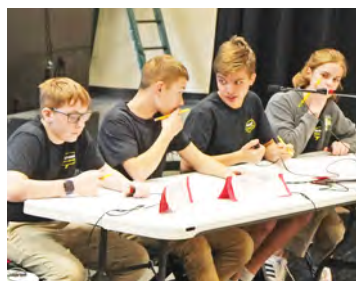


## Seventh Grade Scholar Bowl

Seventh-graders from Catholic schools throughout the diocese got together for a day of facts and fun.

Page 4



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"The Chosen" . . . . .Page 26

# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

February 21, 2025 • Vol. 68 No. 17

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## The Christian way to make decisions in the Church



Members of the Diocesan Youth Advisory Council take part in an instructive team-building exercise during their annual retreat Feb. 16 at Camp Tolton in Shelby County. The council is one of several deliberative bodies made up mostly of laypeople in the diocese who advise the bishop on important matters.

— Photo by Jay Nies

**Much of this edition is devoted to co-responsibility: a pillar of the diocesan Pastoral Plan**

By Jay Nies

In teams of five, members of the diocese's Youth Advisory Council gently guided a plastic Hula Hoop off the floor, using only their index fingers.

Their task sounded easy enough, but both teams had to try several times before successfully lifting the ring above their heads.

"You needed coordination. You needed to be aware of what you are doing and what the members of your team are doing," Maureen Quinn, diocesan director of religious education and youth/young adult ministry, explained when they were finished.

"Sometimes, it's easier to look outward at what other people are doing than to look inward," she noted. "In our role on this council, we need to be doing both."

The members were on their annual retreat, laying the foundation for future deliberations that will allow them to advise and collaborate with members of the clergy in guiding and governing the Church.

"A lot of young people see Mass as something they're not interested in," said Sophia Fennwald, a member of the council. "But I hope that through this council, we can make it known that the Church is a great thing and that God works through the Church to get to us, and going to Mass and participating in being Catholic is a great thing."

"I think bringing people together to serve in the Church doesn't just help make our community better, but

## Finding hope in the call to co-responsibility

By Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

As members of the Body of Christ, each of us receives a unique mission from God — a special calling that shapes how we live — and all the charisms necessary to fulfill our mission.

Thus, it is the responsibility of the clergy (bishops, priests, and deacons) to promote the engagement of the laity in the life and mission of their parish communities, even though we all have different roles and responsibilities in the Church.

Co-responsibility starts with a mutual respect and appreciation for the gifts, talents, sacramental charisms and offices the Holy Spirit has given us. These gifts are meant to be used for the sake of the Church's mission to witness Jesus Christ to all in our community.

However, we are not meant to be "lone rangers" in how we

exercise our charisms. That is why our Lord gave us the gifts of bishops and priests, who by acting in the person of Christ, the head and shepherd of the Church, lead the religious and lay faithful in the harmonious and efficacious carrying-out of

our work together in the vineyard of the Lord.

Seeing the lay charisms alive and thriving in our Church today

fills me with immense joy and hope!

Because of our mutual recognition that everyone has something to bring to the table, our parishes have pastoral councils, finance councils, school councils and stewardship councils.

Though primarily advisory in nature to assist the pastor in his responsibilities and obligations for the Church's mission,

### MAKING CONNECTIONS

Bishop McKnight



See MAKING CONNECTIONS, page 19

See CO-RESPONSIBILITY, page 19

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02/21/25

## Pray for deceased priests

Feb. 27 — **Fr. James J. O'Sullivan**, Sacred Heart, Eldon (2004)

Mar. 1 — **Fr. Lawrence P. Mullen**, St. Joseph, Edina; and St. Aloysius, Baring (1996)

Mar. 3 — **Fr. Edward A. Doyle**, Immaculate Conception, Montgomery City (2019)

Mar. 6 — **Fr. Thomas J. Gray**, St. Stephen, Indian Creek (1987)

Mar. 7 — **Fr. Gerald W. Stockman**, counseling ministry (2016)

Mar. 8 — **Fr. Alphonse J. Hoegen**, Chaplain, Capital Region Medical Center, Jefferson City (1978)

## Ultreya March 9, Camdenton

All Cursillistas are invited to attend a Cursillo Ultreya from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 9, in the lower level of St. Anthony Church, 1874 N. Business Route 5 in Camdenton.

"Bring a snack to share as we

gather to share in the glory of God and the Holy Spirit in our lives," the organizers stated.

For information, call Sandy Majchrzak 314-401-0886 or Glenda Henricks 573-552-5337.

### Director of Service and Justice

The Columbia Catholic Churches are seeking a full time Director of Service and Justice to engage with the poor of Columbia, to recruit and coordinate volunteers to serve the poor and to collaborate with other aid organizations in Columbia to fill the gaps in aid to the poor. Must be hard working, organized, have a compassionate heart and ideally speak both English and Spanish. See full job description at [www.comonewman.org/job-openings](http://www.comonewman.org/job-openings). Please submit your resume, cover letter, and professional references to Fr. Dan Merz at [frdan@comonewman.org](mailto:frdan@comonewman.org).



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- ▶ **Director of Pastoral Liturgy**
- ▶ **Database Manager**

Job descriptions and links for applying can be found at [diojeffcity.org/about-us/employment](http://diojeffcity.org/about-us/employment)

# Generous parishioners bring success to 2024 Special Collections

In 2024, the generous faithful of the Diocese of Jefferson City shared nearly \$1 million with the beneficiaries of our three diocesan special collections.

In March, parishioners contributed \$330,998.54 to our Easter Special Collection. These gifts support retired priests and religious. Following that collection, the diocese distributed \$165,449.27 to the National Religious Retirement Office, and \$165,449.27 was transferred to the Priest Mutual Benefit Society.

The diocese held a Missions Special Collection during Masses on July 20-21. This collection raised \$194,805 in support of our missions work. These funds provide assistance to the peo-

ple in the home dioceses of the mission priests serving us, as well as support national collections that benefit missions work around the world.

Our 2024 Christmas parish assessment, supported by gifts given during the Christmas Special Collection, raised \$447,408. From that total, \$200,000 was given to the Infirm Priest Fund, and \$247,408 was distributed to the Seminarian Studies Fund.

We appreciate all the faithful for their extraordinary support of these important needs in our diocese. In 2025, the Diocese of Jefferson City will repeat this same schedule, with special collections held at Easter, in July and at Christmas.

## 40 Days for Life Opening Rally, March 4

**DATE: March 4**  
**TIME: 6-8 pm**

The Opening Rally for the 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign in Columbia will be on Tuesday, March 4, in Flanagan Hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 903 Bernadette Drive in Columbia.

Sub sandwiches and cookies will be served at 6 p.m.

Participants will carpool to the Columbia Planned Parenthood, 711 N. Providence Road, for a Candlelight Vigil.

The closing prayer will be at 8 p.m.

RSVP to [kathythebo@hotmail.com](mailto:kathythebo@hotmail.com) for a sandwich count.

40 Days for Life is an internationally-coordinated 40-day campaign, held twice a year, that aims to end abortion through prayer, fasting, community outreach and compassion for mothers, fathers, babies and abortion employees.

Throughout the 40 days,

all-day, peaceful prayer vigils are maintained outside abortion clinics or places where abortion referrals continue to be given.

The Spring campaign will be held from March 5 through April 12.

Visit [www.40daysforlife.com/columbiamo](http://www.40daysforlife.com/columbiamo) to sign up to participate.



## Official Notices of Appointments

*I am announcing that the Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City, has recently made the following appointment:*

### PRIEST

**Reverend Monsignor Marion J. Makarewicz**, res-

ignation accepted from the office of Pastor of Mary Immaculate Parish, Kirksville and its mission St. Rose of Lima, Novinger together with resignation as Sacramental Minister of St. Mary Parish, Milan and its mission of St. Mary, Unionville, effective Feb. 5, 2025.

From the Office of the Chancellor,

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

of Jefferson City:

### PRIEST

**Reverend Charles Nweze**, to Hospital and Nursing Home Ministry in Columbia effective Jan. 22, 2025

From the Office of the Chancellor,

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



### The Catholic Missourian

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

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

**Bishop W. Shawn McKnight**  
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# Statement of the Missouri Catholic Conference on abortions resuming in Missouri

*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 are saddened that abortions will resume in

Missouri after the recent judicial ruling that abortion clinics do not need to be licensed by the state. The legalization and deregulation of abortion will harm women, children and families.

The Catholic Church in Missouri will strive to increase advocacy for policies that uphold the dignity of all human life, protect the vulnerable, provide support for those in need and continue to combat the forces behind the culture of death.

For those women and men who have been and will be wounded by abortion, the Church will continue to

provide true hope and healing.

We will continue to educate the faithful on the inherent dignity of all, as each individual is a child of God, and endeavor to make resources available to those in need.

We will also work with lawmakers to craft prudent legislation to protect the welfare and dignity of pregnant mothers and their unborn children.

Let us continue to pray and work for a greater recognition of the gift of each and every human life in our society.

## US bishops thank Pope Francis for support amid 'struggle' on migration issues

By Kate Scanlon  
OSV News

Washington, D.C.

The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bish-

ops (USCCB) Feb. 11 thanked Pope Francis for his support for the U.S. bishops' work with migrants and refugees amid the current "struggle" on immigra-

tion policies in the U.S.

"I ask for your continued prayers so that we may find the courage as a nation to build a more humane system of immigration, one that protects our communities while safeguarding the dignity of all," wrote Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, who heads the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services.

Archbishop Broglio added, "As we struggle to continue our care for the needy in our midst and the desire to improve the situation in those places from which immigrants come to our shores, we are ever mindful that in them we see the Face of Christ."

Earlier the same day, Pope Francis released a letter to the U.S. bishops, Catholics and all people of goodwill urging them not to give in to "narratives" that discriminate against and cause unnecessary suffering to migrants and refugees.

While acknowledging "the right of a nation to defend itself and keep communities safe from those who have committed violent or serious crimes while in the country or prior to arrival," Pope Francis cautioned "deporting people who in many cases have left their own land for reasons of extreme poverty, insecurity, exploitation, persecution or serious deterioration of the environment, damages the dignity of many men and women, and of entire families, and places them in a state of particular vulnerability and defenselessness."

As a part of its effort to enforce its hardline immigration policies, the Trump administration suspended a

federal refugee resettlement program in which the USCCB participates to resettle legally eligible refugees. That suspension prompted the conference to lay off about a third of the staff in its Migration and Refugee Services Office on Feb. 7.

In comments to the bishops, the pontiff said he recognizes "your valuable efforts" as they "work closely with migrants and refugees, proclaiming Jesus Christ and promoting fundamental human rights."

Pope Francis said he was writing because of "the major crisis" in the U.S. over President Donald Trump's "program of mass deportations."

In what appeared to be a response to comments by Vice President JD Vance, who is Catholic, made in a January television interview about the Catholic concept of "*ordo amoris*" (the order of love or charity), Pope Francis said, "Christian love is not a concentric expansion of interests that little by little extend to

other persons and groups."

Vance previously argued the concept teaches that "you love your family, and then you love your neighbor, and then you love your community, and then you love your fellow citizens in your own country. And then after that, you can focus and prioritize the rest of the world."

But the pontiff said the "true *ordo amoris* that must be promoted is that which we discover by meditating constantly on the parable of the 'Good Samaritan,' that is, by meditating on the love that builds a fraternity open to all, without exception."

Archbishop Broglio said the bishops join Pope Francis in prayer that "families suffering from the sudden withdrawal of aid may find the strength to endure."

"With you, we pray that the U.S. government keep its prior commitments to help those in desperate need," he added.

See IMMIGRATION, page 23



### Bishop McKnight's Calendar

FEBRUARY	
Feb 21	Mass of Christian Burial for Rev. Michael W. Penn, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 11 am, Jefferson City
Feb 22	Mass of Consecration of an Altar, Queen of Peace Church, 4 pm, Ewing
Feb 23	Mass of Rededication of Church, St. Joseph Church, 2 pm, Salisbury
Feb 25	Diocesan Stewardship Council meeting, 12:30 pm, Chancery; Presentation to Lay Leadership Deanery Meetings on Co-Responsibility and Parish Pastoral Planning, 6:30 pm, Virtual
Feb 26	Priests' Personnel Board, 1:30 pm, Chancery; St. John Vianney Center Board Orientation Meeting, 3pm, Virtual
MARCH	
Mar 1	Presentation on Theology of the Diaconate: Scriptural and Historical Sources, Cohort 2029 formation for the permanent diaconate, 9:30 am, Chancery
Mar 2	Confirmation Mass, St. Martin Parish, 2 pm, St. Martins
Mar 4	Confirmation Mass, St. Stanislaus Parish, Wardsville and St. Margaret of Antioch Parish, Osage Bend, 6:30 pm, St. Stanislaus Church, Wardsville
Mar 6	Diocesan Excellence in Education Fund meeting, 11 am, Chancery
Mar 7	Teachers' Professional Development Day Mass, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, 9:30 am, Columbia
Mar 8	Confirmation Ceremony, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 11 am, Sedalia
Mar 9	Rite of Election, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 3 pm, Jefferson City
Mar 10	Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Board of Directors Meeting, 11 am, Virtual

### Bishop McKnight's February prayer intention for our Local Church

For mutual respect of the unique roles and responsibilities we are given as members of the Body of Christ. May we recognize and draw strength from the distinctive gifts God has given each of us with a spirit of co-responsibility. We pray to the Lord.

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

### Intención del mes de febrero del Obispo McKnight por nuestra Iglesia Local

Por el respeto mutuo a los roles y responsabilidades únicos que se nos han dado como miembros del Cuerpo de Cristo. Que podamos reconocer y encontrar fortaleza en los dones particulares que Dios nos ha dado a cada uno, con un espíritu de corresponsabilidad. Roguemos al Señor.



# Seventh-graders give their best at inaugural diocesan Scholar Bowl

By Jay Nies

Jacob Stewart brushed up on a lot of the basics before representing his school in the diocese's first-ever Seventh Grade Scholar Bowl in Jefferson City.

The most important of these things turned out to be teamwork.

"You rely on your teammates more than you think," said Jacob, a seventh-grader at St. Thomas the Apostle School in St. Thomas.

"You're a team for a reason," he noted. "We got better at that as we went along."

More than 500 seventh-graders from Catholic schools throughout the diocese attended the inaugural Scholar Bowl, organized by Catholic school

principals and the diocesan Catholic Schools Office.

The idea for the event came from the recently-convened Diocesan Advisory Student Council.

The Scholar Bowl drew representatives from each school into one of four teams, which vied to answer the most questions on an array of topics in a game show format.

St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City hosted the event in its gymnasium, with the competing teams seated at tables on the stage.

Nancy Shively, principal of Holy Rosary School in Monroe City, kept things lively as



Students of various Catholic schools who made up Team D in the diocese's inaugural Seventh Grade Scholar Bowl revel in their victory.

— Photo by Annie Williams

the event's organizer and emcee. Each team had its own cheer-

ing section in the audience.

Twelve of Jacob's classmates were on hand to roar their encouragement for him and his teammates.

"That was pretty reassuring," he said.

He got a nice round of applause for naming the geographical barrier between the warring states in the Civil War.

Answer: the Mason-Dixon Line.

## Four, two, then one

Thatcher Johnson, a seventh-grader at Holy Family School in Hannibal, was a member of Team D, which won the final round.

"They asked us all sorts of questions from religion, math, geography — lots of things," said Thatcher.

"We buzzed in if we thought we knew the answer," he explained. "If we got it right, our team got the points. If we didn't get it, the other team got a chance to answer and get the points."

Thatcher had the benefit of about two hours of time to sharpen his recall on the way to Jefferson City.

"I practiced with some trivia questions that my teacher found online," he said.

At the Scholar Bowl, he correctly answered a couple of questions in the theater category, including "Winnie the Pooh."

"It was exciting and fun," he said. "I was also kind of nervous to be in front of so many people."

Being on stage with several teammates he knew from this past summer's Aquinas Academy enrichment program helped calm his jitters.

A pause for lunch in Cana Call in the lower level of the Cathedral brought music and plenty of laughter.

"DJ Padre," also known as

See SCHOLAR BOWL, page 21

## Arise Women's Ministry of JCMO Presents A Women's Spiritual Day of Reflection HerStory



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Get tickets online by Mon. March 17 at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com), search for "HerStory -- Arise Women's Ministry."

For questions please contact LeAnn at 573-690-2882 or Mary at 573-690-5284.

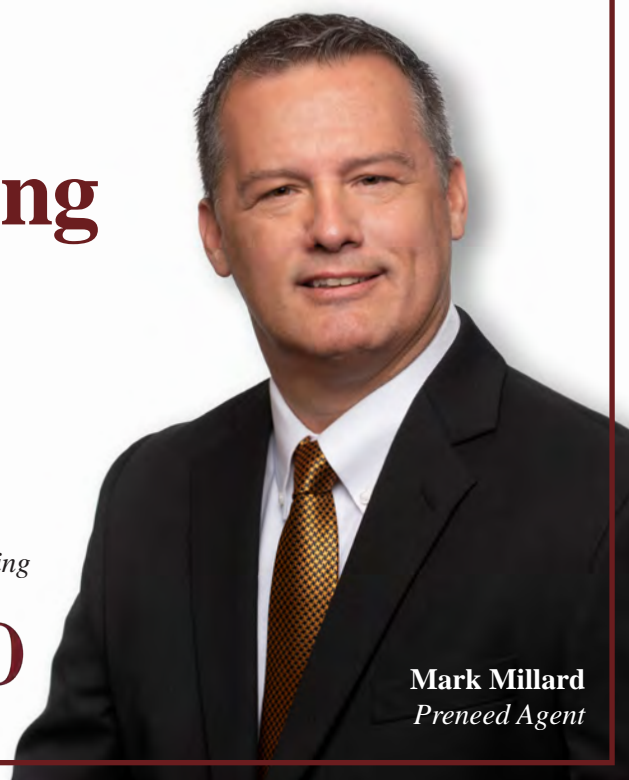
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## Co-responsibility: the Diocesan Pastoral Council

The Diocesan Pastoral Council assists the bishop in his governance of this diocese.

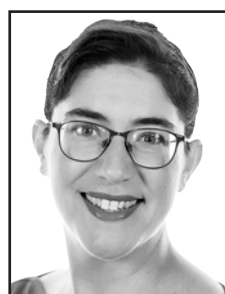
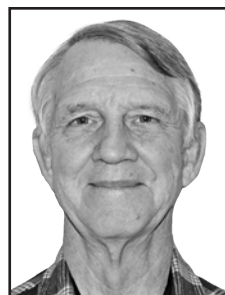
Its mandate comes from the Second Vatican Council, which called for a pastoral commission to be established for each diocese, made up of specially-chosen clergy, religious and lay people.

“The duty of this commission will be to investigate and weigh pastoral undertakings and to formulate practical conclusions regarding them.” (*Christus Dominus*, #27)

The council enables the laity and clergy together to assist the bishop in the ongoing discernment and implementation of an effective diocesan pastoral plan.

Its tasks include: investigating, considering and proposing practical conclusions about those things that pertain to pastoral works in the diocese; serving as a channel for communication from parish pastoral councils and deanery leadership for proposals that might benefit from the bishop’s consideration; and helping and cooperating with the deans in their function, especially regarding the deanery parish leadership meetings.

“When we look at the challenges the Church faces, such as ‘how do we bring the Church into the world?’ and ‘how do we bring the world into the Church in a positive way?’ — namely by drawing people back to church, it’s not that the bishop doesn’t have great ideas for how to do these things,” said Diocesan Pastoral Council Chair Col-



**TOP ROW:** Colleen Abbott, Southwest Deanery representative, chair; Sarah Robinson, Central Deanery representative, vice chair; Deacon J. Enrique Castro and Cristhia Castro, Deacon Community and Hispanic Community representatives; Kevin DeHaan, North Deanery representative; Justin Francka, Newman Center representative; **SECOND ROW:** Ruth Hughes, North Deanery representative; Elizabeth James, See City Deanery representative; Sr. Ruth Ann Klauser, SSND, Consecrated Religious representative; Kent Korthas, Southwest Deanery representative; Russell Kremer, Southeast Deanery representative; Barbara Prasad, Women’s Ministry representative; **THIRD ROW:** Jonathan Pund, See City Deanery representative; Sheri Stormer, Southeast Deanery Representative; Kelly Wheeler, Central Deanery Representative; Very Rev. Christopher L. Cordes, Vicar for Priests; Very Rev. Brad T. Berhorst, JCL, Judicial Vicar, ex-officio; Rev. Msgr. Robert A. Kurwicki, Vicar General, ex-officio; **FOURTH ROW:** Jacob Luecke, Executive Director of Communications, ex-officio; Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL, Chancellor, ex-officio; **STAFF:** Helen Osman, Communications Consultant; Bernadette Adams, Recording Secretary.

leen Abbot.

“But in order for him to make good decisions that impact the life of the people, he needs those voices of the

laity,” she stated. “He needs them from a variety of different parishes, from a variety of different backgrounds and experiences of our faith and perspectives on what’s happening in the Church.”

Laypeople also get to hear what their fellow laypeople are saying in their parishes.

“We listen to what our fellow churchgoers have to say and bring that to our deliberations,” said Mrs. Abbot.

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## Co-responsibility: the Stewardship Council

The Stewardship Council helps the bishop promote the spirituality of stewardship throughout the diocese.

The council, together with the staff of the diocesan Stewardship Office, collaborate to help pastors in the ongoing planning, implementation and cultivation of the stewardship way of life in the parishes and communities of the diocese.

The council investigates, considers and proposes practical solutions in matters pertaining to the stewardship way of life; serves as a channel of communication from the leadership of each deanery for proposals that might benefit from consideration by the bishop; and helps and cooperates with the Stewardship Office, especially regarding diocesan-wide stewardship events and initiatives.

“Co-responsibility and stewardship go 100-percent hand-in-hand,” said Anne Hackman, vice-chair of the Stewardship Council. “Because



**FIRST ROW:** Patricia Lutz, Director of Stewardship, chair; Anne Hackman, See City Deanery representative, vice chair; Erick Chinchilla, Assistant Director of Pastoral Ministry, executive secretary; Rev. Stephen W. Jones, Moderator of Stewardship; Mike Aulbur, Central Deanery representative; Deacon Michael S. Brooks, Southeast Deanery representative; **SECOND ROW:** Very Rev. Jason T. Doke, STL, VF, See City Deanery representative; Leigh Ann Grant, North Deanery representative; Ann Gray, North Deanery representative; Theresa Krebs, Southwest Deanery representative; Barb Prasad, See City Deanery representative; Mary Beth Strassner, Southeast Deanery representative.

co-responsibility allows our parishioners to use the gifts that God gives them to participate fully in the Church.

“God never gives one person all the skills we need to carry out the Church’s mission,” she stated. “He gives each of us our

own special set of gifts. When you put that all together, you have this teamwork and support, and we’re finding solu-

tions to everyday challenges, and we can help make a living and thriving Church — a more complete Church.”

## Co-responsibility: the Diocesan Review Board

The Diocesan Review Board is a confidential, consultative body that advises the bishop on policies and responses to allegations of violations of the diocese’s Code of Pastoral Conduct, the U.S. bishops’ Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and the Essential Norms that augment the Charter.

In doing so, the Review Board plays a crucial role in the diocese’s efforts make sure the



Patricia Joyce, chair

Church is a consistently safe environment for children and anyone else who’s vulnerable.

The board’s members include attorneys, counselors, educators, pastoral ministers, pediatricians and psychia-

trists; people from the criminal justice, human resources, law enforcement and social services professions; as well as a priest, a deacon and a religious sister.

The Review Board also regularly examines policies and

procedures and makes recommendations to the bishop about maintaining safe environments throughout the Church for children and vulnerable adults.

“Knowing that the best decisions are being made is critical to people’s faith in the Church and ultimately their faith in

God,” said Review Board chair Patricia Joyce, a retired circuit judge and attorney.

She said it’s essential for the bishop to have a committed group of mostly laypeople to advise him in these difficult situations.

“And with the number of different disciplines and per-

sons who have a deep faith, we really get to bring our experiences to help the bishop make the best decisions possible — to treat the person accused with fairness, and foremost, protect those who cannot take care of themselves,” she said.

## Co-responsibility: the Diocesan Building Commission

The Diocesan Building Commission plays a vital role in helping the bishop oversee major construction, renovation and repair projects throughout the diocese by reviewing designs and specifications for projects on Church property throughout the diocese.

The commission advises the bishop and parish leadership throughout the diocese on major construction, repairs and renovation projects.

The commission also assists parishes in forming long range plans and implementing major repairs and construction.



**FIRST ROW:** Very Rev. Jason T. Doke, STL, VF, chair; Paul Frank; Larry Lewis; **SECOND ROW:** Rev. Louis M. Nelen; Paul Samson (continued)



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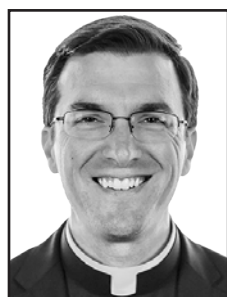
## Co-responsibility: the Liturgical Commission

The diocesan Liturgical Commission exists to help ensure that the splendor and majesty of authentic Christian worship shine forth more fully, “transforming and invigorating the Christian faithful to continue their baptismal mission of Christian witness in the world.”

The commission works with the diocesan Liturgy Office and other diocesan offices in preparing for the various diocesan liturgical celebrations throughout the year: including the Rite of Election, the Chrism Mass, prayer and liturgies for pastoral days and the Priests’ Institute.

The commission provides workshops at the parish and regional levels, as requested. Topics include: the Eucharist and other sacraments; the liturgical seasons; the Order of Christian Funerals; and art and architecture.

The commission also offers formation and training opportunities for parish liturgy committees, as well as



**TOP ROW:** Very Rev. Daniel J. Merz, SLD, chair; Very Rev. Brad T. Berhorst, JCL, JV; Deacon J. Enrique Castro; Rev. Louis A. Dorn; Kimberly Luebbert; Andrew Meagher; **SECOND ROW:** Deacon John L. Neudecker; Rev. Jeremy A. Secrist; Mark Sievers

we participate in these things is a matter of our salvation.”

He said that just as the Church calls for laypeople to take on all the responsibilities that are proper to them in the celebration of the Mass, the participation of competent laypeople in the work of the commission is equally important for the mission of our diocese.

“It’s not about one person doing everything,” Fr. Merz noted. “Everyone has a part in this. And when we encourage

people and show them how to do these things, it fosters their gifts and helps them become better Christians.”

It’s sometimes more difficult and time-consuming to train and form people to serve in these roles.

“But when we fail to do this, you have fewer voices being heard and fewer gifts being used. And not only our local Church, but the people themselves are diminished,” said Fr. Merz.

for parish leaders of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA); consultation on various liturgical matters, including a review of liturgical presence and style for priests/deacons or other ministers in the parish; and training for parish lectors, cantors, ushers and other liturgical ministers in the

parish.

Consultations are also provided for any parishes planning to build or renovate churches or worship spaces.

“The Liturgy — communal worship — it’s the essence of who we are,” said Father Daniel Merz, SLD, chair of the Liturgical Commission. “How

## Co-responsibility: the School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council offers guidance to the bishop and the diocesan superintendent of schools about important questions facing the diocesan school system, including the formulation of policy and the addressing of issues as they come up.

It provides a structure in which pastors, parents, administrators and teachers can speak candidly about matters pertaining to Catholic education and its place in carrying out the Church’s mission to evangelize.

The council is a means of bringing representatives of the Church — primarily laity but also involving clergy — to help the bishop address significant questions pertaining to Catholic schools from a broad and diverse perspective.

“We’re blessed to have members who represent various entities,” said Connie Hesse, chair of the council. “We have parents



**TOP ROW:** Connie Hesse, Central Deanery representative, chair; Alan Lammers, Southwest Deanery representative, vice chair; Angela Kolb, See City Deanery representative, secretary; Tony Arnold, Southeast Deanery representative; Rev. R. William Peckman, North Deanery; Rev. Msgr. David D. Cox, See City Deanery; **SECOND ROW:** Erin Polson, Central Deanery representative; Kelly Rohr-bach, Southwest Deanery representative; Rev. Msgr. Robert A. Kurwicky, Vicar General, ex-officio; Dr. Erin Vader, Superintendent, ex-officio.

of elementary school children and of high school children. We have a retired principal and people who are very involved in their parish.

“It’s wonderful to see the various perspectives and the amount of knowledge and experience that’s present when we gather,” she said.

**“Co-responsibility starts with a mutual respect and appreciation for the gifts, talents, sacramental charisms and offices the Holy Spirit has given us. These gifts are meant to be used for the sake of the Church’s mission to witness Jesus Christ to all in our community.”**

— Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

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## QUESTION CORNER

## Is kneeling to receive Holy Communion allowed?

By Jenna Marie Cooper  
OSV News

**Q:** I have been hearing that the “norm” in the United States is to receive Holy Communion standing. Does this mean that people who try to kneel for Holy Communion are breaking canon law? (Florida)



**A:** You are correct that receiving Holy Communion while standing is the local norm for the United States, but this doesn't mean that those who choose to kneel for Holy Communion are doing anything wrong or “illegal.”

The relevant section of the Church's law can be found in the current 2012 edition of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)* — i.e., the official “instruction book” for how Mass is to be celebrated.

In *GIRM* paragraph 160 we read: “The norm established for the dioceses of the United States of America is that Holy Communion is to be received standing, unless an individual member of the faithful wishes to receive Holy Communion while kneeling.”

Read in context, the word “norm” here is not used in the sense of “firm rule that can never be violated.” Instead, it's more like the standard default option in the U.S. Within certain parameters, specific bishops' conferences or regions are legitimately empowered to decide on such “default options” that align most closely with local needs and cultural sensitivities (meaning, of course, that in other countries standing for Holy Communion might not be the norm).

However, what is interesting about the *GIRM* 160 is that it seems to make a point to respect the desire or “wish” of an individual communicant who prefers to kneel. Although the current *GIRM* clearly indicates standing as the normal posture for Holy Communion in this country, it does not seek to impose this on those members of the faithful who personally feel more comfortable receiving Holy Communion while kneeling.

I think one reason why there might be some confusion on this issue is that the same paragraph in an earlier edition of the *GIRM* from 2003 states that: “The norm for reception of Holy Communion in the dioceses of the United States is standing. Communicants should not be denied Holy Communion because they kneel. Rather, such instances should be addressed pastorally, by providing the faithful with proper catechesis on the reasons for this norm.”

The 2003 *GIRM*'s mention of the need for “catechesis” for those who opt to kneel rather than stand for Holy Communion has ambiguous implications. That is, it might be interpreted that those who knelt were doing something wrong and were in need of correction. But on the other hand, it could also be read as the church's concern that those who opted to kneel were doing so for appropriate reasons and not merely suffering from scruples. In any case, the current 2012 *GIRM* is the document actually in force today, so the precise meaning of the 2003 *GIRM* is somewhat of a moot point.

What does this all mean for us practically in our lives of faith?

First of all, on a very basic level, it is important to be courteous to our fellow communicants, and avoid anything that causes a disruption to the smooth and orderly distribution of Holy Communion during Mass. It should also go without saying that Holy Communion should always be received in a spirit of humility, and it should never be an occasion to show off or draw attention to ourselves.

See QUESTION, page 22

## No Papal Audience this week

Please pray for Pope Francis's health

Co-responsibility:  
the Diocesan Finance Council

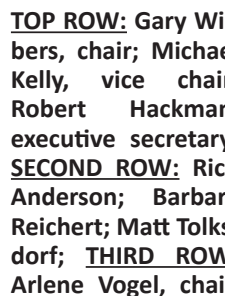
The Diocesan Finance Council works with the diocesan Chief Financial Officer to help the bishop ensure that the finances and temporal goods held by the diocese are properly managed with transparency and accountability.

Church law (Canon 492-493) requires each diocese to have a Diocesan Finance Council, consisting of at least three members of the Christian faithful who are truly expert in financial affairs and civil law, outstanding in integrity and appointed by the bishop.

Each year, according to the bishop's directions, the Finance Council is to prepare a budget of the income and expenditures that are foreseen for the entire governance of the diocese in the coming year, and at the end of the year examine an account of the revenues and expenses.

“I'm a firm believer, and so is our bishop, in transparency and accountability,” said Finance Council Chair Gary Wilbers. “With that commitment to transparency, you can be assured in knowing that your sacrificial gifts to the Church are being put to use in a prudent manner.”

Mr. Wilbers said co-responsibility serves everyone in the diocese when laypeople put forth their skills and experience and the bishop takes those ideas and insights to heart, “leading us to better results.”



**TOP ROW:** Gary Wilbers, chair; Michael Kelly, vice chair; Robert Hackman, executive secretary; **SECOND ROW:** Rich Anderson; Barbara Reichert; Matt Tolksdorf; **THIRD ROW:** Arlene Vogel, chair, audit committee;

Rev. Msgr. Robert A. Kurwicky, Vicar General, ex-officio; Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL, Chancellor, ex-officio; **FOURTH ROW: STAFF:** Phil W. Macias, CPA, chief financial officer; Michelle Truesdale, recording secretary; **NOT PICTURED:** Shereen Kline, controller

“We're always asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and to discern the will of the Holy Spirit. And God is always with us, even in those hard-to-resolve pastoral difficulties in our local parishes, whether it's over money or whatever else, God has a will.”

— Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

## The Daily Offering to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary:  
I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and suffering of  
this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass  
throughout the world.

I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred

Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sins, the  
reunion of all Christians;

I offer them for the intentions of our Bishops and of  
all Apostles of Prayer and in particular for those rec-  
ommended by our Holy Father this month. Amen.



## On the journey toward sainthood

By Effie Caldarola  
OSV News



He was an energetic farm boy from rural Wisconsin, walking daily to a one-room country schoolhouse where a single teacher taught all eight grades.

Later, when James Miller taught high school as a De La Salle Christian Brother, he earned the nickname "Brother Fix-It" for the practical skills he brought from the farm and his willingness to take on any task, from mopping floors to coaching soccer.

When he taught in Central America, his adoring Guatemalan students would call him "*Hermano Santiago*," Spanish for "Brother James."

Today, Brother James Miller, born in 1946, has a new moniker: he is Blessed Brother James, and he is the first American religious brother to be beatified in the journey toward sainthood in the Catholic Church.

But I'm jumping ahead. Long before he was shot to death in Guatemala, most likely a victim of government forces who targeted the poor and those who served them, Jim Miller was an ordinary kid who loved the farm.

Back in those pre-internet days, most of our rural homes had a set of World Book Encyclopedias, and Miller

devoured his family's edition. He wasn't an intellectual, but he was intelligent and curious. After grade school, he enrolled at Pacelli High School, staffed by Christian Brothers, a teaching order founded in France in the 17th century. As a high school freshman, Miller felt the call to join the Brothers.

Until the mid-60s, students sometimes entered Catholic religious life in high school. Miller entered the Christian Brothers junior novitiate in 1959 as a high school sophomore. He later graduated from St. Mary's College in Winona, Minnesota, concentrating on Spanish with a yearning to teach in the missions.

But first he was assigned to a school in St. Paul. Yearly, he applied for the

missions, and after taking his final vows, he was assigned in 1969 to a school in Nicaragua where he spent 10 years and quickly rose to administrative duties.

Then, after a brief stint back in the states, Miller was assigned to a school in remote Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

Many Americans have a fuzzy understanding of Central America's history. Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua all have recent bloody histories of oligarchy, corruption and right-wing militias. The U.S. government, fearing communism during the Cold War, often maintained a relationship with the right-wing dictators.

In 1980, government forces in El

See CALDAROLA, page 23

## Stories untold: Free people of color and the Catholic faith

By Jaymie Stuart Wolfe  
OSV News



Black History Month is officially observed every February, but there's something unfortunate about that. Don't get me wrong: it's great to recognize the contributions of Black Americans. But

dedicating a specific month to doing so seems to have had the unintended side effect of limiting the recognition they've earned to a paltry 28 days of the year.

Here in New Orleans, the gifts of Black Americans are more visible than they are in other places. Flavorful food, soulful music, deep community and lively joy: nearly everything both locals and visitors love about our city has roots in Black culture beautifully expressed.

Louisiana's story of colonialism, race and culture is unique and complex. And as it turns out, African American history is not merely synonymous with the history of slavery. New Orleans bears the tragic distinction of having had the largest slave market in North America. But at the same time, the city was also home to the largest community of free Black people, a community few Americans even know existed.

Most free people of color were French-speaking Catholics; some arrived in New Orleans already free, others purchased their freedom or acquired it through government or military service or manumission.

A middle class of merchants and skilled artisans, free people of color attended school, owned property, and were able to build generational wealth. By 1810, 29% of the city's population was free people of color. They lost many

of the freedoms they had enjoyed under French and Spanish rule when the United States purchased Louisiana in 1803. Nevertheless, this thriving community had a lasting impact on New Orleans and well beyond it.

As restrictions increased and the imposition of Americanized racial policies took hold in the 1830s and '40s, free people of color created their own religious, cultural, mutual aid and educational institutions. Their examples are inspiring.

When Henriette Delille (1812–1862) had a religious experience at the age of 24, she believed that God was calling her to religious life. Although she was well educated and had been born free, women of color were disqualified from joining the established orders. Instead, Henriette and seven other young women founded a community that later became known as the Sisters of the Holy Family. Permitted to take only private vows and prohibited from wearing a habit, the sisters cared for the sick, helped the poor, taught both free and enslaved children. Taking elderly women into their home, they established the first Catholic nursing home in the United States. Serving as godmother to hundreds of newly baptized Catholics, Mother Henriette's influence is still felt here. She was declared venerable in 2010.

Eugène Warburg (1825–1859) was born into slavery but was freed as a young child by his Jewish father. He apprenticed as a marble cutter under a French artist, then established his own sculpture studio in the French Quarter. Warburg earned commissions for religious statuary, portraits and grave-stones. The checkered marble floor he designed and created for the expansion and beautification of St. Louis Cathedral in 1850 still testifies to the quality and precision of his work.

A fourth-generation free man of color, Edmond Déde (1827–1901)

See STUART WOLFE, page 23

### REFLECTION

## In plain sight

By Mark Saucier

In Matthew, Jesus preaches the Beatitudes on the side of a mountain. In Luke, they're preached on a plain.

"He went down with them and stood on a level place."

In Matthew, there are eight Beatitudes. In Luke there are only half that, but then again, in Luke, Jesus was speaking "plainly."

A poor play on words, but the evangelists were writers, and they played around with words.

In Luke, the Greek word we translate as plain is *pedinos*. This term referred to level ground: flat, fertile fields and easy, unencumbered walking.

But the prophets didn't always see *pedinos* that way.

In Jeremiah, it is an open field strewn with corpses.

In Zechariah, it's a field filled with sadness and weeping, and in Habakkuk, the *pedinos* produces no food.

Jesus was speaking on the level, not just a geographical space, but a message of honesty and truth, of "this is the way it is."

Jesus began his Sermon on the Plain by "raising his eyes to his disciples."

It's Luke saying, "You guys need to pay attention."

Then Jesus talks about what it means to live in a broken world that is filled with both suffering and blessing.

"Blessed are you who are poor ... who are now hungry ... who are now weeping ... blessed are you when people hate you."

In this broken world, Jesus promises healing and deliverance.

The Kingdom of God will belong to the poor. The hungry will be satisfied, and the weeping will laugh. The hated will "rejoice and leap for joy."

It all sounds a bit "tough it out in this life and you will be rewarded in the next."

But the Woes that follow Luke's Beatitudes suggest that this is not how the Kingdom of God is meant to work.

In the corresponding Woes, Jesus warns those who are rich, well-fed, happy, and enjoy the praise and esteem of others.

Another wordplay. Maybe instead of Woe, we use its homonym Whoa, as in "Hold up a minute, let's think about this!"

Jesus is not condemning the wealthy and well-respected. He is just warning that this may not last and won't ever be enough.

So whoa, think about it. Most lives have moments of both beatitudes and woes, hunger and fullness, weeping and laughter.

We all need to take the time to know where we are. In good times, we need to share our blessings and in the bad, reach out for help.

That's not me. That's a plain-speaking Jesus.



# Encounter

## AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

### Empowering Parishes to Serve: Charity and Mercy Grants



By Litz Main

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role is reviewing grant applications and witnessing the incredible work parishes undertake to serve their communities.

Each application tells a story of hope, compassion and unwavering dedication, filling me with joy as I see how these grants truly make a tangible difference.

Our Parish Social Ministry committee, comprised of dedicated board members and me, invests considerable time and energy into carefully assessing each submission.

We occasionally engage in direct communication with parishes, seeking additional information to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the heart and intent behind their proposed ministry.

This process of discernment is approached with the utmost seriousness, as we recognize the profound impact of our decisions.

Understandably, the task is not always easy.

We face difficult choices when forced to decline an application, not due to a lack of merit in the ministry itself, but rather due to misalignment with our grant guide-

lines.

It is never easy to say “no,” knowing each parish is striving to do impactful work.

Yet, we must remain committed to our guidelines.

We consistently encourage parishes to persevere and continue reaching out, reminding them that their work is invaluable, regardless of whether it fits within a specific grant cycle.

We stand with them in their mission.

Please do not be discouraged if your parish envisions a new ministry and you’re concerned that your needs might exceed the \$5,000 grant cap.

Apply anyway!

We are eager to learn about your vision, as your application contributes to a broader understanding of the evolving needs within our parishes.

Even if your ministry requires more substantial funding, your application provides crucial insight, allowing us to assess the feasibility of raising the grant cap in future cycles.

So, regardless of whether you believe your ministry’s aspirations surpass the current limit, we encourage you to apply.

The Charity and Mercy Grants empower parishes to



establish enduring, sustainable ministries that effectively serve those in need.

From expanding food pantries to providing shelter and offering educational programs, these grants enable parishes to address both the immediate and long-term needs of their communities.

These endeavors resonate deeply with the essence of Pope Benedict XVI’s words in *Deus Caritas Est* (“God is Love”): authentic charity transcends mere material assistance; it necessitates responding with love, compassion, and a profound respect for the inherent dignity of every individual.

This profound love is consistently reflected in the work of our parishes.

For instance, Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia utilized their grant to initiate an English Language Learner Program, while St. Lawrence Parish in St. Elizabeth expanded their Helping Hands ministry to provide support to an increased number of families in need.

These examples illustrate the myriad ways in which Charity and Mercy Grants empower parishes to embody the Gospel in tangible, meaningful ways.

With the spring cycle deadline approaching on February

28, I urge all parishes contemplating a new or expanded ministry to submit their applications.

*Matthew 25:40* reminds us, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

This verse is at the heart of everything we do, and I know it’s what motivates parishes across the Diocese of Jefferson City to continue serving with generosity and love.

The diocese is blessed with parishes that are dedicated to serving their communities.

The Charity and Mercy Grants are just one way we can empower them in this vital work.

Let’s keep the spirit of charity and mercy alive in our communities.

Together, we can make a lasting impact and create a future where every parish is a place of love, hope, and service.

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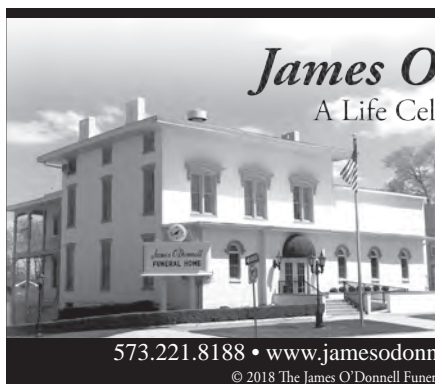
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## Co-responsibility: the Youth Advisory Council

The Youth Advisory Council's twofold purpose is to allow the bishop to hear from the young Church while giving young Catholics the tools and opportunities they need to move from merely receiving ministry to effectively participating in ministry.

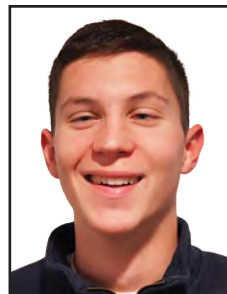
Members are high school age, with two young adults serving as leaders and role models.

The vision for this council is based on "*Christus Vivit*," ("Christ Lives") the apostolic exhortation Pope Francis released at the conclusion of the 2018 Synod of Bishops on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment.

The council serves as a forum for young voices to be heard while also actively equipping the young people to be disciples in the Church.

Members participate in leadership opportunities at diocesan youth events including the diocesan Youth Rally, the National Catholic Youth Conference, summer camps, 'Totus Tuus' summer experiences at parishes and Confirmation Retreats.

"Young people aren't just the future of the Church, they're every bit as much of the Church right now as the rest of us are," said Mary Madelyn



**TOP ROW:** Megan Bruce, See City Deanery representative; Max Cramer, Southeast Deanery representative; Sophia Fennwald, Central Deanery representative; Kayl Gough, North Deanery representative; Ellise Kirchner, Southwest Deanery representative; Paola Pacheco, Central Deanery representative; **SECOND ROW:** Lillian Peters, See City Deanery representative; Nora Seedorf, North Deanery representative; Luke Wolf, Southwest Deanery representative; Mary Madelyn Mertes, Young Adult Leader; Nathan Raymer, Young Adult Leader; Maureen Quinn, Director of Religious Education & Youth/Young Adult Ministry, ex-officio; **THIRD ROW:** Fr. Paul Clark, diocesan director of vocations and seminarians, ex-officio; Fr. Joseph Luzindana, Moderator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, ex-officio.

Mertes, assistant director of catechetical formation for the diocese, and one of the council's young adult leaders.

"And this Youth Council gives the opportunity for young people to exercise their voices as full and active members of the Church and to bring into that forum their

unique perspectives about the issues they're facing," she said.

The council also gives young people opportunities to be formed as leaders and to learn how the Church works, how to listen to each other and to the people of their parishes, and step into leadership roles within the diocese, she stated.



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# Father William Korte died unexpectedly at 67

**Ministered in parishes throughout diocese**

**Most recently in Crocker and Dixon**

By Jay Nies

A priest wearing a full cassock, skipping rope on the playground.

Only those who saw it could have believed it.

"As Catholics, we're pretty good at observing fast days, but we don't always make the most of feastdays," said Father William L. Korte, who had given his eighth-grade religion students a recess period instead of the quiz they had studied for on the Solemnity of All Saints in 2000.

"This is a day for us to be joyful, so we're doing it!" he said.

Fr. Korte experienced joy and sorrow in his years as a priest.

"Throughout his life, whatever his own difficulties or struggles — and everybody has them — he was ever-watchful for the Lord's return," said Father Philip Kane, who was friends with Fr. Korte for 48 years.

Fr. Korte, 67, pastor of St. Cornelius Parish in Crocker and parochial administrator of St. Theresa Parish in Dixon, died suddenly on Jan. 24 in the hospital.

He had been a priest for nearly 42 years.

Fr. Korte had ministered in multiple parishes and missions throughout this diocese.

Among them were: St. Peter in Marshall; Cathedral of St. Joseph and Immaculate Conception in Jefferson City; Our Lady of Snows in Mary's Home; St. Peter in Fulton; St. Joseph in Salisbury and St. Mary of the Angels in Wien; Holy Cross in Cuba, St. Francis Caracciolo in Bourbon and

St. Michael in Steelville; St. Joseph in Louisiana and Mary Queen of Peace in Clarksville; and St. Lawrence in St. Elizabeth and St. Anthony of Padua in St. Anthony. He had been ministering in Crocker and Dixon since 2022.

He also served in various diocesan roles, including assistant vocations director from 1985-88.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Feb. 1 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City, with Father Mark Porterfield presiding, Father Philip Kane preaching the homily and Father Richard Frank proclaiming the Gospel and leading the Final Commendation.

Priests of this diocese and several guest priests from other dioceses concelebrated the Mass.

## Ongoing conversation

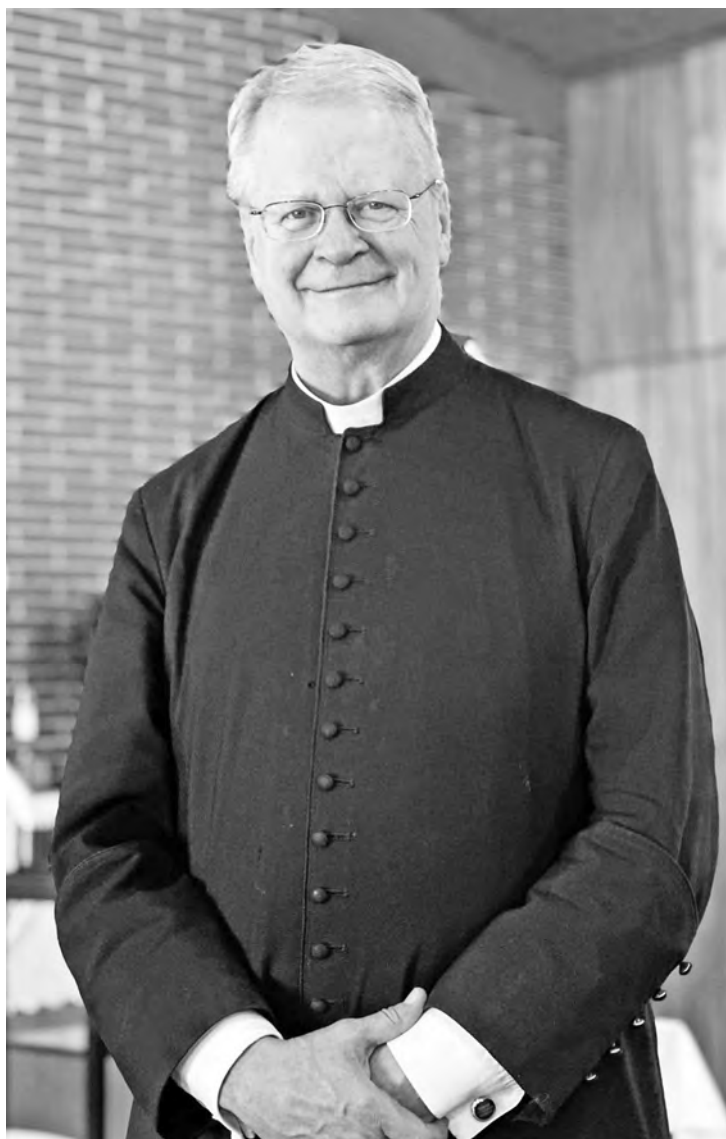
Fr. Korte was the first priest from St. Michael Parish in Steelville.

"I know that he truly valued in the best way possible the Lord's gift of the Priesthood that began for him on April 30, 1983," said Fr. Kane. "And for that, we praise and thank God."

Fr. Korte was born on Nov. 4, 1957, in Florissant, the fourth of eight children of the late Richard and Marilyn Korte.

The family moved from Florissant to a farm near Steelville shortly after Fr. Korte was born.

He attended Steelville elementary and high school; St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Hannibal; and the Pontifical College Josephinum in Worthington, Ohio, where he attained a degree in theology with a minor in philosophy; a master's degree in Scripture and Master of Divinity degree.



Father William L. Korte (1957-2025)

Fr. Kane met Fr. Korte as a seminarian at the Josephinum.

They started a conversation over dinner after final exams in December of 1977, about Catholic authors and books and the state of the Church and the world.

"And that conversation never really ended," said Fr. Kane.

He called Fr. Korte "an eminent friend through some of the toughest moments of my life."

On April 6, 1982, during the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe, of Jefferson City, now deceased, ordained Fr. Korte to the Diaconate.

On April 30, 1983, in Holy Cross Church in Cuba, Bishop McAuliffe ordained him to the Holy Priesthood.

Fr. Korte always credited his parents with teaching him the importance of prayer time. He referred to them as his "true vocation directors."

He admired the priests he

got to know as a child but didn't think about joining them until he read a book called *Everybody Calls Me Father*, in high school.

"I was immediately taken by the story of that parish priest and all the work he did with young people," Fr. Korte recalled in 2008. "And I said, 'That's what I want to do.'"

"From that moment forward, I never had a doubt about my vocation — even though I had doubts about myself, whether I could do it," he said at that time.

Fr. Korte also played an important role in helping others discern their vocations.

Father Nathan Mudd CPM, a native of St. Joseph Parish in Salisbury, began discerning his calling to be a priest of the Fathers of Mercy while Fr. Korte was his pastor.

"Without him, I would not have gone to the Fathers of Mercy, and I know I would not have persevered in my vocation," said Fr. Mudd, who is now chaplain at the National

Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in Champion, Wisconsin.

Fr. Mudd said he hopes people will remember Fr. Korte's faithfulness to his priestly vocation.

## With the end in mind

Family members noted that no matter how busy he was, Fr. Korte offered the actions of his day as a prayer and spent significant time each day before the Blessed Sacrament.

"He was adamant that if he was going to be a good shepherd to souls he needed to spend time with the Good Shepherd himself, Jesus Christ," the family stated.

"He had a profound impact on many lives," the family added. "His constancy in his vocation and his care for souls will have a lasting impact on the Catholic Church for generations to come."

Early in his Priesthood, Fr. Korte helped establish Perpetual Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament at the Cathedral parish.

"I always say the human heart needs the Sacred Heart," he stated at his 25th priestly anniversary.

"We have the blessing of the Sacred Heart of Jesus living and beating, so to speak, in the Blessed Sacrament," he said. "It's a great gift."

He considered it a privilege to spend most of his Priesthood ministering in parishes with Catholic schools.

"There is so much potential here," he said of one such school. "I think the key for us right now is to be very Catholic, stress the universality of the Church, the oneness of the Church and unity in the Body of Christ."

Preceding him in death were his parents and two brothers, Ralph R. Korte and Stephen C. Korte.

Surviving are: two brothers, Michael Korte and Walter Korte and their spouses; three sisters, Cathy Buncher, Casilda Kekeisen, Virginia Watson and their spouses; 19 nieces and nephews; and 48 great-nieces and great-nephews.

Burial was to be in the family plot at St. Michael Cemetery in Steelville.

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# MESSENGER

February 2025

MISSOURI  
CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE

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

## What is Happening on Immigration Policy? An Overview of Federal and State Measures



After an election year in which immigration was at the front and center of American political debate, there was substantial speculation about what specific policies would be implemented by the incoming federal and state administrations to address the issue.

On January 13, 2025, Mike Kehoe was sworn in as the 58th governor of Missouri. One week later, Donald Trump's inauguration as the 47th U.S. president took place in the nation's capital. Both of them, along with the Missouri General Assembly, have focused on immigration from day one.

This resource seeks to provide a general overview of the main immigration policies that, as of

February 12, 2025, have been implemented by the federal and state government, as well as of the bills that have been filed in the Missouri House and Senate.

It is important to keep in mind that **an executive action is binding from the moment the president or governor signs the order**; however, that does not mean it will necessarily go into effect

immediately, given that some of them require government agencies to undertake additional steps (which can take days, months, or even years). On the other hand, a bill is not immediately effective, but becomes a law after it goes through the full legislative process and is signed by the Governor.

### PRESIDENT TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ACTIONS AND POLICY CHANGES

President Donald Trump has put into effect a series of executive actions on various topics, including immigration. In addition to executive orders, his administration has also announced migration-related policy changes. Here is a summary of some of the most relevant measures:

**Executive Order:** *"Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program"* indefinitely suspends the admission of refugees in the U.S. through the Refugee Admissions Program. However, it does provide for exceptions to be made by the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State on a case-by-case basis.





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#### **Executive Order:**

*“Protecting the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats”* provides for enhanced vetting and screening of noncitizens who intend to be admitted, enter, or are already in the country, particularly those from regions or nations with “identified security risks.” Between February and March, additional regulations, policies, and procedures will start to be adjusted.

**Proclamation:** *“Declaring a National Emergency at the Southern Border of the United States”* authorizes the deployment of the Armed Forces to the area, including the Ready Reserve and the National Guard, in order to assist the Department of Homeland Security with detention space, transportation, and other logistics in support of law enforcement operations, as well as to impede the “unauthorized physical entry of aliens across the southern border.” The complement to this proclamation is the **Executive Order** *“Clarifying the Military’s Role in Protecting the Territorial Integrity of the United States.”*

**Executive Order:** *“Securing Our Borders”* authorizes measures to deter and prevent immigrants from entering the U.S. illegally, including:

1. constructing a wall and other physical barriers, monitored by personnel and technology;
2. detaining noncitizens apprehended on suspicion of violating state or federal law for the maximum duration permitted by law before their removal, ending what is commonly known as “catch-and-release”;
3. removing all noncitizens who have entered or remain in the U.S. in violation of federal law;
4. pursuing criminal charges against noncitizens in violation



From left - Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski (Archdiocese of St. Louis), Governor Mike Kehoe, and Bishop W. Shawn McKnight (Diocese of Jefferson City)

- of immigration laws and against those who facilitate their presence in the country;
5. cooperation with state and local law enforcement.

**Proclamation:** *“Guaranteeing the States Protection Against Invasion”* restricts entry to all noncitizens deemed to be engaged in the “invasion across the southern border,” without exceptions of any kind. Access is also restricted to those who do not provide federal officers with sufficient medical information and reliable criminal history and background information.

**Executive Order:** *“Designating Cartels and Other Organizations as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists”* enables the government to take further actions against some drug cartels and criminal organizations to ensure their total elimination from the U.S., including conducting extraterritorial operations.

**Executive Order:** *“Protecting the Meaning and Value of American*

*Citizenship”* seeks to deny “birthright citizenship” to a person born in the U.S. if neither of his or her parents was a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident at the time of said person’s birth. However, several legal challenges have already been brought against this order and judges have blocked its application for the time being.

**Executive Order:** *“Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid”* pauses assistance funding to foreign countries, NGOs, and international organizations. Determinations about whether to continue, modify, or cease each assistance program will be by April 20, 2025. Besides the aforementioned executive actions, President Trump signed an order rescinding over 70 executive actions related to immigration that were issued during the last administration.

#### **GOVERNOR KEHOE’S EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

To date, Governor Mike Kehoe has issued 17 executive orders, two of which pertain to immigration policy:

#### **Executive Order 25-**

**04** (January 13, 2025) fosters the collaboration between state and federal agencies to share intelligence, coordinate operations, and enforce federal immigration laws.

- The Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) will pursue a collaboration agreement with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, outlining the terms of cooperation concerning the enforcement of federal immigration laws.
- MSHP troopers will undergo training in federal immigration enforcement and, upon successful completion, will be

authorized to enforce federal immigration laws; namely, preventing illegal immigration, apprehending criminal offenders, and preventing drug trafficking.

- The DPS and the MSHP will actively collaborate with federal agencies to share intelligence, coordinate operations, and enhance Missouri’s ability to address criminal threats associated with illegal immigration and narcotics trafficking.

**Status:** The specifics of the collaboration agreement are still unknown, which makes it difficult to determine its reach. Potentially, Missouri State Highway Patrol troopers would be authorized to enforce federal immigration laws, including detaining undocumented immigrants for being in the U.S. illegally. It is also unclear if every state trooper would be a part of this program or if it would be restricted to a smaller number.

**Executive Order 25-05** (January 13, 2025) requires law enforcement



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officers in Missouri to include immigration status when filing a crime report.

- The Department of Public Safety and the Missouri Highway Patrol will include immigration status within the required fields of the state's uniform crime reporting system and facilitate the collection of such information across the state.

**Status:** Currently, there are no statistics on how many crimes are committed by undocumented immigrants in Missouri; this measure will make that information available.

### MISSOURI HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS ON IMMIGRATION

January 8 marked the start of the 2025 legislative session in Missouri, with hundreds of bills being filed in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Although over a dozen of those are related to immigration issues, all of them are still in the earliest stages of the legislative process. Here is an overview of the most relevant bills:

**Senate Bill 58** (Sen. Jill Carter - R) would create the offense of "aggravated illegal presence",

making any undocumented migrant who has committed a minor violation of Missouri law, such as running a red light or driving without a license, guilty of a class E felony, punishable by up to 4 years in prison.

It would also create the offense of "improper entry by an alien" <sup>1</sup>, making any undocumented migrant who enters the state subject to an order of removal and a fine of \$10,000.

**Status:** A Senate committee heard the bill on January 27, with the MCC testifying in opposition. On February 5, the committee voted in favor of the bill moving to the Senate floor for debate.

**Senate Bill 72** (Sen. David Gregory - R) would implement the "Missouri Illegal Alien Certified Bounty Hunter Program" to certify applicants to be bounty hunters for the purpose of finding and detaining undocumented migrants in the state. Those who are detained under this bill would be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for life without eligibility for probation or parole.

The bill would also create an information system (telephone

hotline and online portal) for people to report those who they think are undocumented migrants, rewarding them with \$1,000 for every person who is deported.

**Status:** A Senate committee heard the bill on January 27, with dozens of people showing up to voice their concerns about what they perceived as a disproportionate and unfair measure. The MCC testified in opposition. That same week, Speaker Jon Patterson (R) declared that House Republicans were not supportive of the bill and that immigration should remain a federal matter.

**Senate Bill 114** (Sen. Rick Brattin - R) would create the offense of "concealment or inducement of an illegal alien." Any person would be guilty of such an offense, punishable by up to 7 years in prison, if he or she knowingly: a) conceals, harbors, or shields an illegal alien from detection; or b) encourages or induces an undocumented migrant to come to or reside in the state. It would also allow local officers to enforce the provisions of federal immigration law that establish criminal penalties.

This bill is particularly problematic, given that the offense of "concealment or inducement" has been broadly interpreted by state officials in Texas to also include providing basic necessities—food and shelter—to migrants, jeopardizing the Church's ability to provide assistance to the poor and vulnerable.

**Status:** The bill has not been heard in committee. The MCC opposes it.

**House Bill 182** (Rep. Cameron Parker - R) would provide translation services for criminal, civil, and juvenile proceedings, payable from state-allocated funds.

Currently, interpreters are only provided for criminal cases but, given that immigration law is an area of civil law, this measure would be beneficial for migrants and refugees in general.

**Status:** A House committee heard HB 182 on February 11. The MCC testified in support of the bill.

**House Bill 540** (Rep. Richard West - R) would create the offense of "trespass by an illegal alien", making any undocumented migrant who violates a state law or county or municipal ordinance, such as running a red light or driving without a license, guilty of a class E felony, punishable by up to 4 years in prison. If an undocumented migrant commits any misdemeanor or felony, the crime would be a class C felony, punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

**Status:** The bill has not been heard in committee. The MCC opposes it.

**For the current status of the bills, visit the House ([house.mo.gov](http://house.mo.gov)) and Senate ([senate.mo.gov](http://senate.mo.gov)) websites.**

*1: Senate Bill 137 (Sen. Curtis Trent - R) and Senate Bill 282 (Sen. Ben Brown - R) would also create the offense of "improper entry by an alien" under similar conditions. These two bills have not been heard in committee. The MCC opposes them.*

Sen. Barbara Washington (D-9) questions Sen. Jill Carter (R-32) about SB 58.



**For more information regarding legislation and immigration, please scan the QR code to visit the immigration page on the Missouri Catholic Conference website. Thank you.**





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**Bishop Johnston, Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, urges compassion amid uncertainty**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In these times of uncertainty, I reach out to you with a heart full of compassion and a steadfast commitment to our shared faith. Recent executive orders have raised concerns within our community, particularly regarding their impact on our immigrant families, our schools and our parishes. As your shepherd, I wish to offer guidance rooted in the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and the

enduring principles of the Catholic Church.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has consistently emphasized the Church's unwavering dedication to upholding the dignity of every human person, regardless of their immigration status. Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the USCCB, reminds us that our actions as a nation should "demonstrate a genuine care for our most vulnerable sisters and brothers, including the unborn, the poor, the elderly and infirm, and migrants and refugees."

Furthermore, Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration, has expressed deep concern that certain policies may "subject vulnerable families and children to grave danger."

Nations and communities have a right to protect the common good, but this must not violate the other moral rights attached to the dignity of the human person, nor the moral obligation of Christians to help those in need.

In light of these developments, I call upon all members of our diocesan family—parishioners, educators, students, and clergy—to embody the Gospel values of love, mercy, and justice. Let us:

- **Pray Fervently:** Seek divine guidance for our nation's leaders, that they may enact policies reflecting compassion and respect for human dignity.
- **Educate Ourselves:** Understand the teachings of the Church on migration and the rights of individuals, articulated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2241, and as outlined by the USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services.
- **Extend a Hand of Welcome:** Offer support and solidarity to migrants and refugees within our communities, recognizing Christ in the stranger among us.
- **Advocate for Justice:** Engage in peaceful and constructive dialogue, urging our policymakers to consider the moral implications of their decisions and to work for comprehensive immigration reform.

Additionally, I want to reassure you that we treat the names and identities of our school students, families, and parishioners as confidential information. We will not voluntarily release this information to anyone, including law enforcement, absent an obligation to do so by court order or subpoena.

As we navigate these challenges, let us remember the words of our Lord: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40). Together, anchored in faith and united in love, we can be beacons of hope and instruments of God's peace.

May the Holy Family of Nazareth, themselves once refugees, guide and protect us all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr.



**Bishop McKnight, Diocese of Jefferson City: Our faith calls us to pursue humane and just solutions to the challenges of immigration**

The people entrust our elected leaders with the responsibility to enact policies that promote the safety and well-being of all. Securing our nation's borders is essential as we seek to protect our communities and maintain societal order. At the same time, immigrants deserve a fair, transparent, and efficient process as they seek entry — a standard our current immigration system

regrettably fails to meet.

As people of faith, we must advocate for solutions rooted in compassion rather than fear or unnecessary harshness. While I support the deportation of violent criminals who are unlawfully present, I stand firmly against enforcement measures that instill fear or disrupt the stability of peaceful communities. These actions violate our moral principles.

Our faith calls us to pursue humane and just solutions to the challenges of immigration. We must uphold our own dignity by treating the most vulnerable among us with respect and care. Those who come to our churches, volunteer beside us, and make great sacrifices for their families embody the very values that define the American Dream.

As we navigate these complex issues, I pray for our public leaders to be guided by wisdom and courage. I urge them to craft policies that balance the need for secure borders with fundamental human rights and dignity of all individuals.

+Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

**RESOURCES**

- **Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph:** [Statement of Bishop James V. Johnston on Immigration](#) (January 25, 2025)
- **Diocese of Jefferson City:** [Statement of Bishop W. Shawn McKnight on Immigration](#) (January 26, 2025)
- **Missouri Catholic Conference:** [Catholic Teaching on Immigration: Clearing Up Common Misconceptions](#)
- **Missouri House of Representatives:** [Legislation for the 2025 Regular Session](#)
- **Missouri Senate:** [Legislation for the 2025 Regular Session](#)
- **Missouri Secretary of State:** [Governor's Executive Orders 2025](#)
- **Pope Francis:** [Letter to the Bishops of the United States](#) (February 10, 2025)
- **The White House:** [Presidential Actions](#)
- **USCCB:** [Statement of Archbishop Broglio on Executive Orders Signed by the President](#) (January 22, 2025)
- **USCCB:** [Statement of Bishop Seitz on Executive Orders Signed by the President](#) (January 22, 2025)
- **USCCB:** [Statement of Bishop Seitz on Executive Orders Signed by the President](#) (January 23, 2025)
- **USCCB:** [Initial Migration-Related Executive Actions of the Second Trump Administration](#) (January 24, 2025)



# Lenten regulations and admonitions for 2025

As another Lenten journey of conversion begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and ends with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 17, the Catholic Church calls all Catholics to a deeper spirit of penance, fasting, almsgiving and prayer, "which express conversion in relation to oneself, to God, and to others" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 1434 and 1969).

To foster a greater spirit of penance, reparation for sin, to encourage self-denial, which guide us more closely in the footsteps of Christ, the Church reminds us of the following obligations of fast and abstinence during Lent, and also admonishes us all to deeper prayer and worship.

**ABSTINENCE:** All who have celebrated their 14th birthday are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

**FASTING:** Everyone, from the celebration of their 18th birthday to their 59th birthday is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting means eating only one full meal each day.

Two other partial meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken; but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed.

Voluntary fasting on other weekdays of Lent is highly recommended. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, neither the law of fasting nor the law of abstinence obliges.

These are minimal penitential practices and should not be lightly excused. If in doubt, please consult your parish priest.

Other recommended forms of fasting, as regards alcoholic drink, needless television, video games, Internet use, and social entertainment, are of true spiritual value and strongly encouraged.

**ALMSGIVING:** The act of giving to the poor, in the

most ancient tradition of the Church, is an expression of penance, a witness of fraternal charity, and an expression of Lenten conversion. Catholics are encouraged to support generously the charitable works of the whole Church: through regular stewardship to their parish and support of charities.

**PRAYER:** To deepen one's love for Christ, Catholics are urged to participate in the sacramental life of the Church during Lent by attending daily Mass and frequenting the sacrament of Reconciliation.

**INFANT BAPTISM:** "To illustrate the paschal character of Baptism, it is recommended that the sacrament be celebrated at the Easter Vigil or on a Sunday, when the Church commemorates the Resurrection of the Lord." (*Order of Baptism of Children*, no. 9). Baptisms may certainly take place during Lent, preferably on a Sunday, but any day other than Good Friday and



A crucifix and Bible are pictured during Lent at Jesus the Good Shepherd Church in Dunkirk, Maryland.

— OSV News file photo by Bob Roller, Reuters

munal celebration. Church law does not permit general absolution at communal celebrations of Reconciliation.

Regarding the sacrament of Reconciliation for baptized adults seeking full communion with the Church, any previously baptized adult to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church should ap-

propriately celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation before the Easter Vigil.

Mass may not be celebrated on Holy Saturday, April 19, except the Easter Vigil, which may be celebrated only after nightfall.

## EASTER DUTY:

All Catholics who have been initiated into the Holy Eucharist are bound to receive Holy Communion worthily at least once during Easter Time. Of course, Catholics are encouraged to receive Holy Communion as often as possible, not only during Eastertide. However, anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before approaching to receive Holy Communion.

## COVERING OF CROSSES AND IMAGES IN LENT:

From a rubric of the Roman Missal for the Fifth Sunday of Lent: "In the dioceses of the United States, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from this Sunday of Lent may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil."

Neither the Stations of the Cross nor stained glass win-

dows are ever veiled. The veils are usually made of lightweight purple cloth without any decoration.

**USE OF HOLY WATER DURING LENT:** The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments has stated (3/14/03: Prot. N. 569/00/L): "This Dicastery is able to respond that the removing of holy water from the fonts during the season of Lent is not permitted, in particular, for two reasons:

"1. The liturgical legislation in force does not foresee this innovation, which in addition to being '*praeter legem*' is contrary to a balanced understanding of the season of Lent, which though truly being a season of penance, is also a season rich in the symbolism of water and baptism, constantly evoked in liturgical texts.

"2. The encouragement of the Church that the faithful avail themselves frequently of the sacraments is to be understood to apply also to the season of Lent. The 'fast' and 'abstinence' which the faithful embrace in this season does not extend to abstaining from the sacraments or sacramentals of the Church.

"The practice of the Church has been to empty the holy water fonts on the days of the Sacred Triduum in preparation of the blessing of the water at the Easter Vigil, and it corresponds to those days on which the Eucharist is not celebrated (i.e., Good Friday and Holy Saturday)."

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS DURING ADVENT AND LENT:

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (2011) states in no. 313: "In advent the use of the organ and other musical instruments should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of this time of year, without expressing in anticipation the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord.

"In Lent the playing of the organ and musical instruments is allowed only in order to support the singing. Exceptions, however, are Laetare Sunday (fourth Sunday of Lent), Solemnities, and feasts."

"The interior penance of the Christian can be expressed in many and various ways. Scripture and the Fathers insist above all on three forms, fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, which express conversion in relation to oneself, to God, and to others."

— Catechism of the Catholic Church 1434

Holy Saturday (and even then in the case of danger of death).

**CONFIRMATION:** Any persons who were baptized Catholic but never catechized and now wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, may be confirmed by a priest at the Easter Vigil (or any other time) *only if written delegation is given to the priest by the diocesan bishop*. The priest is asked to contact Bishop W. Shawn McKnight in writing *well in advance of the Easter Vigil*, providing the candidate's full name, the date and church of Baptism, and an explanation of the reason for this request. Bishop McKnight will gladly consider each pastoral request on an individual basis.

**RECONCILIATION:** Lent is also a privileged time for celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation, including its com-

munal celebration. Church law does not permit general absolution at communal celebrations of Reconciliation.

**WEDDING MASSES:** Wedding Masses may not be celebrated during the Easter Triduum, on the Sundays of Lent, Ash Wednesday, or during Holy Week. Marriages that do take place at other times during Lent should be according to the proper liturgical norms and provisions, mindful of the penitential spirit of the season. According to the instructions given in the *Third Edition of the Roman Missal*, the Gloria is to be sung, or at the very least, recited, at all wedding Masses, including those celebrated during Lent.

**FUNERAL MASSES:** Funeral Masses may not be celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday, nor on the Sundays of



# Millennium Cross in Cathedral sanctuary is a Jubilee Year reminder of hope, reconciliation

By Jay Nies

An old rugged cross stands next to the altar in the Cathedral of St. Joseph throughout this Jubilee Year of Hope, as a reminder of the sure and certain hope that comes from the total, self-giving sacrifice of Christ.

Containing a relic of the

True Cross on which Jesus gave his life, this Millennium Cross of Reconciliation also bridges the diocese's observances of the Church-wide Jubilee 2025 and the Great Jubilee of 2000, which marked the beginning of the Third Millennium since the Son of God set foot on this earth.

Paul Lage (1932-2021), founder of Lage Cabinet Co. in Jefferson City, designed and built the Millennium Cross in 1999 with help from his wife, LaVerne, and their children.

Noble in its simplicity, the 6-foot-tall, cherry wood cross is modeled after the one Pope St. John Paul II (+1978-2005) carried during the Stations of the Cross on many Good Fridays in Rome.

"It meant a lot to all of us that we got to work on the cross and were able to do that for the Church," Mrs. Lage, a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, recently stated.

She remembers how honored she and her husband felt to have a relic of the True Cross in their shop while they were making the Millennium Cross.

For centuries after Jesus's death and resurrection, crosses were seen as a terrifying symbol of human cruelty. But by about 900 A.D., images of the cross had come to be recognized as something beautiful: the bridge to the resurrection,



**The Millennium Reconciliation Cross, built by the late Paul Lage and his family and containing a relic of the True Cross, traveled to parishes throughout the diocese in the months leading up to and throughout Jubilee 2000, and has a place of honor in the sanctuary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph throughout 2025, the Jubilee Year of Hope.**

— Photo by Jay Nies

a tool of salvation and a sign pointing the way to heaven.

Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos, who led the Jefferson City diocese from 1997-2018, blessed the Millennium Cross at a diocesan Mass in the Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday in 1999.

Bishop Gaydos called the Millennium Cross "a visible reminder and call to reconciliation for each parishioner so that we may enter the new millennium grateful for God's mercy and be witnesses of that

mercy."

From there, the cross began an 18-month journey to more than 90 parishes and missions throughout the diocese to initiate the local Church's observance of Jubilee 2000.

Afterward, the cross was given a place of prominence in the former chapel of the Cathedral until the cathedral's renovation in 2022-23 and was brought forth each year for Veneration of the Cross during Good Friday liturgies.

Mr. Lage also built the cross for the crucifix in the sanctuary of Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City when that church was renovated in 2001.

Mrs. Lage applied the finish to both crosses.

"It's always very special when you do something for Jesus," she said.

She noted that she and Mr. Lage made many pilgrimages to holy places around the world in their nearly 61 years of marriage.

Now, she plans to make a special pilgrimage to the Cathedral to see the Millennium Cross again and offer prayers in her husband's memory.

"Paul was a man of great faith," she noted. "It always meant a lot to him when he could do something at church."

## Pastor preaches on importance of Catholic schools

**Bishop calls educators "architects of a hopeful tomorrow"**

By Jay Nies

Catholic schools are a fundamental part of a parish's mission to evangelize and pass along the faith.

"It's our major role, it's our major help, it's our major evangelization tool, it's our major mission," Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City and vicar general of the Jefferson City diocese, stated in a homily on the Sunday of Catholic Schools Week.

"It's HERE where you learn the basic things of your education," he pointed out.

Msgr. Kurwicky noted that the national theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week (celebrated Jan. 26-Feb. 1) was

"United in Faith and Community."

"Our school is a large part of our faith, it's a big part of our community," he said. "Let us be proud of it, let us promote it, and let us pray for its success."

He praised the illustrious history of St. Peter School, founded and nurtured by the School Sisters of Notre Dame and the Brothers of the Christian Schools, and continued by lay teachers and administrators and generations of Catholic families and students.

"Your ancestors understood the purpose of a Catholic school — to make saints," the

See SCHOOLS, page 27

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2207 W Main | PO Box 104900  
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**diojeffcity.org**



## CO-RESPONSIBILITY

From page 1

it helps grow our Catholic Church, which helps to make the world a better place,” said council member Luke Wolf.

Most on the council were getting their first taste of one of the pillars of the diocesan pastoral plan: co-responsibility.

Co-responsibility is an invitation to share in the mission of the Church. It builds hope and confidence, empowers us to use our gifts and allows us to embrace our responsibilities together.

“When we work as one community of faith, we grow stronger and more united in our witness to Christ,” said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

He said co-responsibility is rooted in Sacred Scripture and the teaching of the Second Vatican Council that laypeople are called to active participation in the Church’s mission, which is a part of their call to holiness.

“We receive that call at Baptism and Confirmation,” he noted. “And it’s renewed sacramentally at every celebration of the Eucharist, where the Liturgy of the Mass manifests the diversity of the charisms of the Church.”

Namely, communal worship at Mass calls for different people performing different roles within the Liturgy itself.

“No one person is doing everything,” Bishop McKnight noted. “That’s a sacramental representation of the nature of the Church outside the Sacred Liturgy.”

The Catholic approach is for every baptized person to exercise a role in the mission in the Church — “even though we don’t all have the same roles, positions, functions,” said the bishop.

“So, co-responsibility by definition is that mutual respect for each other and the different roles we play in the Church,” he said.

Gary Wilbers, chairman of the Diocesan Finance Council, said co-responsibility gives everyone a voice.

“If we look at what Jesus did when he and his disciples were roaming the earth, they didn’t always say the smartest things, but he listened to them,” he stated.

And through their conversations, Jesus’s followers learned, trusted and believed in him.

### The First Councils

In the New Testament, the Apostles, primarily St. Peter, exercise their authority by bringing forth questions that are then prayed over and decided upon by all present.

In one example, in the sixth chapter of Acts of the Apostles, the Apostles make the Church aware of the need for bilingual intermediaries to help minister to Greek-speaking converts.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in union with the faithful, the Apostles appoint the first deacons and summon the Holy Spirit upon them.

Later on, in Acts 15, the Apostles convened the Council of Jerusalem, which dealt with how Gentiles were to become members of the Church.

The co-responsibility being practiced in our diocese today is a modern realization of this form of communion.

Therefore, one of the greatest things a pastor can do is to “elicit and convoke the charisms of the laity into the mission of the Church more effectively,” said Bishop McKnight.

Toward that end, parishes have laypeople serving in advisory roles on such deliberative bodies as parish pastoral councils, school councils, finance councils and stewardship councils.

These councils and commissions also provide an avenue for making good use of the expertise lay individuals bring to the Church, especially when it comes to making important decisions at the parish level.

Similar structures allow laypeople to advise the bishop on important matters pertaining to the governing of the diocese.

“There’s a huge benefit to that collaboration between clergy and laity,” said Anne Hackman, chair of the Diocesan Stewardship Council.

“When we participate as parishioners, and we all collaborate and share our gifts, it gives us a shared identity. We’re all in this together, and we’re all part of this Church, and that helps us become disciples.”

She added that being asked by the pastor or the bishop for help, ideas and expertise “sets you up for a God moment.”

“That’s a time when someone says in their heart, ‘I’m lis-

tening, God, and I now know you have something for me to do,’” she stated.

Connie Hesse, chair of the diocesan School Advisory Council, said the council members stay focused on the big picture — helping ensure our Catholic education is thriving in our diocese.

“We’re not there to make decisions about personnel or the number of students in the classroom,” she said. “We’re an umbrella group that provides information to the bishop and the school superintendent to help them make good decisions.”

### Decisions via discernment

Bishop McKnight is the president of most of these councils and commissions and presides over their meetings.

He noted that the most impactful decisions pertaining to the Church are often the result of good discernment and the counsel of others.

Discernment is a deliberate process of praying and listening and trying to understand what the Holy Spirit desires for the people at a particular time, under the current circumstances.

## MAKING CONNECTIONS

From page 1

these structures are never merely advisory when they function well. They are concrete expressions of lay participation in the governance of the parish and diocese, helping to ensure that pastors fulfill their responsibilities wisely and effectively.

The richness of this shared mission is also visible in every Mass we celebrate. The lector proclaims the Word, the cantor lifts our voices in song, and the faithful actively participate in prayer and worship, as the priest presides over the sacred mysteries with the deacons as his assistants, each with their own roles marked out in the rubrics.

This liturgical expression of the Church’s diverse charisms reflects the “co-responsible” harmony in which she is meant to function in all aspects of her mission.

The Church is neither solely the clergy nor solely the laity — it is the whole People of God, working and worshipping together as one.

Understanding co-responsibility also means recognizing that not every initiative must originate from the bishop, priest or deacon. Through Baptism and Confirmation, the laity are empowered — and indeed obligated — to seek new ways to draw others closer to God. However, whatever new initiatives the laity take on,

“It’s not about the assertion of one’s will. It’s about discerning the will of the Holy Spirit,” he said.

Individuals with particular gifts, talents, abilities and education pertaining to the issue being discerned are given greater responsibility in the process.

Colleen Abbott, chair of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, said prayerfully deliberating with a focus on listening tends not to come naturally to people in modern society.

“I think we’d rather say, ‘Here’s the data, we’ll make a decision, move forward and do better,’” she stated. “But, this thing of slowing down and being very prayerful and getting a collection of voices and really listening to them — those are things we really need.”

“We have to always be willing to enter into conversations where we’re not always comfortable,” she stated.

All of this takes place within a constant framework of prayerful openness and respect for the communion of the Church and all that is sacred.

“We’re always asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and to discern the will of

the Holy Spirit,” said Bishop McKnight. “And God is always with us, even in those hard-to-resolve pastoral difficulties, in our local parishes, whether it’s over money or whatever else, God has a will.”

That will can be discerned through deliberately humble and prayerful openness.

“I think when we approach council meetings with a mentality that it’s a meeting just like any other meetings we’re tempted to let our own opinions and agendas take over,” said Mary Madelyn Mertes, one of the young adult chairs of the diocesan Youth Advisory Council.

“But we’re primarily there to listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the way he wants to lead the diocese as a whole,” she said. “So, it’s not critical that all these moments or conclusions are rooted in our personal relationships with the Lord, so that we’re listening for his voice and looking where he wants to look and in listening to our council members and where the Spirit is leading them.”

For more information about diocesan councils and commissions, visit:

[diojeffcity.org/councils](http://diojeffcity.org/councils)

they must always be exercised in communion with the Church.

Some may mistakenly interpret co-responsibility as a form of democratization. But a better way to understand it is an invitation to deeper engagement, where the wisdom and experience of the laity enrich the Church’s governance and mission.

Co-responsibility does not dilute the apostolic authority of the clergy but strengthens it, ensuring that no priest or bishop carries the weight of leadership alone.

As we strive to embody this vision of co-responsibility, I encourage every member of the Church to recognize and embrace his or her own gifts, talents, charisms and responsibilities within the Church with greater joy, zeal and commitment.

I call on the laity not to hesitate to offer your gifts for the good of the Church, perhaps in new ways.

I call on our priests and deacons to recognize and welcome these gifts of the laity with gratitude and to shepherd them into active participation with encouragement.

By doing so, the parishes of the Diocese of Jefferson City will more fully realize the Church’s mission as a living, vibrant communion of faith.





By Father Donald Antweiler

## ACROSS

1. There are more than 7,500 caves in Mo., with over two dozen that are \_\_\_\_ or "show" caves (i.e., with regular tours for the public).
10. "In 40 hours I shall be in battle with little information and on the \_\_\_\_ of the moment will have to make the most momentous decisions," —General George Patton.
14. "And the dish ran away with the \_\_\_\_," —from the nursey rhyme "Hey Diddle Diddle." It's the source of the expression "over the moon" meaning "delighted, thrilled."
15. Onondaga is a designated National Natural Landmark, hosting some of the most \_\_\_\_ and majestic cave-formed mineral deposits in the world.
16. The word "Father" when addressing a priest in Paris.
17. Past tense with verbs ending in the letter "y," like cry or try. Or, letters for Improvised Explosive Devices.
18. "Let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and \_\_\_\_," (1 Thessalonians 5:6).
20. Cat chat.
23. Prefix for form or feat.
25. Restaurant list.
27. Letters for Rural Free Delivery; began in 1896. Before, rural residents had to pick up mail at the post office. Also, the name of a TV cable channel.
28. "I can calculate the \_\_\_\_ of heavenly bodies, but not the madness of people," —Isaac Newton.
30. Paradise.
31. "It was a whole race trying to \_\_\_\_ to school... Few were too young, and none too old, to make the attempt to learn..." —*Up From Slavery* (1901) by Booker T. Washington in *100 Christian Books That*
32. Country singer Greenwood, actor Marvin, or assassin Harvey Oswald.
33. Onondaga Cave has been captivating tourists for 120 \_\_\_\_, drawing 20,000 visitors annually.
36. "Christ's presence under the Eucharistic species is unique...the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained. This presence is called '\_\_\_\_.'" —*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1374
39. "For the longest while there was nothing but the mild stirring of the air, like a whispering in his \_\_\_\_." But then he did hear something. Or did he?" —*The March*, by E.L. Doctorow.
42. Among Onondaga's features are the Lily Pad room, the Liberty Bell formation, the Big Room and its \_\_\_\_ river upon which visitors can embark on guided boat tours.
45. Bosc, Bartlett and Anjou.
46. Comparative suffix.
47. Cow comment.
48. Package delivery company.
49. A series of intravenous lines (needles or tubes) into a person's veins.
51. \_\_\_\_ Lanka; island nation off the east coast of India.
53. Onondaga tours are "the oldest and most \_\_\_\_ in Mo. State Parks," —Mo. State Park director David Kelly.
55. "Blind guides, who strain out the \_\_\_\_ and swallow the camel!" (Matthew 23:24).
57. "They found Seth Hubbard where he had promised to be, though not exactly in the condition expected. He was at the end of \_\_\_\_, six feet off the ground, twisting slightly in the wind," —*Sycamore Row* by John Grisham (2 wds.).
59. Related to Rd. or St.
60. This border State of Mo. is home to the only public diamond mine in the U.S. (abbr.)
62. Letters for Unified Numbering System (\_\_\_\_), used to identify alloys and ensure quality in the metals industry.
63. "One of the funny things about the stock market is that every time one person
- buys, another sells, and both think they are \_\_\_\_," —William Feather.
65. Baby Moses's mother put him in the river in a basket daubed with "bitumen and pitch" (Exodus 2:3) which were thick, black petroleum-based substances which we know as \_\_\_\_.
67. "On Oct. 28, 1958, Cardinal Roncalli was elected (Pope John XXIII). He had feared this, had wished that it would not be so, but in the \_\_\_\_, his lifelong trust in God didn't fail him," —clues from *My Life with the Saints* by James Martin, S.J.
68. This State is the home of Dollywood and the Country Music Hall of Fame (abbr.).
69. Onondaga Cave State Park was established in 1982 and includes cave tours, hiking, camping, fishing, picnicking and \_\_\_\_.
70. Very angry.
73. Letters for Emotional Intelligence (\_\_\_\_); the ability to recognize and deal skillfully with one's own emotions and those of others.
74. "The Incan meat drying method, called "jerky" by us, is \_\_\_\_ of the few words derived from Quechua, their language," —*Indian Givers: How the Native Americans Transformed the World*, by Jack Weatherford.
75. Arthur Ashe played his sport on a \_\_\_\_ (2 wds.).
76. "Cast the \_\_\_\_ over the right side of the boat and you will find something," (John 21:6).
7. This border State of Mo. has the only capitol in the U.S. with 5 domes, including a central golden dome (abbr.).
8. St. John Vianney, the Cure (Pastor) of \_\_\_\_, is the patron saint of priests.
9. This is the name of a constellation in the sky, the 5th sign of the zodiac, and the name of 13 popes.
10. "\_\_\_\_ Salvi"; "Saved in Hope"; the title of Pope Benedict XVI's second encyclical in 2007.
11. "(Vegas) is a hideous, gaudy place; it may not be the end of the world \_\_\_\_ se, but you can certainly see it from there," —Robin Williams.
12. Abraham's ancestral city.
13. Prefix for main or ward.
19. Male sibling.
20. The \_\_\_\_ Opera in St. Louis's Forest Park is the oldest and largest outdoor musical theater venue in the nation, seating over 11,000 with 1,500 free seats for every show, since 1917.
21. There are 78 main \_\_\_\_ in the human body; 5 considered vital — brain, lungs, heart, liver and kidneys.
22. Home State of Mt. Rushmore (abbr.).
23. Female deer.
24. Dir. from St. Joseph Parish in Pilot Grove to St. Joseph Parish in Louisiana, Mo.
25. The judge tended to \_\_\_\_ out justice rather harshly in his sentencing.
26. Chemical letters for the gas Neon.
28. "There is a place where beauty and terror \_\_\_\_, and it's at the cross," —Scott Derrickson.
29. A recent long awaited \$2.1 million lighting project delights Onondaga visitors with a greater enjoyable \_\_\_\_ of cave formations and natural beauty, as well as reducing invasive algae growth.
34. At 3.8 million sq. miles, 7% of the world's land, this is the second smallest continent, just a tad bigger than Australia.
35. "And now Lord...enable your \_\_\_\_ to speak your word with all boldness..." (Acts 4:29).
37. Makes mistakes.
38. In medicine, letters for Adverse Outcome (i.e., not good news).
40. Short for a smart phone "application."
41. My French tutor insisted that I will be able to \_\_\_\_ fluent French in two weeks! (2 wds.)
43. "They had midnight Mass there last Christmas, but they held it at noon because, of course \_\_\_\_ one went out at night at that time unless they were suicidal," —*People of the Book*, Geraldine Brooks.
44. "It is assumed that soldiers suffer during a war, but these journals show what war can \_\_\_\_ to civilians," —Dick descendant Gari

CLUES continued on page 21



## CLUES

From page 20

- Carter in *"Troubled State [of Mo.]: Civil War Journals of Franklin Archibald Dick.*
48. Letters that represent America; also a cable TV channel.
49. "Tis better to bear the \_\_\_\_\_ we have than fly to others we know not of," — "Hamlet," Shakespeare.
50. A golden ager (abbr.).
52. Letters for Right Guard, a position in football.
54. "Rickman was the top priority so other \_\_\_\_\_ got kicked (aside)..." — *The Last Man*, by Vince Flynn
56. "I was in peace, but he dislodged me...He has set me up for a \_\_\_\_\_," (Job 16:12); or, one of the largest discount retailers in the U.S.
58. "...so that my boast...may be that I did not \_\_\_\_\_ in vain..." (Philippians 2:16).
60. I asked for Chiefs tickets on \_\_\_\_\_ lower than the nose-bleed section (2 wds.).
61. The prisoner wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ most of his paltry salary from his kitchen job to
- his family.
63. "From the vantage point (of the belltower) we saw the city of Milan at our feet, its numerous inhabitants milling around like so many \_\_\_\_\_," — *Story of a Soul*; autobiography of St. Thérèse of Lisieux
64. The Univ. of Washington (\_\_\_\_) in Seattle is one of the oldest universities on the West Coast, founded in 1861.
66. Grandmother of Jesus.
67. "You are free to \_\_\_\_\_ from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and bad," (Genesis 2:16-17).
68. Mai \_\_\_\_\_; fruity rum cocktail.
71. Licensed care-giver.
72. Letters for European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union. It is currently a 27-member cabinet gov't. including the President.

See ANSWERS, page 23

## Seventh Grade Scholar Bowl



Seventh-graders from Catholic schools throughout the Jefferson City diocese take part in the inaugural diocesan Seventh Grade Scholar Bowl event Feb. 7 in the St. Joseph Cathedral School Gym in Jefferson City.

— Photos by Annie Williams

## SCHOLAR BOWL

From page 4

Father Paul Clark, chaplain at Helias Catholic High School and diocesan director of vocations and seminarians, brought tunes and energy.

"We did dances like the 'Cupid Shuffle' and the 'Church Clap,'" Thatcher recalled.

After lunch came the Scholar Bowl championship round. Mrs. Shively cajoled the audience to raise a ruckus for both of the finalist teams.

"Four teams, down to two, down to one," Thatcher noted.

Afterward, Mrs. Shively summoned each of the teams forward to receive their certificates amidst prodigious cheering and applause.

Colorful balloons rained down on the members of Team D, the victors.

"It was wonderful," said Gina Bailey, principal of St. Joseph Cathedral School.

"The kids were really well behaved," she said. "I think they had a great time getting together, getting to see each other.

"The students demonstrated virtues we strive to instill: perseverance, humility and respect for one another," Mrs. Bailey continued. "Each question was an opportunity to embrace the gifts God has given them and to use their knowledge to honor him.

"It was clear his guiding hand was with us today through their enthusiasm and the spirit of teamwork and sportsmanship displayed," she stated. "It was an awesome day!"

## Not just answers

Erin Polson, principal of St. Peter School in Fulton, said the event's organizers wanted to get students from many schools together to help expand their circles of acquaintance.

"We just like to have them get out and spend some time together outside the class, building those friendships," she said. "Seeing some other faces and building up camaraderie, some social skills, some public speaking skills."

St. Peter School's representative and a five-member cheering squad practiced

ahead of time at school to get used to answering questions quickly.

"I enjoyed watching the students sitting in the crowd, whispering answers to each other, seeing which ones they could get right," said Mrs. Polson.

Leroy Heckemeyer, principal of St. Thomas the Apostle School in St. Thomas, was happy to see the seventh-graders interacting and thriving in such an environment.

"Learning about teamwork when they get to rebound on those questions — that's important," he said.

"And just gaining self-confidence themselves — even when you're out in the audience, you're thinking, 'Hey! I know the answer to this one!'" he said. "It's a good chance for them to pat themselves on the back a bit."

Mrs. Polson said God was present and making himself well known throughout the event.

"I think he's helping them move outside their comfort zone a little bit," she said. "They're making those face-to-face interactions, learning how to talk to each other outside of a screen, seeing that as a diocese, we're able to get together and build these relationships and see beyond ourselves," she said.

Mr. Heckemeyer agreed.

"I believe God is here, encouraging them to have a good time and meet a lot of different people," he said.

"He was with us at lunch, too," Mr. Heckemeyer added. "You could tell with the kids interacting with a lot of different people they don't normally see. It was nice to watch that."

Lisa Grellner, principal of St. George School in Linn, said the day was an impressive mix of well-behaved young Catholics.

"I think it's a testament to our diocese that we have this many young people together, having fun, having fellowship, knowing they worship the same God and that he was here watching over us today," she said.

Sara Hooley, principal of Holy Family School in Han-

nibal, said diocesan events such as these are an important experience for Catholic school students, especially in such a geographically vast diocese as this.

"Any time our kids get to spend time with other Catholic school students their age and interact with them is a good thing," she said.

## Give God the glory

Erin Vader Ed.D., diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools, praised the principals who put in the time and effort to make events such as the Seventh Grade Scholar Bowl happen.

"It's such a joyful way for these kids to experience what it is to be Church," she said.

"Having experiences like Sixth Grade Vocation Day, the Seventh Grade Scholar Bowl and the Eighth Grade Mass help our students understand their place within the larger Church," she stated.

Was God a part of all of this?

"Absolutely!" said Dr. Vader. "God was here watching our students use the talents he gave them, to compete in a joyful, respectful way and to give all the glory to him."

## Go in peace

Thatcher offered some advice to participants in next year's Scholar Bowl:

"Don't overthink the answers," he counseled. "I did that a couple of times, thinking the questions were meaning more than they did. They didn't!"

Jacob advised cultivating general knowledge in a lot of areas.

"It's random questions, not just one subject," he noted.

Mrs. Shively closed out the Scholar Bowl by leading the students in cheers for the event's organizers, followed by a prayer:

"Good and gracious God, we thank you so much for this opportunity to join together and just have fun in your name. We thank you for these students who represented their schools today so well. Please continue to bless us and help us do your work and be your hands and feet."



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

Feb. 22

**Sedalia**, St. Vincent de Paul Parish annual ham & bean dinner, 11 am-6 pm, St. Patrick Chapel basement

Feb. 23

**Freeburg**, K of C country ham breakfast, 6:30-11 am, Holy Family School cafeteria; **Jefferson City**, St. Peter Parish Holy Name Society pancake & sausage breakfast, 7:30-11:30 am, Selinger Centre

Feb. 28

**Loose Creek**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, Immaculate Conception School

Mar. 1

**Columbia**, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish Mardi Gras Festival, 11 am-3 pm; **Montgomery City**, Immaculate Conception Mardi Gras Celebration, 6-11 pm, K of C Hall

Mar. 2

**Fayette**, St. Joseph Parish pancake & sausage breakfast, 7:30 am-noon; **Jefferson City**, Immaculate Conception Parish Holy Name Society pancake & sausage breakfast, 7:30 am-noon

Mar. 7

**Fulton**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm, St. Peter School gym; **Holts Summit**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm, St. Andrew Parish's Veit Hall; **Jefferson City**, Bishop McAuliffe K of C/Boy Scout Troop 104 fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall; **Linn**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm,

St. George Parish; **Morrison**, Assumption Parish fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Russellville**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Michael Parish Hall; **Taos**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm

Mar. 14

**Chamois**, Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish seafood buffet, 4-7:30 pm, parish hall; **Fayette**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, St. Joseph Parish Hall; **Holts Summit**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm, St. Andrew Parish's Veit Hall; **Taos**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm

Mar. 16

**Starkenburg**, Church of the Risen Savior Parish men's organization breakfast, 7-11 am, Valentine Hall

Mar. 21

**Columbia**, Sacred Heart K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School; **Fulton**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm, St. Peter School gym; **Holts Summit**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm, St. Andrew Parish's Veit Hall; **Jefferson City**, Bishop McAuliffe K of C/Boy Scout Troop 104 fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall; **Russellville**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Michael Parish Hall; **Wardsville**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Stanislaus/St. Margaret Community Center; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm

Mar. 25

**Jefferson City**, Vitae Foundation's Don & Ruth Ann Schnieders annual pro-life event, with keynote Seth Dillon, luncheon & program noon-1:30 pm, dinner program 6:30-9

pm, Capitol Plaza Hotel, for info or to register, visit [vitae-foundation.org/events](http://vitae-foundation.org/events)

Mar. 28

**Columbia**, Sacred Heart K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School; **Fayette**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, St. Joseph Parish Hall; **Holts Summit**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm, St. Andrew Parish's Veit Hall; **Jefferson City**, Bishop McAuliffe K of C/Boy Scout Troop 104 fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall; **Loose Creek**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, Immaculate Conception School; **Taos**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm

## Meetings & Conferences

Every Tuesday

**Jefferson City**, Divorced Catholics group, 6:30-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Emmaus Room

**Every Wednesday & Saturday**  
**Jefferson City**, 12-Step Meetings, 7-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Emmaus Room

Feb. 27, Mar. 6, 13

**Jefferson City**, "Seasons of Hope," grief support group meeting, 6:15 pm, St. Peter Parish

Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27

**Camdenton**, "Catholics Returning Home" meeting, 6:30-8 pm, St. Anthony Parish Education Building

Mar. 9

**Camdenton**, Ultreya for Cursil-

lo, 2-4 pm, St. Anthony Parish

Mar. 25

**Jefferson City**, Vitae Foundation's Don & Ruth Ann Schnieders annual pro-life event, with keynote Seth Dillon, luncheon & program noon-1:30 pm, dinner program 6:30-9 pm, Capitol Plaza Hotel, for info or to register, visit [vitae-foundation.org/events](http://vitae-foundation.org/events)

## Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

febrero 23

**Lake Ozark**, Protección de los niños de Dios para adultos (sesión de Virtus), 1-3:30 pm, Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Lago, 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](mailto: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](mailto:jimkemna@gmail.com)

Every Friday

**Jefferson City**, Centering Prayer Group, 2-3 pm, Emmaus Room, Immaculate Conception Parish

Feb. 22

**Rolla**, St. Patrick Parish Stewardship Retreat, 8 am-3 pm, St. Patrick School Gym

Mar. 3

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

Mar. 4

**Laurie**, St. Patrick & St. Philip Benizi parishes Women's Ministry Fat Tuesday breakfast, with speaker Trish Lutz, 9-11 am, St. Leo Hall

Mar. 9

**Jefferson City**, Diocesan Rite of Election, 3-5 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph

Mar. 14-15

**Jefferson City**, "Living in the Trinity with Mary" marriage retreat led by the Marianist Retreat Center presenters, Cathedral of St. Joseph, to register visit [diojeffcity.org/marriage-retreat](http://diojeffcity.org/marriage-retreat)

Mar. 16

**Krakow**, Lenten Mission with Tony Melendez, 1-4 pm, St. Gertrude Parish

Mar. 21-23

**Conception, MO**, Encountering Christ silent retreat for women, for info visit [conceptionabbey.org/guests/upcoming-retreats](http://conceptionabbey.org/guests/upcoming-retreats)

Mar. 22

**Jefferson City**, "A Taste of Silence...Finding Quiet in Our Lives," morning retreat led by Fr. Matthew Flatley, 8-10:45 am, with Mass, fellowship, Scripture exploration and reflection

Mar. 23

**Wardsville**, "HerStory" women's day of reflection, hosted by Arise Women's Ministry of Jefferson City, 1-4:30 pm, St. Stanislaus/St. Margaret Community Center, for info or to register visit [tinyurl.com/3vzrwbd8](http://tinyurl.com/3vzrwbd8) or email [registerariseevent@gmail.com](mailto:registerariseevent@gmail.com)

## Liturgical

Mar. 7

**Columbia**, Mary's Way of the Cross, sponsored by Mid-Missouri Cursillo, 7-8 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Mar. 9

**Jefferson City**, Diocesan Rite of Election, 3-5 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph

Mar. 11

**Starkenburg**, Second Tuesday Mass, with the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 11 am, Rosary 11:40 am, Angelus and Mass at noon, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, followed by luncheon in Valentine Hall

Mar. 28-29

**Laurie**, 24 Hours for the Lord in the Jubilee Year of Hope, opening Mass Fri. 9 am, Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, closing Mass Sat. 9 am, St. Patrick Parish's St. Michael Chapel, for info visit [mothersshrine.com](http://mothersshrine.com)

## Youth & Young Adults

**First Wednesdays each month**  
**Jefferson City**, Rooted/Connected/Searching in Community young adult group, 5-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info visit [icangels.com/youngadults](http://icangels.com/youngadults)



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## QUESTION

From page 8

By the same token, we should avoid forming negative judgments about our brothers and sisters in Christ based on how they receive Holy Communion. Those who choose to receive on their knees are not necessarily doing so because they think they are "more Catholic than the pope;" rather, it is more charitable to assume that those who kneel are expressing a genuine Eucharistic piety in a way straightforwardly permitted by law.

Likewise, those who receive standing are not less devout, less respectful or less in awe of the great gift of the sacrament. They are simply receiving in the ordinary, customary way for their country.

*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](mailto:CatholicQA@osv.com).*



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](http://diojeffcity.org/update-information)

## Anniversaries

St. Martins, St. Martin  
 Bob & Anne Hackman, 50 years

Tipton, St. Andrew  
 Joe & Jennifer Huhmann, 35 years

## Baptisms

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Ryleigh Jo Abbott**, daughter of Ryan & Makenzie Abbott

## Birthdays

Indian Grove, St. Raphael — **James Speichinger**, his 92nd on Feb. 17

St. Elizabeth, St. Lawrence — **Mary Ann Lindenbusch**, her 97th on Feb. 5;  
**Cyrella Doerhoff**, her 102nd on Feb. 23

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Norma Ullman**, her 95th on Feb. 13

Tipton, St. Andrew — **Leo Schollmeyer**, his 90th on Feb. 13

## Deaths

Sister **Judith** (formerly **Sister Mary Lourdes**) **Best SSND**, 84 — a School Sister of Notre Dame who served as director of spiritual renewal of the laity for the Jefferson City diocese from 1981-87 — on Jan. 9 at the Trinity Woods community in Milwaukee, WI. A Memorial Mass was offered for her on Jan. 21 at Trinity Woods. Burial was in the SSND cemetery in Elm Grove, WI.

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Patricia Steinman**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Norris Kruse**

Indian Grove, St. Raphael — **Wayne Reigelsberger**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Mary Alice Thater**

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Martha Strobe**

## CALDAROLA

From page 9

Salvador murdered St. Oscar Romero as he offered Mass. Later that year, El Salvador's military abducted, raped and murdered three U.S. nuns and a lay worker. Blessed Father Stanley Rother, another American farm boy now on his way to sainthood, was assassinated inside his Guatemalan rectory in 1981.

But there are countless others, thousands of Central American citizens who were persecuted either because they were poor, or because they were fulfilling the Gospel mandate to serve the poor.

In 1982, only months after arriving in Huehuetenango, James Miller joined this group of martyrs. When men came to kill him, he was repairing a school wall in broad daylight with people milling about. He was brazenly gunned down by assailants who appeared to flee

to the local police station.

In his final letter home, Brother James asked for prayers for Guatemala.

"The level of personal violence here is reaching appalling proportions ... and the Church is being persecuted because of its option for the poor and oppressed. The Indian population of Guatemala, caught defenseless between the Army and rebel forces ... is taking the brunt of this violence."

We pray for Central America. We remember Brother James on Feb. 13, the anniversary of his martyrdom, and pray for a miracle to advance his cause for canonization.

*Effie Caldarola is a wife, mom and grandmother who received her master's degree in pastoral studies from Seattle University.*

## STUART WOLFE

From page 9

began playing the clarinet as a child, then quickly moved to the violin. He was considered a young musical prodigy. Working as a cigar-maker to earn his passage to Europe, Dédé enjoyed a successful music career in France. He composed many pieces of classical music and is the first African American to compose a full-scale opera. "Music from Morgiane" debuted in 2025 at St. Louis Cathedral, where Dédé was baptized.

Homère Plessy (1862–1925), a French-speaking free man of color, grew up during Reconstruction, when Louisiana schools were racially integrated, Black men were able to vote, interracial marriage was legal, and more than 200 Black men held elected office. A lifelong member of St. August-

tine Catholic Church, Plessy became politically active when Louisiana began passing Jim Crow legislation. Plessy challenged segregation laws with an act of civil disobedience. He is best known as the unsuccessful plaintiff in the famous Supreme Court decision Plessy v. Ferguson which established the "separate but equal" legal doctrine that was ultimately overturned in 1954.

The lives of these four free, Black, French-speaking Catholics from 19th-century New Orleans are worthy of our attention. The nobility of their enduring contributions to American society, despite the difficulties they faced as people of color, is nothing less than miraculous.

*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.*

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## BUILDING

From page 6

"We all have different gifts and talents to serve the Lord and his Church," said Father Jason Doke, Building Commission Chair. "So, when we gather as a commission, we can all contribute our gifts and talents to make something that's complete."

"When we do that, we can better serve the needs of the Church, and we get a better result," said Fr. Doke.



Rev. Jeremy A. Secrist; Chris Yarnell; STAFF: Brad Copeland, Director of Buildings and Properties

## IMMIGRATION

From page 3

"We also turn to the People of God to ask their mercy and generosity in supporting the Catholic Relief Services national collection this Lent as well as the 'on the ground' work of local Catholic Charities organizations so that the

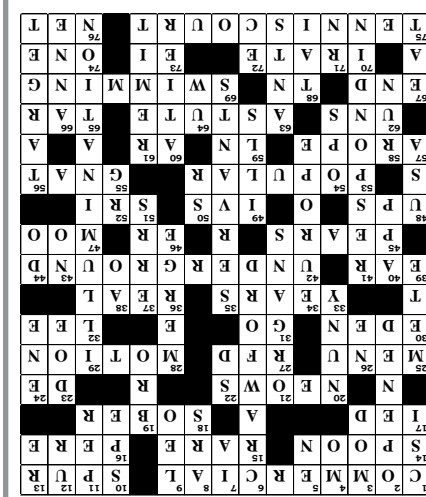
void might be filled with the efforts of all," he said.

*Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.*

**"The laity are gathered together in the People of God and make up the Body of Christ under one head. Whoever they are they are called upon, as living members, to expend all their energy for the growth of the Church and its continuous sanctification, since this very energy is a gift of the Creator and a blessing of the Redeemer."**

— "Lumen Gentium," Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Second Vatican Council

## Crossword puzzle answers





## A salute to priestly, religious vocations



Students of Immaculate Conception School in Loose Creek celebrate their pastor, Father Tony Rinaldo, and Sister Bernita Wasinger on Vocation Day during Catholic Schools Week for serving out their vocations at Immaculate Conception Parish.

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

## Celebrating in style



Students and their grandparents celebrate Catholic Schools Week at Holy Family School in Hannibal.

— Photo from the Holy Family School - Hannibal Facebook page

## Help for the little ones



Students of St. Martin School in St. Martins prepare to deliver the baby items they collected throughout January to donate to the local Birthright affiliate.

— Photo from the St. Martin Catholic School - Jaguars Facebook page



Sixth-graders at St. George School in Hermann take up a collection at Mass on Jan. 22, a national day of prayer for pre-born children, to benefit the local Birthright affiliate. They collected \$668.26.

— Photo by Amy Schebaum

## A great day for a carnival!



Students of St. Joseph School in Martinsburg enjoy this year's Mission Carnival, a time-honored tradition.

— Photo by Sheri Arens

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## Bible Accent

King Saul tried to kill David several times. How did David always manage to escape unharmed?

Not only was God with David and protecting him, but God also used other people in David's life to help keep him safe.

Two of those people were very close to Saul.

In 1 Samuel 18, we read that Michal, Saul's daughter, was in love with David. Saul noticed and thought he could use this to his advantage, so Saul asked David to marry Michal.

One day, Saul and his men went to David and Michal's house to kill David. Michal helped David escape through a window and made their bed look like David was under the covers. When Saul and his men came into the house, she said that David was sick and in bed. It didn't take very long for the men to discover Michal's trick, but it gave David enough time to escape.

The other person was Saul's son Jonathan. In 1 Samuel 18, we read that when David and Jonathan first met, they instantly became friends.

Whenever Jonathan learned that Saul was plotting to kill David, Jonathan would try to talk his father out of it and also would warn David so David could escape to safety.

## St. Joseph



St. Joseph was the husband of Mary and the earthly father of Jesus. He was a carpenter, and he also was a relative of King David. Joseph is a model of humility and obedience to God's will. He followed God's instructions that had been given by angels in dreams. In his first dream, he was told to take the pregnant Mary into his home as his wife. Right after Jesus was born, he was warned in a dream to protect Mary and the baby by fleeing to Egypt. On Dec. 8,

2020, Pope Francis proclaimed a yearlong celebration to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Joseph being declared patron of the Universal Church. We remember Joseph on March 19.

## David refuses to kill King Saul, who was anointed by God

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic Courier

King Saul of Israel did not follow God's will, so God decided to find a new king.

He told his prophet, Samuel, to anoint David, a young shepherd from Bethlehem, as Saul's eventual replacement.

When God turned away from Saul, the king was tormented by an evil spirit. David entered Saul's service and soothed him by playing a harp.

Saul approved of David at first but eventually became jealous of him. When the king saw that God had turned from him but was with David, Saul feared David as well.

King Saul started plotting to kill David, forcing David to flee for his life.

One day, Saul took 3,000 men to the desert of Ziph to look for David. David had been living in the wilderness and saw that Saul had come after him.

David went to look at the camp. He saw Saul lying with-in the camp with the rest of his men around him.

"Who will go down into the camp with me to Saul?" David asked two of his men.

Abishai, David's nephew, volunteered to go. He and David went to the camp during the night.

The two men saw King Saul fast asleep. He had thrust his spear into the ground near his head. Saul's general, Abner, and the soldiers were sleeping



Illustration by Linda Rivers

all around him.

"God has delivered your enemy into your grasp this day. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I will not need a second thrust!" Abishai told David.

"Do not harm him, for who can lay hands on the Lord's anointed and remain unpunished?" David replied.

David took the spear and a water jug from near Saul's head, then he and Abishai left camp without anyone waking up or knowing they had been there, because God had put everyone into a deep sleep.

David then stood on a remote hilltop at a great distance from Abner and the troops.

"Here is the king's spear," David said. "Let an attendant come over to get it. The Lord will reward each man for his justice and faithfulness. Today, though the Lord delivered you into my grasp, I would not harm the Lord's anointed."

### Read more about it...

#### 1 Samuel 26

1. Who wanted to kill David?
2. What items did David take from Saul?



**Who was David's father?**  
(Hint: 1 Samuel 17:58)

Answer: Jesse of Bethlehem.



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## Puzzle

Unscramble the words and put them in the correct order to form a quotation from the children's story.

ton drols loudw marh i tonnadie het

Sentence:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Answers: not, Lord's, would, harm, I, anointed, the; I would not harm the Lord's anointed.



## 'The Chosen' actor says portraying an apostle rebooted his faith

By Jack Figge  
OSV News

In the past four years, the TV show "The Chosen" has taken the Catholic world by storm, as thousands eagerly await the debut of the fifth season.

"The Chosen" is a popular historical drama that follows the lives of Christ and his disciples. Produced by 5&2 Studios, a studio founded by the show's creator and director Dallas Jenkins, "The Chosen" is currently in its fourth season. The fifth season will be released in theaters across the country this March.

Through their participation in "The Chosen," many of the show's crew members and actors — including Jonathan Roumie, who portrays Jesus — have rediscovered faith.

One such actor is Giavani Cairo, who portrays Jude Thaddeus, one of the Twelve Apostles in the show.

Cairo was raised Catholic in Michigan, but he fell away from his faith.

"Growing up, the faith just seemed like it was something you just did," Cairo told OSV News. "You go through First



Director Dallas Jenkins and actor Jonathan Roumie, who plays Christ in the series "The Chosen," are pictured on the set from the upcoming Season 5.

— OSV News photo/The Chosen

Holy Communion and Confirmation, and then you go to church on the weekends. But I never felt like I had a relationship with Christ."

Cairo never wanted to become an actor until he took a class his senior year of high school.

Then, that is all that he could dream of doing.

"We needed a speech class to graduate, so I took an acting class," Cairo said. "I did not know if I would like it, but I found that it was a great way to express myself through it, and it gave me the desire to learn more about the acting business, and so I moved to LA."

"There, I just fell more in love with it and did more acting training," he said.

By 2018, though, Cairo was growing tired of the actor's life.

"In 2018, I had been in Los Angeles for a few years chasing this dream, but for the wrong reasons," Cairo said. "I wanted to be an actor so that I could

be on TV or could be in the spotlight, and it just wasn't fulfilling."

"I was missing family back home, and my relationship with them was deteriorating," he said. "I just wasn't talking to them as much and just feeling really lost."

While talking to a friend, she suggested that Cairo begin to volunteer in his free time and to set specific goals for that year.

Cairo began praying regularly again and within months was cast for a TV show.

"I made a pact to read the Bible every day. I started praying every day, even though I didn't think I was doing it right," Cairo said. "What is crazy is that about a few weeks before the new year I had auditioned for 'The Chosen' after I heard that they were looking

## Movie Ratings



General  
Patronage

Paddington in Peru (PG)



Adults and  
Adolescents

Dog Man (PG)



Adults

Back in Action (PG-13)  
Captain America: Brave New World (PG-13)  
A Complete Unknown (R)  
Flight Risk (R)  
Love Hurts (R)  
You're Cordially Invited (R)



Limited Adult  
Audience

Better Man (R)  
Wolf Man (R)



Morally  
Offensive

Den of Thieves 2: Pantera (R)  
Heart Eyes (R)  
Nosferatu (R)  
One of Them Days (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

for actors."

Initially, Cairo was hesitant to audition for "The Chosen." It was a low-budget production, and faith-based shows rarely succeed.

Yet he was so impressed by the writing and Jenkins' vision that he took a leap of faith and auditioned.

After a callback, Cairo had a memorable Skype call with Jenkins and other senior team members.

"Dallas told me that 'we don't know where we're going to put you, but we want you on board,'" Cairo said. "I was so excited because the two things I wanted most out of the year, which were to grow closer in my faith and to book a series, came true."

Acting in "The Chosen" has been a life-changing experience, he said.

"It has made me want to be a better person," he said. "My character that I portray, Thaddeus, is a peacemaker, and he really tries to see people for who they are and really wants

people to feel seen. That is the kind of friend I always wanted and always wanted to be growing up. So, what I've really learned is to really love people for who they are."

Like Cairo, many viewers find that they can relate to characters in the show. He said this was intentional, and it has helped the show to become popular with a large audience.

"If you watch the show, you start seeing pieces of yourself in them," he said. "You see Simon Peter getting frustrated or feeling like he's going to lose everything because they gave him taxes. You see Jesus laughing and cracking jokes at a wedding with his disciples. People feel that in person, we do these things with our friends. We relate to the characters."

When Cairo and the writers began discussing how to portray Thaddeus, also known as St. Jude, they had little to go on. Little is known about Thaddeus other than that he is

See CHOSEN, page 27

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## SCHOOLS

From page 18

priest reminded the congregants.

"And as the goal of making saints is a part of the parish, our school is vital to the handing on of the faith to these young people who are part of our families," he said.

He pointed out that a good Catholic school influences the entire community.

"Children here go on to do great things, in government, in the private sector and in the Church," he noted. "And it's here where the foundation is set."

St. Peter counts among its alumni one Missouri governor.

"There's no reason why it can't have two or three more in the future that is to come," said Msgr. Kurwicki.

He said that in every generation, a school needs two things to survive: children and money.

"That's your part," he told the congregation. "Over the years, you've supported the school greatly. And you need to continue to do so."

He said that by the time he retires as a pastor, he would like to see the school's enrollment double.

"But a pastor can't do that alone," he stated. "I need YOU to love this school. I need YOU to understand why we have a school. I need YOU to promote the school and



**Shane Kliethermes, a seminarian for the Jefferson City diocese, and Father Stephen Jones, pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, join the Spartan, mascot of St. Joseph Cathedral School, for a photo during Catholic Schools Week.**

— Photo by Gina Bailey

have your kids and grandkids and friends here."

He also asked everyone to pray daily for the students, teachers and staff of their Catholic school.

"Ask the Holy Spirit to bless all those who are teachers here," he appealed. "They're working to make your children and your grandchildren saints."

"And when they get to heaven, one by one, as saints, they'll hopefully intercede to Jesus for all of us," he said.

### Hope for the future

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight greeted the teachers and staff of the diocese's Catholic schools with a spe-

cial Jubilee year of Hope message at the beginning of Catholic Schools Week.

He spoke of the profound sense of hope that young people bring to this community.

"In their eyes, we see the promise of a brighter future, a future shaped by the values of faith, knowledge and service," the bishop stated.

He said that the dedicated educators and staff of the diocese's 37 Catholic grade schools, three Catholic high schools and one early childhood center are caretakers of that hope.

"Every lesson you teach, every obstacle you help a student overcome, and each

time you model our faith, it nurtures this hope and helps it grow," Bishop McKnight told them. "You are shaping not just minds but hearts — instilling in our young people the virtues that will carry them through life."

He said this Jubilee year is reminder to everyone that hope is a gift from God — "one that flourishes through your work in our schools."

"You are the architects of a hopeful tomorrow," the bishop stated.

There are about 7,000 students enrolled in Catholic schools in this diocese. A complete list of them can be found at: [diojeffcity.org/schools](http://diojeffcity.org/schools).

## CHOSEN

From page 26

a saint and that he seemed to be an observer. This gave Cairo the leeway to mold and craft the character to make him relatable.

"He's a little bit more quiet than a lot of the other disciples are; he is an observer, as I am, too," Cairo said. "But the one thing is, I didn't really have the confidence growing up to speak my mind or to stand up for others. But Thaddeus does. Through the show, Thaddeus is

teaching me how to be a better person to myself; therefore, I can be a better person to so many other people."

Over the course of the past seven years, "The Chosen" cast and crew have formed a tight-knit community as they try to portray the life of Christ, a community that Cairo will cherish forever.

"They have become my family, my brothers and my

sisters," he said. "We have gone through so many trials and so many wins together. We've laughed together; we've cried together. We shared wins and incredible moments. I just love these guys."

"The Chosen" season five will be released in theaters beginning in March, with a later release to "The Chosen" app for streaming. Even though the show is nearing Christ's death

and resurrection, Cairo knows that "The Chosen" will always remain relevant, as it tells the most timeless story.

"This is the most important story that's ever been told," he said. "We all know where this story is headed, but in the grand scheme of things, we all

have the responsibility to share it, and that will never end. This is just the very beginning of what we can do as disciples — to show one another love and to spread the Gospel."

*Jack Figge writes for OSV News from Kansas.*

## Daily Readings

### Sunday, Feb 23

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Sm. 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23  
Ps. 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13  
1 Cor. 15:45-49  
Lk. 6:27-38

### Monday, Feb 24

Sir. 1:1-10  
Ps. 93:1-2, 5  
Mk. 9:14-29

### Tuesday, Feb 25

Sir. 2:1-11  
Ps. 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40  
Mk. 9:30-37

### Wednesday, Feb 26

Sir. 4:11-19  
Ps. 119:165, 168, 171-172, 174-175  
Mk. 9:38-40

### Thursday, Feb 27

*St. Gregory of Narek, abbot and doctor of the Church*  
Sir. 5:1-8  
Ps. 1:1-4, 6  
Mk. 9:41-50

### Friday, Feb 28

Sir. 6:5-17  
Ps. 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34-35  
Mk. 10:1-12

### Saturday, Mar 1

Sir. 17:1-15  
Ps. 103:13-18  
Mk. 10:13-16

### Sunday, Mar 2

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sir. 27:4-7  
Ps. 92:2-3, 13-16  
1 Cor. 15:54-58  
Lk. 6:39-45

### Monday, Mar 3

*St. Katharine Drexel, virgin (USA)*  
Sir. 17:20-24  
Ps. 32:1-2, 5-7  
Mk. 10:17-27

### Tuesday, Mar 4

*St. Casimir*  
Sir. 35:1-12  
Psalm 50:5-8, 14, 23  
Mk. 10:28-31

### Wednesday, Mar 5

**Ash Wednesday**  
Jl. 2:12-18  
Ps. 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17  
2 Cor. 5:20-6:2  
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

### Thursday, Mar 6

Dt. 30:15-20  
Ps. 1:1-4, 6  
Lk. 9:22-25

### Friday, Mar 7

*Ss. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs*  
Is. 58:1-9a  
Ps. 51:3-6ab, 18-19  
Mt. 9:14-15

### Saturday, Mar 8

*St. John of God, religious*  
Is. 58:9b-14  
Ps. 86:1-6  
Lk. 5:27-32

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

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life  
Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

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

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

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and resurrection, Cairo knows that "The Chosen" will always remain relevant, as it tells the most timeless story.

"This is the most important story that's ever been told," he said. "We all know where this story is headed, but in the grand scheme of things, we all





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Curbside carry-out \$14/person

## Camdenton: Catholics Returning Home

St. Anthony Parish in Camdenton will host a Catholics Returning Home series of gatherings on six Thursdays from March 6 to April 10 to welcome inactive Catholics back to the Church.

Meetings will be from 6:30

to 8 p.m. in the Education Center at St. Anthony Church, 1874 N. Business Route 5.

Meetings are friendly and informal, with no pressure.

For information, call the parish office at 573-346-2716 or Tracy at 573-480-6886.

**Pancake & Sausage  
BREAKFAST**  
St. Peter Holy Name Society  
Selinger Centre  
**Jefferson City**  
**Sunday, February 23**  
7:30-11:30 am  
\$10 for adults - \$5 under 12 - \$30 family (3+kids)

**Holy Name Society  
PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST**  
Adults \$10  
Children 5-12 \$5  
Age 4 & under FREE  
Carryouts available  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 2** from 7:30 am to noon  
Bring your family  
and friends!  
Immaculate Conception Parish, Kertz Hall  
**Jefferson City**  
A portion of the proceeds go to the "Visioning IC" project.

FINDING **HOPE** IN SUFFERING  
2025 WOMEN'S MINISTRY  
SPRING PILGRIMAGE  
APRIL 5  
9:30 A.M. — 3:30 P.M.  
COST: \$15; LUNCH IS PROVIDED  
SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS  
197 STATE HWY P, RHINELAND, MO  
WITH  
GUEST SPEAKER  
MARY LENABURG  
REGISTER TODAY AT  
[diojeffcity.org/wm-spring-pilgrimage-registration](http://diojeffcity.org/wm-spring-pilgrimage-registration)  
DIOCESE OF  
Jefferson City

Knights of Columbus Council 8400  
**HOLTS SUMMIT  
Fish Fry  
Dinners**  
Fridays  
**March 7, 14, 21 & 28**  
Served  
4 - 7 pm  
Voted "Best Mid-MO  
Fish Fry" in 2023 by  
News Tribune readers  
4 Fish Frys this year  
Don't miss  
a single one!  
USA FARM-RAISED CATFISH  
baked potatoes, slaw,  
baked beans, french fries,  
cornbread, dessert & drinks  
Dine-in — Adults \$16 / Kids 5-12 \$7  
4 & under Free  
Carryouts \$14  
ST. ANDREW CHURCH — Use Center Street exit and follow signs