all of us as we prepare to undertake this duty, both civic and holy, on Nov. 5.

Let us pray, and then, let us vote.

HUBBARD

From page 5

you have this stance that 'I'd never forgive him' — okay, well, brace yourself. Because those emotions, they morph, and they seed themselves in your heart. And that's not the heart I want to offer up to Our Lord."

She pointed out that grieving cannot be rushed, in order for it to attain the higher purpose God intends for it.

"When our focus is squarely on our Lord, we produce fruit, we produce treasures," she said.

Etched in stone

After speaking in Laurie, Mrs. Hubbard answered questions, greeted guests and



Jennifer Hubbard stands by the newly edged panel that contains her name on the Mothers Wall of Life at the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, in Laurie after giving a presentation to benefit the shrine.

— Photo by Jay Nies

signed copies of her book before heading out to the Mothers Wall of Life surrounding the outdoor sanctuary of the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church.

There, she saw where her own name had been recently engraved among the thousands of others that have been added to the Mothers Wall since it was created in 2000.

The National Shrine is dedicated to honoring Mary, the Blessed Mother, and to all the mothers of the world.

Its mission is to promote a true appreciation for motherhood, the preciousness of life, the integrity of the family, and an understanding of the

Church community that gives Mary the title of Mother.

Father John Schmitz, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Laurie and the Mission of St. Philip Benizi in Versailles and spiritual director of the National Shrine, closed the event by asking God to bless everyone present.

"May those gathered here today continue to grow in love and understanding of all you ask in our life and journey," he prayed.

"May their joys outnumber the sorrows. And in their sorrows, may they find that sense of joy and understanding that is your gift to us all."

mothersshrine.com

SAINTS

From page 8

way of life," he said.

Jesus listened to his disciples and asked them questions that revealed what was truly in their hearts, the "hidden expectations and dreams of glory" they secretly cultivated, the pope said. "Many times in the church, these thoughts (desiring) honor, power emerge."

But Jesus helps change their perspective by revealing he was not the Messiah of worldly power and victory, the pope said. "He is the God of love, who stoops down to reach the one who has sunk low, who makes himself weak to raise up the weak, who works for peace and not for war, who has come to serve and not to be served."

Jesus' teachings about service, Pope Francis said, "are often incomprehensible to us as they were to the disciples, yet by following him, by walking in

his footsteps and welcoming the gift of his love that transforms our way of thinking, we too can learn God's way of service."

Serving others is "not about a list of things to do" that can be checked off and completed so that person can say he or she did his or her part, he said.

Service isn't a job, it does not "just do things to bring about results, it is not occasional," he said. It is "born from love, and love knows no bounds, it makes no calculations, it spends, and it gives."

Before leading the recitation of the Angelus after Mass, the pope urged Catholics to support the world's missionaries with their prayers and concrete assistance. These men and women bring the Gospel message "often with great sacrifice."

And, he said, every Christian is called to take part in this mission by being courageous and joyful wit-

nesses to the Gospel in every aspect of their life.

"We continue to pray for people who suffer because of war," he said, such as "martyred Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, martyred Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar and all the others."

The pope also appealed to political and civil authorities in the Amazon region to guarantee the protection of the Indigenous peoples in the Amazon, including their fundamental rights, "against every kind of exploitation of their dignity and their territories."

The pope highlighted the presence at the Mass of representatives of the Yanomami people, an Indigenous ethnic group living in the forest between Brazil and Venezuela. The second miracle needed for the canonization of St. Allamano involved a member of the community, Sorino Yanomami, who had been seriously wounded in the head by a jaguar and survived.



Begin with the daily petition and conclude with the Novena Prayer:

Day 1 — Sunday, October 27

For the grace of God's peace to settle in our hearts and in our communities. May we be peacemakers in a world prone to conflict; that we may listen with open hearts and respond with calm minds. Let God's peace reign in our homes, in our nation, and in every conversation. May our words and actions be a source of reconciliation.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Day 2 — Monday, October 28

For our communities and our country, that we may be granted the will to live out God's mercy, to seek peace, and to uphold the dignity of every human life. Where there has been division, let us seek unity. Where there has been anger, that we may act as peacemakers. Where there has been injury, let forgiveness prevail. May God's love be the foundation upon which we build trust and cooperation.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Day 3 — Tuesday, October 29

That we may place our trust in God. We know that He holds the future in His hands. For calm to overcome our anxieties and for confidence that God's will is being accomplished. May our minds and hearts respond not to fear or anger, but out of love for you and for our neighbor.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Day 4 — Wednesday, October 30

For our society to embrace a culture of life from conception to natural death. Let our laws reflect the sanctity of every human life, and let our hearts be moved to protect the unborn, the elderly, the poor, the stranger, and all those who are vulnerable. May we always stand as champions for the dignity of every person and promote the flourishing of all.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Day 5 — Thursday, October 31

For unity among all believers as we bring before God the wounds of discord of our nation. That we may seek the common good, working together for the well-being of all. May we see each other not as opponents, but as fellow pilgrims journeying toward a better future, united in our desire for justice and peace.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Day 6 — Friday, November 1

For hearts that reflect God's mercy. May we remember that each person bears God's image, regardless of differing beliefs. That we may extend grace, not judgment, and compassion, not contempt. Let mercy be the foundation of all our interactions as we strive to see beyond divisions.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Day 7 — Saturday, November 2

For the strength to speak with kindness and wisdom. In the heat of debate, may we always remember the dignity of every person. Let our conversations be filled with truth, tempered by love, and marked by respect.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Day 8 — Sunday, November 3

For the wisdom to see what unites us. We are one in the Body of Christ. In this time of division and polarization, may we pursue unity, not as conformity, but as the harmony of many voices seeking the common good. May we have the strength to overcome barriers of race, class, and political views, and to build bridges of understanding.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Day 9 — Monday, November 4

For the strength to love our neighbors, especially those with whom we may disagree. May we embody the compassion God shows us, never failing to extend kindness to others. May our words and actions always reflect the mercy that flows from God.

Let us always seek to heal rather than wound.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Novena Prayer

Gracious and loving God,
let your Spirit be with us today.

Hear our prayers and increase within us
the will to follow your Son, Jesus.

Help us to draw on the resources of our faith
as we use the opportunities of our democracy
to shape a society more respectful of the life,
dignity, and rights of the human person,
especially the poor and vulnerable.

We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ,
Who lives and reigns with you
in the communion of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

Learn more at
diojeffcity.org/electorate-novena

Más información:
[diojeffcity.org/
oracion-novena-electorado](https://diojeffcity.org/oracion-novena-electorado)



WAKEBOARD

From page 19

trick they successfully land, based on factors such as height, movement of the board, reaching down to grab it while in mid-air, landing it smoothly, and seamlessly segueing into the next trick.

"It's all about how good your flow is," said Brody. "If you look flawless, it's good."

Factors such as weather, water and boat conditions, sunlight and glare off the water can keep things interesting.

"It's always unpredictable," said Brody. "You have to be ready to ride in any conditions."

Confidence plays a big role — "how comfortable you are with the trick," he said.

Hoping to become a professional wakeboarder, Brody invests 20 to 30 hours each week into practicing, in addition to his family and school obligations.

He previously took up pole-vaulting, football and basketball at his high school, School of the Ozarks in Osage Beach.

"But I never really loved them," he said. "You've got to love what you're doing. Even if you're not very good at it, you still have to love it in order to pursue it and push yourself to the maximum limit."

Dedication is a prerequisite to excellence.

"If you're not really dedicated to it, it won't be worth your time," said Brody.

In that way, he stated, wakeboarding is a bit like discipleship.

"If you want to be with the Lord, you have to pursue your life with the Lord, you have to put that first and go after it and push after it," he said.

Early start

Brody first caught sight of a wakeboard when he was 4, while visiting a boat dealership in Camden with his parents, Michael and Paulette Spriggs of Lake Ozark.

"I thought they looked really cool," he said, and he

enjoyed visiting with the wakeboarders there.

His parents bought him a wakeboard for his birthday. That week, a family with a boat came to stay at the resort Brody's family owns at the Lake.

"My parents asked them to take me out on it," he recalled. "That's how I got started."

He devoted the rest of that summer to learning the sport, a pursuit that spilled over into the fall and the following spring.

His parents signed him up for classes when he was 6. Kirby Liesmann, now a three-time world champion in the master's division, became his coach and has remained so ever since.

The Spriggses got their first wake boat when Brody was 12 or 13 and upgraded to a larger, faster vessel two years ago.

"That's really been fun," he said. "It's able to tow a lot more weight, and I get a bigger wake out of it."

Brody used to get up early enough to go "boarding" on the Lake for 30 or 40 minutes each morning. Now, he does most of his practicing after school.

He also rehearses tricks with a wakeboard and a rope on a trampoline at home.

He noted that although wakeboarding is highly competitive, its participants are a tight community.



"We want the other riders to do well and for us to do well," he said. "We don't want the other riders to flip out or get hurt. We don't bash other rid-



Lake Ozark wakeboarder Brody Spriggs (right), displays his plaque for finishing third at the World Wakeboarding Competition (WWC), held Sept. 26-29 in Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. Earlier this summer, he took first place for the second time in U.S. competition.

ers. That makes it not fun."

Like any sport, there are ample opportunities for injury.

"I took a hard fall at nationals last year, bruised my sternum and pulled my abdomen," he said. "I took a few days off after that."

This year, he sustained a minor concussion but quickly recovered.

"The headaches and the light sensitivity went away after about a week," he said.

Reluctantly third

This August, Brody won his second national championship in the junior men's division and headed with his coach to Australia to compete in the World Wakeboarding

Competition (WWC) Sept. 26-29.

It was his fourth time at the WWC, which was in Portugal last year and in Pine Mountain,

Georgia, the year before that.

His high-school principal, teachers and friends are very supportive. The school accommodates his travels as it would with students in other activities.

He honors that by diligently making up any missed schoolwork.

"They want to treat this like any other sport," Brody noted. "They don't want to punish me for chasing my dreams."

He found out in Australia that wakeboarding on salty seawater is quite different from the lake water he's used to.

"I had that to my disadvantage," he said. "The weather was also really unexpected — windy and rainy, which was weird."

He was pleased to make it to the final round, "but I wasn't really happy coming in third because I knew I could have done better," he said.

He placed sixth two years ago and fourth last year.

Brody plans to graduate early from high school this December and move to Orlando

or Fort Myers, Florida, to compete at an even higher level.

He might stay in the junior men's division until he turns 19 or maybe try his skill in the professional division, which pays.

His parents are proud of him and are happy to see him succeed.

"They've been super-good to me," he said. "They've put about as much into this as I have. I probably wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for all their support."

He's also grateful to the family business, Point Randall Resort, for helping him with travel expenses.

Sunrise, sunset

Brody holds Mr. Liesmann, his coach, in high esteem for helping him learn discipline and respect, overcome obstacles and become his best self.

"We talked a lot about God while we were in Australia," Brody recalled. "He talked about how once you find God and you're in the presence of God, then that's the one thing you'll ever want, the only thing you'll ever crave or ever need."

Brody said it's wonderful to look out at a beautiful sunrise and tell God, "Thanks, that's really beautiful."

"I had a really good friend pass away," he added. "It's nice to see sunsets and sunrises and know that he's up in the sky with God, watching over us and praying for us."

Brody asked for prayers for himself and his family to stay safe and well, and for the pursuit of his wakeboarding dream to remain fun and relatively pressure-free.

"The Lord has put this in my life, and it's something he has allowed me to be able to do well at and take it as far as I can," Brody noted.

He's optimistic about wakeboarding achieving a higher profile on the world stage.

"I hope that over the next few years, the sport gets more recognition for what we're doing out there, and people start to enjoy watching it more," he said.



By Father Donald Antweiler

ACROSS

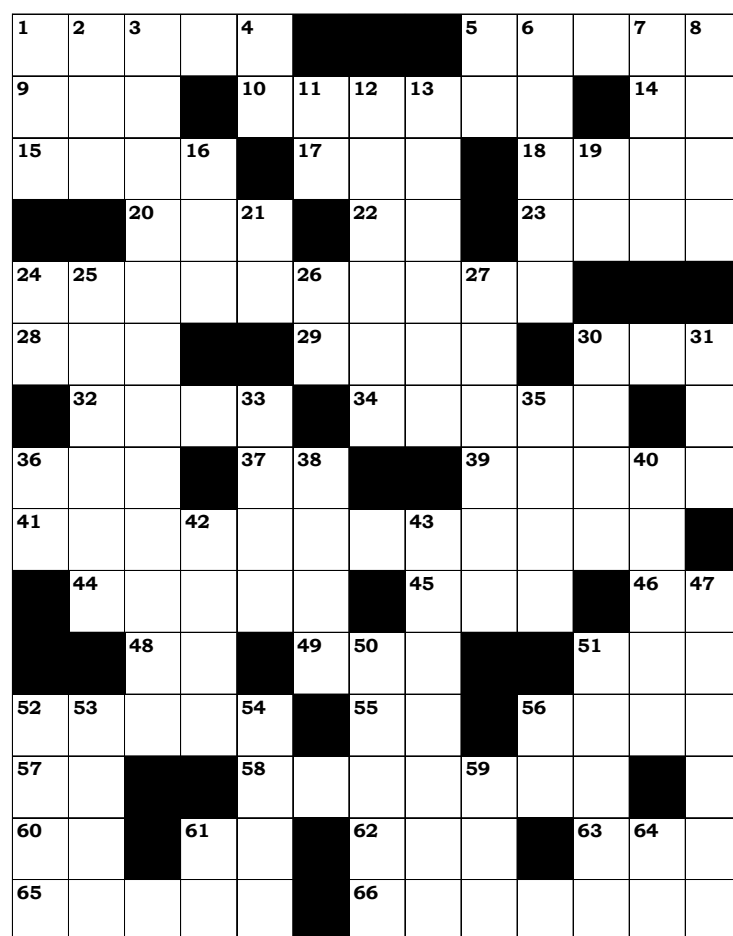
1. "The Bible is the largest collection of ancient texts the _____ possesses." *A Catholic Guide to the Old Testament*; Cavins/Morrow/Rocha/Swofford.
5. "In order to be a _____, you have to seriously want to be one." Mother Teresa, in *My Life with the Saints*; James Martin, S.J.
9. "... In our secularized cultures, we _____ walking on the road to Emmaus, discouraged, our youthful faith crucified, talking with Christ, but unable to recognize him." Edward Schillebeeckx in *Sacred Fire*; Ronald Rolheiser.
10. "... I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness that I have great _____ and constant anguish in my heart." (Romans 9:2)
14. Abraham's ancestral city.
15. This Ivy League Univ., founded in 1701 in Connecticut, is the third-oldest instit. of higher learning in the U.S.
17. Fish eggs.
18. Part of A.D., possible abbr. after a date.
20. _____ *Maria, gratia plena* ...
22. "Thomas Ewing (Union Gen. in Mo.) was less pious than his sister, yet he still carried a Catholic mystical tome, *The Imitation* _____ Christ, inside his uniform during battle." *General Thomas Ewing*; Walter E. Busch.
23. "Do your best. History will do the _____." Harry Truman; *The Wit and Wisdom of Harry S. Truman*; ed. Alex Ayres.
24. "The God/human biblical story (OT and NT spans roughly 1,100 years in a wide variety of different

- types of _____." *A Catholic Guide ... ibid.*
28. Prefix for mate, mal, or ma.
29. Heritage home for Diamond Pet Foods, in Osage County, Mo.; family-owned international brand of pet food.
30. _____ Landers; popular advice columnist from 1955 – 2002.
32. Let's end this conversation on a high _____ by simply agreeing to disagree.
34. "Jesus rebuked him and the _____ came out of him, and from that hour the boy was cured." (Mt. 17:18)
36. "In spite of original _____, the birth of a child is still God's loveliest mystery." *Woman of the Pharisees*, 1946; Francois Mauriac.
37. Abbr. for room.
39. A dark type of beer.
41. "So far, archaeology has found the names of more than 80 people mentioned in the Bible on _____, clay seals, and in non-biblical texts, including David and other kings of Israel and Judea." *A Catholic Guide ... ibid.*
44. "(Catholic author) Flannery O'Connor's 'A Temple of the Holy _____' demonstrates her devotion to the Eucharist, as it tells the story of a mean-spirited little girl who is transformed during adoration." *The Abbess of Andalusia: Flannery O'Connor's Spiritual Journey*; Lorraine Murray.
45. Summer on the Seine.
46. Letters for Congregation of the Missions; founded by St. Vincent de Paul; follows the name of a Vincentian Father, for ex.
48. "I was on a boat that was so slow we used to forget _____ what year it was we left port." *Life On The Mississippi*; Mark Twain.
49. A high craggy hill.
51. Train Collectors Assn. (_____) — Ozark Division was established in 1967, headquartered in Columbia, Mo. It's membership is drawn from Mo., Ar., Ks., Ok. and parts of Illinois.
52. Superman and Batman wear them.
55. B & O or Reading in Monopoly.
56. The guy I play tennis with _____ the ball so expertly over my head and into a corner that I struggle to re-

- turn the volley at all.
57. Actor Pacino or gangster Capone.
58. "Cities, wells, and other places have been _____ by simply following their biblical descriptions." *A Catholic Guide ... ibid.*
60. "You learn the character of a person on the golf course. George Bush (41) _____ honesty, integrity, and all the things that make you a good person that you would trust with your life." Arnold Palmer, golf legend in *Character Matters*; Jean Becker.
61. Letters for Lincoln Univ. in Jefferson City.
62. "Cafferty's sunken eyes brightened. His nostrils flared as he inhaled warm damp _____." *The Bourne Treachery*; Brian Freeman.
63. _____ *missa est*. Last words of a Latin Mass.
65. "The majority of the _____ Korean Army would follow in the next wave as part of phase two, flowing into South Korea by air, land and sea." *Zero Hour*; Don Bentley.
66. Though the Red _____ fish has long been considered one of the most delicious of deep-sea delicacies, tilapia, halibut and cod are great alternatives.

DOWN

1. "In the desert prepare the _____ of the Lord!" (Isaiah 40:3)
2. _____ *pro nobis*.
3. "The primary role and purpose of the Bible is to present God's _____ with his creation, particularly and esp. with his human creation." *The Catholic Guide ... ibid.*
4. Letters for Down's Syndrome, the most common genetic disorder at birth.
5. "Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray ... _____ that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ." Eucharistic Prayer II.
6. The Dept. of Conservation asks us to be Bear _____; if lucky (?) enough to encounter one on a trail, 1) Stop, 2) Slowly raise arms high, 3) Slowly back away.
7. "I reread the killer's manifesto. ... The penalty for obnoxiousness was death? And I'd thought the _____



- in grammar school were harsh." *Run For Your Life*; James Patterson.
8. Every evening, my uncle would check his _____ line across the small Moreau River, checking for fish and rebaiting hooks.
11. "The French have long had a grave mistrust of foreign influence on either their language _____ their food." *Indian Givers, How Native-Ams. Transformed the World*; Jack Weatherford.
12. "Though the Bible is not a literal accounting of God's history with his creation, yet it is _____ in real history." *A Catholic Guide ... ibid.*
13. "Archaeology in the Ancient Near East has made it hard to _____ the overall historical character of the Bible." *A Catholic Guide ... ibid.*
16. Christmas and New Year each have one.
19. This state, like Mo., has a capital named after a U.S. President.
21. Part of a hospital where immediate trauma is addressed.
24. This State's capitol, at 450 feet tall, is the tallest in the U.S.
25. As we head to the 8th _____, the score remains tied at 5-5.
26. Companion to FM.
27. "He pulls out his knife ... and _____ into Louie's leg." *Darker Than Black*; IMDb App.
30. "Soon," or "Immediately," in Shakespeare's time.
31. "Parents of that time were aware that very sick children were nearly as likely to die as _____." *The Fiery Trial*, Abraham Lincoln and Am. Slavery; Eric Foner.
33. Makes a mistake.
35. Native-Am. tribe on the Mo. River, cousins to the disease-stricken Missouria tribe for whom our state is named, with whom the remaining Missouria later found refuge.
36. Affirmative in Acapulco.
38. Catcher's _____.
40. Letters for U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops who gather periodically to assess, unify, coordinate, encourage and promote Cath. activities in our country.
42. Ice cream _____.
43. "The Bible accurately maps out the _____ of the Holy Land, as though its authors had personally walked the hills and valleys." *A Catholic Guide ... ibid.*
47. "No slave is greater than his _____." (John 15:20)
50. Killer whales.

See PUZZLE, page 21

PUZZLE

From page 20

51. "Send Lazarus ____ the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. ..." (Luke 16:24)
52. Abel's brother.
53. "We needed to watch to grab ammo being thrown out of the chopper but ____ the enemy soldiers who were everywhere inside the camp." Mokane (Mo.) to Mole City, A Manchu Vietnam Memoir; Stanley Adams.
54. Letters for St. Louis Univ.
- High, a prestigious Catholic Jesuit college-preparatory school that began in 1818 as a Latin school for boys in a one-story home in St. Louis.
56. The famous ____ Louvre Art Museum in Paris.
59. ____-la-la.
61. Abbr. for Lieutenant.
64. *Adoro ____ devotee*; adoration prayer composed by St. Thomas Aquinas.

See ANSWERS, page 23

FR. EVERSON

From page 7

Then, he and Bridget met. He called the Dominican vocation director and asked for permission before they started dating.

"He was very supportive," Fr. Everson recalled. "He said, 'Yes, this is part of your discernment process. But be transparent with her.' And I was. From the beginning, I was open and honest with her."

They dated for about a year before he broke both of their hearts.

He thought clarity would come right away after that, but he instead remained restless and unsure.

Newman Center Campus Ministry Director JoAnn Schull suggested that he sign up for the Jesuits' Alum Service Corps (ASC).

He applied, got accepted and was placed as an ASC volunteer on the faculty of DeSmet Jesuit High School near St. Louis.

He also went on retreats and read books about discernment. A Come and See weekend with the Jesuits at SLU found him praying silently in the chapel where he had been baptized.

"As I began noticing that I was feeling at home, it dawned on me that this was, in fact, my spiritual home — my spiritual home base where it had all started," said Fr. Everson.

He contacted the vocation director for the Jesuit province the next day and began the application process.

"A lot of peace"

The Jesuits are a Catholic order of priests and brothers

founded nearly 500 years ago by St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Their motto is "For the Greater Glory of God."

With more than 15,000 priests, scholastics and brothers worldwide, they are the largest male religious order in the Catholic Church.

Jesuits are widely known for their colleges, universities and high schools, but Jesuits also minister in retreat houses, parishes, hospitals and refugee camps.

Pope Francis is the first Jesuit to become pope.

The USA Central and Southern (UCS) Province of the Jesuits serves in 12 U.S. states, Puerto Rico and Belize and has approximately 350 men who serve as pastors, administrators, educators, spiritual and retreat directors and in other roles.

Fr. Everson entered the Jesuit Novitiate of St. Stanislaus Kostka in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, in 2013.

After professing first vows in the order, Fr. Everson completed a master's degree in social philosophy at Loyola University of Chicago, where he served as chaplain of the softball team and made weekly visits to a shelter for migrant youth who had crossed the border without a parent or legal guardian.

His regency, or ministerial assignment, was at Arrupe Jesuit High School in Denver, where he taught freshman theology and coordinated the community-service program.

While earning his Master of Divinity degree from the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in Califor-

nia, he served as a small-group faith-sharing facilitator on the main Santa Clara campus.

He was ordained a deacon last year and assisted the pastor of St. Ambrose Parish in Berkeley, California.

Sheep grace

On June 8, 2024, in St. Francis Xavier "College" Church in St. Louis, Archbishop Emeritus Robert J. Carlson ordained Fr. Everson and another Jesuit to the Holy Priesthood.

Fr. Everson wept while each fellow Jesuit priest of the province came forward to lay hands on his head after the archbishop had done so.

"That was the most powerful moment of the ordination for me," Fr. Everson said.

In addition to his own family and many friends from the Newman Center were Bridget, her husband, their two children, and her mother.

Fr. Everson had attended Bridget's wedding several years previously, with many mutual friends from Columbia.

"It was like heaven," he recalled. "We were all there, and everything was healed, and everything was okay."

The new priest is back in Denver, serving as assistant principal for mission at the Jesuit high school where he had spent his regency.

He asserted that Jesuits are difficult to pigeonhole and that

no two are exactly alike.

He called to mind an address that Pope Benedict XVI, now deceased, gave to Jesuits from all over the world at their 2008 General Congregation in Rome.



Jesuit Father Daniel Everson greets longtime friend Angelle Hall, director of Campus Ministry at the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia, where Fr. Everson was very active as a student at the University of Missouri, on his priestly ordination day in St. Louis

"He basically affirmed that as Jesuits, we often find ourselves on the frontiers of society and the frontiers of the Church and the frontiers of the intellectual world and the frontiers of the social world, and literally on the borders that migrants are crossing," Fr. Everson noted.

"He basically said, 'That's where Jesuits always have been and that's where the Church needs us to be: on the frontiers,'" he said.

It's where Fr. Everson is convinced he belongs.

"Jesus compared the Church to a flock of sheep," he stated. "You have pastors who hold the center, and you have sheepdogs that are on the edge

of the flock and sort of keep the sheep from wandering too far away.

"I very much like that image to describe the Jesuits, at least to describe my vocation," said Fr. Everson. "We're not all going out to places where no one has heard of Jesus. But, we're often reminding people of the Good News — a re-evangelization, an invitation to stick around, that you do not need to leave the Church."

Grateful to the people of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish and of the Jefferson City diocese, Fr. Everson asked for prayers to be "a good sheep dog" — "that I can be on the margins, on the frontiers of the

Church in such a way that keeps people IN the Church and even brings some people who've left the Church back in, while remaining in the Church myself.

"That I be a minister who helps people come to Church for the first time or come back to the Church if they've already been here," he added.

He also requested prayers for unity throughout the Church, which is supposed to be one of its defining marks.

"We're not all the same," said Fr. Everson. "And yet we're called to be one. That's what Jesus is asking of us. He's not asking us to agree on everything, but I do think he's asking us to be united across difference."

Jesuit Father Daniel Everson (right) and Jesuit Father J. Michael Mohr stand in the sanctuary of St. Francis Xavier "College" Church in St. Louis on June 8 of this year, following their priestly ordination. — Photos by Therese Meyerhoff



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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

Oct. 25

Hannibal, Holy Family Council of Catholic Women Soup Day, Bake Sale & Raffle, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., St. Michael's Hall

Oct. 26

Jefferson City, Soup & chili fundraiser for Sister Ursula and the Sisters of the Poor of Abakaliki, 4-8 pm, K of C Hall, 1822 Tanner Bridge

Find us online
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cathmo.com

Missionary: 'High-time' for laypeople evangelize

By Junno Arocho Esteves
OSV News

In a country like Papua New Guinea, where roughly 98% of the population identify as Christian, with Catholics making up the majority of that number, the work of missionaries is never over.

As the Catholic Church prepares to commemorate World Mission Sunday Oct. 20, Divine Word Father Victor Roche, national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, said Catholics should not only reflect on the work carried out by priests and men and women religious, but also on their own personal calling to be missionaries in their own country.

"Papua New Guineans can go as missionaries, not only overseas, but they can also go as missionaries from their own place of birth to other parts of the country," Fr. Roche told OSV News Oct. 16. "We need laypeople and lay leaders to work in the mission in Papua New Guinea, especially (now) as we are discussing synodality. In a synodal church, laypeople's role is also very important."

Fr. Roche, who hails from India, began serving as a missionary in Papua New Guinea just one year after his ordination in 1980.

Noting that his native India was once a "receiving country" that welcomed countless foreign missionaries, the Divine Word priest said it is now "one of the countries that sends the highest number of missionaries overseas."

He said it was "high time that we teach them to be missionary: missionary with other families, with communities, in their parishes and in other parishes in the dioceses."

"I am very happy that synodality and, especially the synod, stresses that aspect: that every Catholic should be missionary," he said.

For this reason, Father Roche said he hoped World Mission Sunday will be an opportunity for all Catholics to pray "that the church may be missionary," as well as to pray so that laypeople may take "their rightful places as missionaries," especially women.

"I would say about 60-70% of our churches are filled with women. So, we have to stress, especially during World Mission Sunday, that the role of women in the Catholic Church should be recognized," he said.

Oct. 27

Jefferson City, St. Peter Holy Name Society Pancake & Sausage Breakfast, 7:30-10:30am, Selinger Centre, downstairs cafeteria; **Monroe City**, Holy Rosary Parish Fall Dinner, 11 am-12:30 pm; **Rich Fountain**, Sacred Heart Parish Fall Festival, 11 am-6 pm

Nov. 2

Jefferson City, Troop 4 Hotcake Hike and Trail Run, 9-11 am, Binder Park, for info or to register visit runsignup.com/Race/MO/JeffersonCity/HotcakeHikeJCMO or email HotcakeHikeJCMO@gmail.com; **Jefferson City**, Helias Catholic High School Open House, 9-11 am, for more info or to register visit heliascatholic.com/openhouse

Nov. 3

Camdenton, St. Anthony Parish annual turkey dinner, 11 am-2 pm; **Jefferson City**, Immaculate Conception Parish pancake & sausage breakfast, 7:30 am-noon, Kertz Hall; **Starkenburg**, Church of the Risen Savior Parish (Rhinelander) Fall Dinner, 11 am-3 pm, Valentine Hall; **St. James**, Immaculate Conception Fall Dinner, 11 am-5 pm; **Taos**, St. Francis Xavier Parish Harvest Festival, 11 am-6 pm

Nov. 10

Belle, St. Alexander's Fall Dinner, 11 am-3 pm; **Brookfield**, Immaculate Conception Annual Turkey Dinner, 10:30 am-1:30 pm; **Glasgow**, St. Mary Parish Fall Dinner, 11 am-2 pm

Nov. 28

Tipton, St. Andrew Parish Thanksgiving Festival, 10:30 am-9 pm

Meetings & Conferences

Oct. 26

Jefferson City, See City Deanery music ministers "Chat & Chew," 11 am-1:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info email jeffersoncitymo@npm.org

Nov. 3

Kirkville, Post Weekend Ultreya for Cursillo, 2-4 pm, Catholic Newman Center, for info visit diojeffcity.org/cursillo

Nov. 4

Jefferson City, Rosary for the Defeat of Amendment 3, 6:30-7pm, Immaculate Conception Church

Nov. 9

Columbia, Central Deanery music ministers "Chat & Chew," 11 am-1:30 pm, Sacred Heart Church Activity Building; **Fulton**, "Do you believe in Miracles?" presentation, 3-5:30 pm, St. Peter Parish; **Jefferson City**, Catholic Charities Parish Engagement and Charity Event, 9 am-noon, Catholic Charities Central Office, for info or to register visit cccno.diojeffcity.org/peace

Nov. 10

Columbia, "Biblical Healing: Then and Now" presentation

with Dr. Mary Healy, 1-6:15 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish, for info visit comonewman.breezechms.com/form/b5fef198; **Fulton**, "Do you believe in Miracles?" presentation, 8:45-11:15 am, St. Peter Parish; **Mokane**, "Do you believe in Miracles?" presentation, 3-5:30 pm, St. Jude Thaddeus Parish

Nov. 19

Jefferson City, 2024 Fall Directors of Religious Education & Youth Ministry Workshop, 9:30 am-2:30 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/2024-fall-dreym-workshop-rsvp

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

octubre 26

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

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, 11 am-noon, Immaculate Conception Parish

Nov. 1, 2

Jefferson City, "We Are Family," 2024 Women's Ministry Fall Events, featuring Ladies Night Out on Fri. with Fr. Leo Patalinghug, doors open at 6 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm; and Sat. Day of Retreat, 10 am-3 pm, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry-upcoming-events/

Nov. 2-3

Jefferson City, Marriage Encounter Weekend, for info or to register, visit jeffcityme.com

Nov. 4

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

Nov. 10-12

Columbia, "Call to the Deep: Becoming Who God Created You to Be" parish mission led by Deacon Ralph Poyo, each evening 7-8:45 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

Nov. 20

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

Liturgical

Nov. 12

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

Youth & Young Adults

First Wednesdays each month

Jefferson City, Rooted/Connected/Searching in Community young adult group, 5-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info visit icangels.com/youngadults

Nov. 2

Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School Open House, 9-11 am, for more info or to register visit heliascatholic.com/openhouse

Nov. 3

Jefferson City, "Witness," 2024 Diocesan Youth Rally, 12:30-6 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish's Cana Hall, for info visit diojeffcity.org/youth-rally-2024

Nov. 9

Monroe City, 2024-2025 Confirmation Retreat, 11 am-4 pm, Holy Rosary Parish, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/confirmation-retreat

Nov. 23

Wardsville, 2024-2025 Confirmation Retreat, St. Stanislaus Parish, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/confirmation-retreat



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

Chamois, Most Pure Heart of Mary
Tom & Sherry Starke, 45 years

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes
Karl & Barbara Henke-Christopher, 40 years

Holts Summit, St. Andrew
Dustin & Stephanie Hagenhoff, 10 years

Linn, St. George
John and Debra Oliveras, 25 years

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior
John & Sharon Buckner, 60 years
Deacon Gerald & Mary Korman, 55 years

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus
Lucas & Laura Touchette, 10 years

Birthdays

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Virginia Maag**, her 90th on Oct. 26

Mokane, St. Jude Thaddeus — **Frieda Krenzel**, on her 98th on Oct. 25

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Irene Boessen**, on her 93rd; on Oct. 16; **Eldora Hoecker**, on her 93rd on Oct. 21

“You never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting, a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.”
— Eucharistic Prayer III

QUESTION

From page 8

logistically could, but for whatever reason won't, proactively seek it out for themselves is really going to be pastorally effective in the big picture. Aside from the question of whether such individuals would have the necessary sorrow for sin and firm purpose of amendment for any sacramental absolution to work validly, nobody can

Deaths

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Bob Feller, Dawn Zeterberg**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Lucille Kampeter**

Marshall, St. Peter — **James Fox, Herman Gieringer Jr., Daniel Walker, Ted Wolfe**

Mokane, St. Jude Thaddeus — **Jo Anne Clingman**

Palmyra, St. Joseph — **Norma Jean Obert**

Shelbina, St. Mary — **Dcn. John DeGraff**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Francis Voegeli**

Baptisms

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Henlie Adine Wassmann**, daughter of Dustin & Jessica Wassman

Hermann, St. George — **Leo Alexander Cody**, son of Alex & Molly Cody; **Makenna Michelle Engemann**, daughter of Mark & Chelsea Engemann; **Edison Alan Gloe**, son of Alan & Jessica Gloe

Palmyra, St. Joseph — **Grady Harold Keene**, son of Adam & Brenna Keene

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Cecilia Marie Bauer**, daughter of Adam & Amber Bauer

be saved from sin against or even independent of their own will.

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.

STUART WOLFE

From page 9

most effective traps: self-sufficiency. Approaching life and all its challenges alone and on our own power separates us from the grace of perseverance and sets us up for failure.

We know that we cannot live the life of Christ apart from Christ. And yet, that is precisely what many of us attempt to do.

But it's also easy for us to get distracted; to allow the values of our world to get a foothold in our hearts. When that happens, prayer can seem like a waste of time, an empty exercise in futility, a font of false hope, or an escape from reality.

In the cloud of the disappointment that descends when God does not give us everything we want, we struggle to carry on. We ask ourselves whether prayer makes any difference.

And when we aren't convinced that it does, we either give up or seek our fortunes in battles we were never called to fight.

But to be victorious in the battle of prayer, we must acquire and cultivate the

virtues that, ironically, arise from prayer: humility, trust and perseverance.

Humility teaches us not to be surprised by our own weaknesses. It considers how the distractions we face in prayer reveal our attachments to things other than God. Trust teaches us to rely completely on the Holy Spirit, the divine presence and power given to us in God's time and in his way.

Perseverance overcomes our laziness, but it also purifies our motivations and draws us into the love that makes all things possible.

In the great scheme of things, all the other battles we choose to fight serve only to distract us from the main event. Because prayer is what transforms and guides us, it is the only battle worth fighting, and the only one we must — by God's grace and our effort — win.

Jaymie Stuart Wolfe is a sinner, Catholic convert, freelance writer and editor, musician, speaker, pet-aholic, wife and mom of eight grown children, loving life in New Orleans.

SILECCHIA

From page 9

win the World Series. It is the hope that belongs to all who yearn for a better future in their 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.

HURRICANE

From page 4

bed, she would help me with whatever I was doing," he noted. "It could not have happened without her, that's for sure."

Their children were proud to be a part of it.

"They're talking," said Mr. Kemper. "Saying things like, 'You're taking this to the people with no houses.'"

What he believes he'll remember most about the whole operation is how thankful all the people were, and how many volunteers were there to help.

"They had people from everywhere — some from as far away as Colorado," he said.

"It's pretty cool that people half-

way across the country came together for something like this — that we're still able to do that," he said.

Crossword puzzle answers

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

“You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
— Mark 10:42-45

“... Now and at the hour of our death”

Full steam ahead



Mrs. Steiner’s sixth-grade class at St. George School in Hermann leads an all-school Rosary in the courtyard outside St. George Church on Oct. 9. — Photo from the St. George Catholic School - Hermann, MO Facebook page

“The Lord is with you!”



Students of St. Peter School in Jefferson City gather outdoors on Oct. 9 to pray the Rosary for peace. “It was a beautiful and moving moment as we came together in faith, lifting our voices in prayer for peace in our world and hearts. Let us continue to trust in the power of prayer this month and always,” a school spokesperson stated. — Photo from the St. Peter Catholic School Facebook page

If it pleases the court ...



Fourth-graders at St. Peter School in Marshall get a “red carpet” tour of the Saline County Courthouse Oct. 4 as part of an annual tradition. Students visited with Prosecuting Attorney Tim Thompson, had questions for Associate Judge Hugh C. Harvey and watched an improvised mini-trial involving Mr. Thompson, Judge Harvey, and Presiding Commissioner Becky Plattner. They all got to pound the gavel at the judge’s rostrum. — Photo from the St. Peter School Facebook page



Students of St. Mary School in Frankenstein attend their first field trip of the school year, to the 2024 Boonville Steam Engine Show, on Sept. 6. — Photos from the St. Mary School, Frankenstein, MO Facebook page

Bible Accent

In Mark 10, Jesus talked to the Apostles about being saved. Beginning in verse 17, we read that a rich young man came up to Jesus and asked how to inherit eternal life.

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

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

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

The young man had many possessions that he did not want to part with, so he sadly and silently walked away from Jesus.

"How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God!" Jesus exclaimed.

"Then who can be saved?" the Apostles wondered.

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

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini was born in Italy in 1850. She became a teacher, then she decided to join a religious order. Two orders would not admit her due to her poor health. Instead, she was put in charge of an orphanage in Codogno, Italy.

In 1880, she and seven of her former orphans founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. The order spread rapidly from northern Italy to Rome, and then in 1889 to New York City, where Mother Cabrini became famous for her work among Italian immigrants.

She opened schools, orphanages and hospitals around the U.S., South America and Europe before dying of malaria in Chicago in 1917. In 1946, she became the first U.S. citizen to be canonized.

We remember her on Nov. 13.

Jesus says to enter the narrow gate

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

One day, Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath.

After he cured a crippled woman, he talked to the people about the kingdom of God.

He used two parables to describe the kingdom. One parable compared the kingdom to a mustard seed, and the other compared the kingdom to yeast used to leaven dough.

After teaching in the synagogue, Jesus continued to travel toward Jerusalem. He taught the people as he passed through towns and villages along the way.

"Lord, will only a few people be saved?" one person Jesus encountered wanted to know.

Jesus gave the person advice and a warning.

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate," he answered, "for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough."

Jesus then described a conversation between people standing outside of a house and the master of the house who had arisen to lock the door from inside.

"Then will you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us,'" Jesus said.

However, he continued, the master of the house will reply, "I do not know where you are from."



— Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

The people outside the house will attempt to jog the master's memory.

"We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets," Jesus said the people will remind the master of the house.

But the master still will not remember them.

"I do not know where you are from," Jesus said the master will respond. "Depart from me, all you evildoers!"

The people outside of the house will become very upset at the master's reply, Jesus noted.

"And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when

you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out," he said. "And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the Kingdom of God."

"For behold," Jesus continued, "some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

Read More about it ...

Q&A — Luke 13

1. To which city was Jesus traveling?
2. What did the people outside the locked house want?



For how long was the woman crippled before Jesus cured her?

(Hint: Luke 13:11)

Answer: 18 years

Puzzle

Using the hints provided, fill in the blank in each sentence.

1. The synagogue leader was angry that Jesus _____ on the Sabbath. (Luke 13:14)
2. Jesus said that if people did not _____, they would perish. (Luke 13:3)
3. A person who owned a fig tree that did not bear fruit wanted it _____. (Luke 13:6-7)
4. Some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to _____ him. (Luke 13:31)

Answers: 1. cured; 2. repent; 3. cut down; 4. kill

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DIOCESE OF Jefferson City

Pope Francis' memoir to be published in January, publisher announces

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

An Italian publisher announced the global release in January of *Hope*, a book it described as Pope Francis' autobiography, which the pope apparently planned to have released only after his death.

Mondadori, the Italian publisher coordinating the global release, announced the publication Oct. 16 at the Frankfurt Book Fair and said it would be released in 80 countries Jan. 14.

Viking, an imprint of Penguin General, will publish *Hope* in the United Kingdom, while Random House will publish it in the United States and Penguin Random House Canada will publish it in Canada.

Mondadori said Pope Francis began working on the book with Italian editor Carlo Musso in 2019 with the understanding it would be published only after his death, but the Holy Year 2025 and its focus on hope led

him to permit the early release of "this precious legacy."

"With a wealth of revelations and unpublished stories, moving and very human, poignant and dramatic, but also capable of real humor, Pope Francis' memoir starts off in the early years of the 20th century with the story of his Italian roots and his ancestors' adventure of emigration to Latin America, moving on to his childhood, adolescence, choice of vocation, adult life, covering the whole of his papacy up to the present day," said a press release from Viking.

"Pope Francis deals unsparingly with some of the crucial moments of his papacy," Viking said. The pope "writes candidly, fearlessly and prophetically about some of the most important and controversial questions of our present times," including war and peace, migration, climate change, the role of women and "the future of the Church and of religion in general."

CAPSULE: Visually engaging 'Conclave' favors flawed ideology over timeless truth

OSV News

centers on the dean (Ralph Fiennes) of the college of

cardinals who, in the wake of the sudden death of a fictional pope, organizes the gathering of the title.

The leading candidates for the papacy include a down-to-earth liberal (Stanley Tucci), a flamboyant conservative (Sergio Castellitto) and a supposedly reactionary African (Lucian Msamati).

But complications are caused by rumors of shady behavior on the part of another frontrunner (John Lithgow) as well as by the unexpected presence of a mysterious prelate (Carlos

Movie Ratings



General Patronage

The Wild Robot (PG)



Adults and Adolescents

Reagan (PG-13)
Piece by Piece (PG)
Transformers One (PG)
White Bird (PG-13)



Adults

AfrAid (PG-13)
Horizon: An American Saga – Chapter 1 (R)



Limited Adult Audience

Alien: Romulus (R)
Beetlejuice Beetlejuice (PG-13)
Conclave (PG)
Joker: Folie à Deux (R)
Megalopolis (R)
Saturday Night (R)
Speak No Evil (R)



Morally Offensive

Blink Twice (R)
The Crow (R)
The Front Room (R)
The Killer's Game (R)
Never Let Go (R)
Smile 2 (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

Diehz) whose appointment to the cardinalate the late pontiff had kept a secret.

Rival viewpoints within the Church are caricatured with a broad brush in director Edward Berger's visually engaging adaptation of Robert Harris' 2016 novel, and the deck is predictably stacked in favor of those who advocate change.

As scripted by Peter Straughan, the film gets canon law wrong, implicitly slanders Benedict XVI and traffics in sordid secrets of varying plausibility in the lead-up to a climactic revelation that many will find

offensively exploitative, others merely loopy.

Elevates the pieties of the current zeitgeist over eternal truths in a way that warrants viewer caution. Murky moral values, plot developments requiring mature discernment, a couple of mild oaths.

The OSV News classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

The Motion Picture Association rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

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Diocese of
Jefferson City

Planting trees at St. George in Linn



LEFT: Henry Brandt, Owen Jaegers and Sam Brandt, who are students at St. George School in Linn, help Kelly McReynolds plant the trees in the St. George Prayer Garden at the school on Oct. 3. Scouts from Troop 17 and students from St. George School in Linn, along with adult volunteers, planted the trees, which were received through the Central Missouri Electric Cooperative Green Tree Partnership Grant. **TOP RIGHT:** Giving a “thumbs up” in the St. George Prayer Garden are (front row) Brandon Youtzy, Debbie Backes, Kelly McReynolds, Hayden Jaegers, Henry Brandt and Debbie Jaegers, (back row) Jerry Backes, Sam Brandt and Owen Jaegers. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The trees and bushes are ready to grow and provide a shady, peaceful environment for the prayer garden.

— Photos by Debbie Backes

diojeffcity.org

For the faithful departed

Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our (brother/sister) in the sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died in Christ, (he/she) will rise with him on the last day. ...

Merciful Lord, turn toward us and listen to our prayers: open the gates of paradise to your servant and help us who remain to comfort one another with assurances of faith, until we all meet in Christ and are with you and our (brother/sister) forever.

— *Prayer of Commendation, Order of Christian Funerals*

Daily Readings

Sunday, Oct 27

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jer. 31:7-9
Ps. 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
Heb. 5:1-6
Mk. 10:46-52

Monday, Oct 28

Ss. Simon and Jude, Apostles

Eph. 2:19-22
Ps. 19:2-3, 4-5
Lk. 6:12-16

Tuesday, Oct 29

Eph. 5:21-33
Ps. 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Lk. 13:18-21

Wednesday, Oct 30

Eph. 6:1-9
Ps. 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14
Lk. 13:22-30

Thursday, Oct 31

Eph. 6:10-20
Ps. 144:1b, 2, 9-10
Lk. 13:31-35

Friday, Nov 1

All Saints (Holy day of Obligation)
Rv. 7:2-4, 9-14
Ps. 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
1 Jn. 3:1-3
Mt. 5:1-12a

Saturday, Nov 2

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)
Wis. 3:1-9
Ps. 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Rom. 6:3-9
Jn. 6:37-40

Sunday, Nov 3

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dt. 6:2-6
Ps. 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51
Heb. 7:23-28
Mk. 12:28b-34

Monday, Nov 4

St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop

Phil. 2:1-4
Ps. 131:1bcde, 2, 3
Lk. 14:12-14

Tuesday, Nov 5

Phil. 2:5-11
Ps. 22:26b-27, 28-30ab, 30c, 31-32
Lk. 14:15-24

Wednesday, Nov 6

Phil. 2:12-18
Ps. 27:1, 4, 13-14
Lk. 14:25-33

Thursday, Nov 7

Phil. 3:3-8a
Ps. 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
Lk. 15:1-10

Friday, Nov 8

Phil. 3:17-4:1
Ps. 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5
Lk. 16:1-8

Saturday, Nov 9

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Ez. 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
Ps. 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
1 Cor. 3:9c-11, 16-17
Jn. 2:13-22

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for October:

We pray that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

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Mass for deceased priests of diocese

DATE: November 6
TIME: 11 am

All are invited to join
Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

and the priests of the Jefferson City diocese at this year's Mass for Deceased Priests.

It will be at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 6, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St. in Jefferson City.

The Mass, offered each year during the Octave of All Souls, is for the repose of the souls of priests who have served in this diocese since its founding in 1956.

Bishop McKnight will preside. Father Stephen Jones, pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, will preach the homily.

After Communion, the names of deceased priests and bishops of the diocese will be solemnly read in the order of their passing.

The Octave of All Souls and wall of November are a time when Catholics are especially encouraged to pray for those who died and are preparing to share the fullness of their Master's joy.

Praying for the Living and the Dead is one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy.



**Pancake & Sausage
BREAKFAST**

St. Peter Holy Name Society
Msgr. Hoog Cafeteria
Jefferson City
Sunday, October 27
7:30-10:30 am
\$10 for adults - \$5 under 12 - \$30 family (3+ kids)

2025 Jubilee: The Holy Year
May 28th - June 5th, 2025

Join Monsignor Cox and the St. Stanislaus Parish on a sacred journey during the Holy Year Jubilee. This meaningful trip will connect you with history, faith, and a deep desire to experience the divine.

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Sunday, November 3
11 am - 3 pm

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Adults \$16 ♦ Children 6-12 \$7
Children 5 & under free ♦ Dinners to go \$16

Games ♦ Prizes ♦ Refreshments ♦ Country Store and more!

Mass at 8 & 9:30 am @ KofC Hall

St. Mary Parish Annual
FALL DINNER
Sunday, November 10

Drive-thru dinner at St. Mary School
Glasgow

Turkey, Smoked Ham, Dressing, Pie and More!
\$15 per meal - Drinks and seating available at the Knights Hall
Limited in-town deliveries, call 660-728-2013 or 660-728-2921 after 3 pm
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