

Remembering Fr. Tolton during the Jubilee of Hope

The co-postulator of Missouri native Fr. Augustus Tolton's sainthood cause will lead a pilgrimage to related sites on April 14.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

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Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

“With grace in still greater measure”



People seeking Easter Sacraments gather with Bishop McKnight in Cathedral for Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

By Jay Nies

Coey Chrisman had been going to Mass with her dad and her grandma her whole life.

But she'd never been baptized.

“It's a great honor to finally take that step and be welcomed into the Church and proclaim my faith and be forgiven,” said Ms. Chrisman, who's preparing for Baptism and full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil at Immaculate Conception Parish in Brookfield.

She was one of 130 catechumens and 136 candidates for full communion with the Church who gathered in the Cathedral of St. Joseph with their families, their parish initiation teams and Bishop W. Shawn McKnight on Mar. 9 for the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion.

“I'm really grateful for this opportunity and the grace of God,” said Ms. Chrisman, who's also preparing to be married in July.

Traveling from Linn County to Jefferson City with her and Sister Mary Rost SSND, pastoral associate at the Brookfield parish, was William Tschannan, who is becoming a member of St. Bonaventure Parish in Marceline.

Baptized and raised in a Christian faith community, Mr. Tschannan didn't know much about Catholicism until he and his wife, Megan, began dating and going to Mass together.

Over time, he wanted to know more.

See INITIATE, page 14

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Bishop W. Shawn McKnight greets a woman preparing to receive Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, during the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, on March 9 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

— Photo by Jay Nies

Lenten Appeal: Helping Catholic Charities create hope in the Jubilee Year

Additional information can be found on Page 10

By Jay Nies

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO) is hard at work offering hope to individuals and helping parishes become the centers of charity and sanctuaries of mercy that the imitation of Christ compels them to be.

The Catholic Charities Lent 2025 Appeal is an important opportunity to help.

“As Catholics, we are called to treat the most vulnerable among us with respect and dignity,” Bishop W. Shawn McKnight pointed out in a letter promoting this year's Lenten Appeal.

“In order to continue to meet the needs of our communi-

ty, it takes all of us in our diocese to make a sacrifice for our Catholic mission,” he wrote.

He observed that many people in these 38 counties — including parishioners and their neighbors — are suffering and would benefit from the Church's Lenten prayers, fasting and alms.

He asked for people to consider making a one-time or recurring monthly gift to help Catholic Charities continue providing crucial assistance to people need.

Contributions can be made online at: cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/give.

“Catholic Charities serves the poorest and most vulnerable, regardless of religion, race or socioeconomic status,” he

See CATHOLIC CHARITIES, page 11

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

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03/21/25

Corrections

Incorrect dates for the Lenten communal Reconciliation Services at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City were given in the March 7 edition of *The Catholic Missourian*.

The correct dates are Monday and Tuesday, March 24 and 25, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. both evenings, as part of the three-parish Lenten Mission on the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Also, an incorrect location for the April 9 service for the Monroe City and Indian Creek parishes was given. The correct location is St. Stephen Church in Indian Creek.

We regret the errors.

cathmo.com and diojeffcity.org

Fifth Grade Teacher Needed - Westphalia



St. Joseph School in Westphalia, Mo., is looking for a fifth grade teacher for the coming school year. Teachers must have the ability to create a positive classroom environment as well as plan and implement engaging lessons. Good communication skills and the ability to communicate with colleagues and parents are expected. Applicants should hold the appropriate Missouri teaching certification or its equivalent. If you are looking to join a positive educational team and make a difference in the lives of students, search no further and apply. All interested persons should complete the application and contact the Principal, Jeremy Horvath, jhorvath@stjosephwestphalia.org.

WE'RE HIRING!

The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is now taking applications for the following positions in our Jefferson City office:

- ▶ **Matrimonial Tribunal Judge**
- ▶ **Director of Pastoral Liturgy**

Job descriptions and links for applying can be found at diojeffcity.org/about-us/employment

Update to Catholic Charities article on Welcoming the Stranger

Since the March 7 Encounter at Catholic Charities article in *The Catholic Missourian*, "Welcoming the Stranger: Stories of Hope from Family Immigration Services," went to press, there have been several changes in the Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) program.

Most notably, the Department of Homeland Security paused the U4U program, ending all applications to sponsor Ukrainians fleeing the war.

As of March 5, 2025, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) paused the processing and adjudication of all Ukrainian cases submitted by anyone who entered the United States through U4U.

"These pauses will keep families apart and will lead to numerous job losses for Ukrainians in the U.S.," stated Marissa Flores Madden, a Department of Justice-accredited representative in the Family Immigration Services program at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, and writer

of the March 7 article.

"Family Immigration Services of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri remains in solidarity with

our Ukrainian clients, and the staff continues to submit cases to USCIS in the hope that they soon will begin processing them again," she said.

Former priest is laicized

John Whiteley, a former priest of the Diocese of Jefferson City, has been dismissed from the clerical state by Pope Francis.

Whiteley was removed from ministry in 1991 following accusations of sexual abuse of minors.

After receiving notice of the laicization, the Diocese of Jefferson City has been working to inform survivors of this action before making this public announcement.

Whiteley had previously been listed among the diocese's credibly accused priests. The list has now been updated to reflect his laicization.

"As a Church, we have a responsibility to remain watchful and to learn from past lessons," said Bishop W. Shawn

McKnight. "Let us all extend our prayers to those who have suffered during this painful time. As we move forward, I pray that our faithful will find hope in our commitment to accountability and our work to build safe communities of faith. May God continue to guide us in this work."

Anyone who believes they have been a victim of misconduct involving a priest, deacon, or other Church personnel is encouraged to contact law enforcement, as well as the Diocese of Jefferson City's victim assistance coordinator, Jacqueline Baldwin, at 573-694-3199 or reportabuse@diojeffcity.org.

For more information, visit diojeffcity.org/report-abuse-or-misconduct

Pray for deceased priests

Mar. 27 — **Fr. Patrick L. Pierceall**, St. Joseph, Palmyra (2016)

Mar. 31 — **Fr. Joseph G. Lawlor**, Missionary Service, Peru (2011)

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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Development Coordinator, Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri is looking to fill the position of Development Coordinator. The Development Coordinator ensures Catholic Charities' long-term sustainability by generating revenue and building relationships with donors, volunteers, parishes and the community. By integrating donor relations, volunteerism and parish engagement, the Coordinator creates a cohesive strategy that maximizes support and resources, advancing Catholic Charities' mission. All interested applicants are encouraged to visit diojeffcity.org/about-us/employment/ for the full job description and to complete an application.



New Cemetery Clean-Up Policy Catholic Cemeteries of Jefferson City

The following changes will apply to both Resurrection and St. Peter cemeteries in Jefferson City. There will be no scheduled clean-up days throughout the year.

The following rules will be enforced.

- ▶ All artificial flowers must be in a vase.
- ▶ No glass objects of any kind.

From April 1 to October 31 of each year, all objects deemed by management to hinder ground maintenance shall be removed. The management reserves the right to remove any objects that are not allowed by the rules and regulations of the Catholic Cemeteries of Jefferson City.

Sacred Music Consultation draws impressive participation

The first stage of the diocesan Sacred Music Consultation was a resounding success.

More than 6,600 people from throughout this diocese completed online and hard-copy surveys developed by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA).

Nearly 400 people participated in live listening sessions held in English and Spanish in several locations across the diocese.

"The response we've received has been tremendous," said Helen Osman, communications consultant to the diocese, who's facilitating the yearlong consultation.

Its purpose is to draw the entire local Church into a prayer-led dialogue about how sacred music can be best used to encourage active participation in the Liturgy.

"It couldn't be clearer that

this is a matter close to many people's hearts," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight. "We deeply appreciate everyone who shared their voices in this important process."

Mrs. Osman pointed out that about twice as many people attended the Spanish-language listening sessions as the English-language sessions.

Many of the facilitators at the listening sessions were members of the diocesan chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM), and that many of the participants at the sessions lead or help with the liturgical music in their parishes.

"People talked about how they feel when they sing at Mass, how it helps them pray," said Mrs. Osman.

"When it's not done well, their prayer, their worship re-



ally suffers," she noted. "Their community really suffers."

"So, their heart is saying what the Church is teaching — that we do pray twice when we sing, that this should be given importance," Mrs. Osman stated.

The consultation dates back to last October, when Bishop McKnight promulgated a decree forbidding music by three composers with credible allegations of abuse against them from being sung at Mass; removing 12 hymns with theologically problematic lyrics from songs approved for Mass; and calling for people in all parishes in the diocese to become familiar with four musical settings for the parts of the Mass.

The decree, written in consultation with the diocesan Liturgical Commission, was immediately controversial.

In light of comments he received, the bishop rescinded the October decree in early November and issued a second, temporary decree, prohibiting music by those found credibly accused by their diocesan bishop (but without mentioning any names), and requiring those who are responsible for the selection of sacred music to evaluate their music selections using the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) document's evaluative principles.

That second decree called for the process of synodal consultation that is now taking place.

"Right now, we're analyzing all the information we've received," said Mrs. Osman. "CARA is analyzing the sur-

The Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Presbyteral Council and the bishop's cabinet, with input from the priests of the diocese and members of the local NPM chapter, will help shape the draft into final form before Bishop McKnight puts it into effect on Nov. 1.

Bishop McKnight was quick to thank the priests, parish staff and volunteers who helped facilitate the survey and those who served as hosts and facilitators for the listening sessions.

"Your dedication made this effort possible," he said.

Anyone wishing to participate in the next phase of the consultation as a member of NPM can email jeffersoncitymo@npm.org to register.

For more information about the consultation, please visit the Sacred Music Consultation webpage at diojeffcity.org/sacred-music.

Latest podcast focuses on the Church and immigration

There have been many stories in the national media recently about the Catholic Church and its role in immigration into the United States.

The latest episode of the Diocese of Jefferson City Podcast offers an exploration of this topic from the perspective of what's happening here in the diocese with help from Marissa Flores Madden, Director of Family Immigration Services at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri.

Visit diojeffcity.org/podcast to hear this and previous podcasts.



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

MARCH

- Mar 21** Missouri Catholic Conference Public Policy Meeting, 10 am, virtual
- Mar 23** Confirmation Mass, Holy Rosary Parish, Monroe City, St. Stephen Parish, Indian Creek, Mission of St. Frances Cabrini, Paris, 10 am, St. Stephen Church, Indian Creek
- Mar 25** Solemnity of the Annunciation Confirmation Mass, St. Francis Xavier Church, 6:30 pm, Taos
- Mar 26** Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia and St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Folk, 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church, Westphalia
- Mar 27** St. John Vianney Center Board of Directors meeting, 1 pm, virtual
- Mar 29** Confirmation Mass, Immaculate Conception Parish, 5 pm, Montgomery City
- Mar 30** Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick Parish, Rolla, Immaculate Conception Parish, St. James, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, St. Robert, and St. Jude Parish, Richland, 10:30 am, St. Patrick Church, Rolla

APRIL

- Apr 1** Presbyteral Council and Council of Deans meetings, noon, chancery
- Apr 2** Confirmation ceremony, St. Aloysius Parish, Argyle, Visitation Parish, Vienna, and Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Brinktown, 6:30 pm, St. Aloysius Church, Argyle
- Apr 5** Confirmation Mass, Mary Immaculate Parish, 5:30 pm, Kirksville
- Apr 6** Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Parish, Palmyra and Queen of Peace Parish, Ewing, 9:30 am, St. Joseph Church, Palmyra
- Apr 9** Priests' Personnel Board Meeting, 1:30 pm, chancery; Confirmation ceremony, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 6:30 pm, Columbia
- Apr 11** SPIRE Foundation Luncheon, 11 am, Cana Hall, Jefferson City

Bishop McKnight's March prayer intention for our Local Church

For a spirit of humility and repentance, that we may confess our sins and seek reconciliation in preparation for the Easter feasts. May our hearts be purified and opened to the grace of God. We pray to the Lord.

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

Por un espíritu de humildad y arrepentimiento, para que confesemos nuestros pecados y busquemos la reconciliación en preparación para las fiestas de Pascua. Que nuestros corazones sean purificados y estén abiertos a la gracia de Dios. Roguemos al Señor.



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

Rest in peace, Sr. Esther Becker SSND, 88, Jefferson City native, longtime teacher in diocese

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt SSND

Sister Marie Esther Becker, 88, a Jefferson City native who taught for many years at St. Peter School in Jefferson City, died peacefully the morning of Feb. 27 at Anna House, The Sarah Community in Bridgeton, as sisters kept vigil with her.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 14 at Theresa Center in St. Louis, with Vincentian Father Michael Joyce presiding.

She was born Nov. 12, 1936, in Jefferson City, the fourth child of Vincent and Esther (Prenger) Becker.

She was baptized on Nov. 22 of that year in St. Peter Church, Jefferson City, and named Mary Dolores.

Sr. Esther was a fun-loving, joyful and self-giving person. She wanted to help children and was an excellent teacher and mentor of other teachers.

She was a great storyteller and had many interesting stories to share. May she now rejoice as she is welcomed by her family who have preceded her in death and by her God whom she served so faithfully during her 70 years of religious life.

Her family would eventually grow to six children, including two older brothers, an older sister, a younger brother and a younger half-brother.

Sr. Esther's mother told her

that when she was a baby, she took her to St. Peter Church, knelt down and prayed that Our Lady would protect her child.

The family worked hard, but there was also plenty of fun and laughter.

Mary entered kindergarten at St. Peter Grade School, staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). During that year, her mother was hospitalized and began a two-year battle with cancer.

Her mother passed away when Mary was 7 years old.

Following that loss, Mary's school work suffered and she grew to dislike school very much.

Beginning around the time of her First Holy Communion, Sr. Esther's prayer life began developing in a way that eventually led her to accept the plans God had had for her all along.

She often rode a horse from home to a nearby stream to pray by a peaceful waterfall. She also would pray while sitting at the picnic table in her backyard.

"Deep in my heart, I knew I wanted to help kids," she once recalled. "That's what kept coming to me, to help the children who didn't have parents."

A woman was hired to help with the children and was very kind to them. Her mother's younger sister, Alberta, came on weekends to help out.

Eventually, Vincent Becker fell in love with Alberta and married her when Mary was in the fourth grade. A son was born of this union. Mary's aunt/step-mother expected much from the children, but also taught them many practical habits.

From her brothers, Mary acquired a love for sports. In her junior year, she played on the Jefferson City All Star Softball team.

She became interested in teaching younger children how to play ball. She also learned about the orphanage that the SSND congregation had in New Orleans. Having lost her mother at an early age, she had great empathy for orphans.

She experienced a desire to give her life to God and to help others. With the assistance of the sisters at St. Peter School, arrangements were made for Mary to enter the candidature after her junior year in high school.

The night before entrance, she played on the Jeff City Women's Softball team for the championship in Columbia. She was the youngest member on the team and they won.

The next evening, on Aug. 26, 1953, she received the candidate's bonnet at St. Peter Church, and from there went to Sancta Maria in Ripa, the SSND Motherhouse in St. Louis, the following morning.

After a week of training, Mary was sent to teach third grade at St. Gabriel School in St. Louis. With the mentoring and understanding of the other third-grade teacher and the principal, she received a good evaluation. She completed her senior year by taking classes on weekends at Sancta Maria in Ripa.

She was received into the novitiate on July 31, 1954, and given the name Marie Esther, in honor of her deceased mother.

She professed first vows on Aug. 1, 1955, and final vows on Aug. 1, 1961.

Sr. Esther realized long ago that the promises she made to God were not a one-shot deal.

"When you give your life to God, it's like a married woman giving her life to her husband,"



Sr. Marie Esther Becker SSND
(1936-2025)

she once stated. "It has to be thought out and accepted often. You have to keep re-choosing it."

Sr. Esther received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis in 1969.

She was hoping to work with orphans; however, she spent the next 57 years in classroom teaching.

"I really enjoy working with kids and helping to form their character," she told *The Catholic Missourian* at the time of her golden jubilee in 2005. "I like that even more than the subject matter I teach."

"I also love dedicating my life to God," she stated at that time. "That's a call, a gift that God has given me. I love being His woman."

Following profession, she was missioned to Holy Family School in Freeburg.

As the youngest sister there, she taught grades 1 and 2, did the daily sacristy work, taught the altar servers the Latin prayers, supervised the bus children and also helped with laundry, housework and other chores.

The older sisters encouraged Sr. Esther to proctor the lunch hour and recess at school, because she was the only one who knew the rules to the games the students played.

The boys in Freeburg at that time were great baseball players, but few knew how to play foot-

ball. She helped them practice both.

"She could throw a heck of a spiral," one former schoolyard wide receiver recently noted.

She remained at Holy Family for 10 years until 1965.

Her next assignment was at St. Joseph School in Cairo, Illinois. That community at that time was experiencing many racial tensions, and Sr. Marie Esther learned much about prejudice.

After seven years, she was missioned to Our Lady of Loretto School, St. Louis, for four years and then returned to St. Gabriel School for eight years.

From 1984-2012, she taught at St. Peter School in Jefferson City. During this time, she was able to help care for her parents before they died and was close to three brothers.

From 2009-12, she served as a remedial reading teacher at the Vogelweid Learning Center at St. Peter School, working with children with special needs.

In 2012, she moved to the Theresa Center in St. Louis and performed community service.

She retired to Veronica House, The Sarah Community, in Bridgeton in 2019.

As her health declined, she was transferred to Anna House in June 2023.

Fellow sisters were praying with her when she died.

A prayer service was held at The Sarah Community on March 13.

Sr. Esther's sister-in-law, Linda Becker, family members, classmates, friends from the Jefferson City area, School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND associates attended.

Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery.

Sr. Esther was preceded in death by her parents; her sister Katherine Herman; her brothers Bernard (Helen), Brother Marvin FSC of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (Christian Brothers), Robert (Cecilia) and her half-brother John (Linda).

She is survived by relatives, friends, School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND associates.

Tim Francis to speak in Warsaw, Columbia on Miracles

A "reverted" Catholic and renowned investigator of Eucharistic miracles will share his story along with compelling video footage on Sunday, March 30, in Warsaw and on Monday and Tuesday, March 31 and April 1, in Columbia.

Tim Francis, founder of You Shall Believe Ministries (youshallbelieve.com) will give a presentation titled, "Signs from God: Miracles and Their Meaning," from 1:30 to 4 p.m. on March 30 in St. Ann Church, 30455 W. Dam Access Road in Warsaw. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

He will give the same presentation at 6:30 p.m. on March 31 and again on April 1 in the Sacred Heart Activity Building, 103 Waugh Street in Columbia.

Mr. Francis will offer commentary to stunning film clips documenting otherwise unexplainable phenomena.

Mr. Francis has conducted more than 500 parish missions conveying the meaning of the miracles and a better understanding about Jesus being truly present in the Eucharist.

ScienceTestsFaith.com

Diocese's Catholic school educators spend a day focusing on what matters most

By Jay Nies

Just a few came forward at first, then more.

Soon, the area in front of the speaker's platform was abuzz with activity.

More than 500 Catholic educators were committing their concerns and struggles to paper and placing them folded into a basket, where they will be held up in prayer by students for the rest of Lent.

"Write down one or several things you need to move on from, things you want to let go of, things you would like to pursue freedom from," instructed Paul Masek, program director at the Marianist Retreat and Apostolic Center in the St. Louis archdiocese.

"Fold it or rip it into a million pieces," he told his audience. "No one will ever see them or read them. We invite you to put them in one of the baskets next to the image of the Divine Mercy that says 'Jesus, I trust in you.'"

At the end of Lent, the prayers will be prayerfully burned and given to the Lord.

"A lot of people will be praying for you," Mr. Masek assured.

This silent exercise was part of the diocese's annual Teachers' Professional Development Day on March 7 at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School

in Columbia.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight celebrated Mass, during which he thanked the educators for the great things they do and reminded them of the importance of their work.

He and Erin Vader Ed.D., diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools, presented recognition pins to educators and administrators who had reached milestones in their years of service at Catholic schools.

Personnel from schools all over the diocese enjoyed camaraderie and fellowship over

lunch.

Mr. Masek and Liz Lozano from the Marianist Outreach Retreat Experience led the teachers and administrators of the school's 37 Catholic grade schools and three Catholic high



LEFT: Mr. Masek and Liz Lozano from the Marianist Retreat and Apostolic Center in the St. Louis archdiocese lead Catholic school teachers and administrators in reflection during the diocese's annual Teachers' Professional Development Day March 7 in Columbia. RIGHT: Teachers exchange their answers to discussion questions during the event.

— Photos by Jay Nies



schools in an upbeat regimen

See EDUCATORS, page 19

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DIocese of
Jefferson City

Heart of a Hero Men's Conference will help men recognize, pursue their mission

DATE: April 25-26

By Jay Nies

Just a moment.

Sometimes, that's all it takes.

"One powerful moment to save a life and a soul," said Patrick Castle Ph.D., one of the keynote presenters for the 2025 Heart of a Hero Men's Conference in Jefferson City.

"We know there are going to be many powerful moments, because when two or more are gathered in God's name, he'll be there," said Dr. Castle, founder of the LIFE Runners team (*liferunners.org*), the largest pro-life team in the world.

The Heart of a Hero Men's Conference will be held the evening of Friday, April 25, and on Saturday, April 26, in Cana Hall of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St. in Jefferson City.

More than 200 men are expected to attend the conference, which will include presentations from Joe Heschmeyer, Catholic speaker, blogger and apologist for Catholic Answers (*catholic.com*); Father Paul Clark, diocesan director

of vocations and seminarians and chaplain at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City; Father Anthony Viviano, pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Tipton and Annunciation Parish in California and diocesan moderator for Pro-Life Ministry; and Dr. Castle.

The Friday evening session will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. It will include dinner, a presentation by Mr. Heschmeyer, and a cigar and bourbon reception.

The Saturday portion of the conference will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Midday Mass will be offered. Lunch will be served, with Adoration and Confession being available during lunch.

The conference is organized by the Men of Signum Crucis, a local Catholic men's organization focused on growth in the areas of study, devotion and service.

The April 25-26 conference is for any man who is hungering for a deeper relationship with God and the company of likeminded men of all ages.

"It will be a unique opportunity to spend time in the brotherhood of other Catholic men who bring all their different experiences to be enriched and grow in their knowledge of the faith and hopefully get inspired to go out and be the Catholic men that we're all called to be," said Fr. Viviano.

"Sometimes, dialogue helps us digest things in a very important way," said Fr. Clark. "People are able to hear things that we wouldn't hear otherwise, or a brother can give you a perspective you didn't have before."

"To create a space where those conversations can happen — that alone is a very important aspect of this conference," he said.

Fr. Clark is confident that the men who attend the conference will be built up and encouraged by spending time with others who are striving to be good, holy men for Christ.

"There will be encouragement to lean into our identity as men within the Church, within our culture," Fr. Clark stated. "Christ doesn't desire toxic masculinity. He desires a full masculinity for the men of our Church."

In good company

Dr. Castle's presentation will be titled, "I Met St. Padre Pio: What Is Your Sixth Wound?"

It is well known that St. Pio carried the stigmata — the wounds of Christ's crucifixion.

Among the least-known albeit bloodiest and most painful of these was the wound on his shoulders, matching Jesus's agony from carrying his cross.

Dr. Castle will help his audience focus on their own "sixth wound," recognize how God has helped them carry their cross, and learn how to cooperate with God in bringing healing to that aspect of their lives.

Fr. Clark believes this conference could be especially helpful to young men who are searching for their place in the Church.

"It's going to be this big gathering of Catholic brotherhood, and there will be people you can look up to," he said.

"So if you're a young man



asking those questions of the Lord, as to 'What is my path to holiness? Where are you calling me?' — seeing husbands and fathers and grandfathers and priests and all those who are saying yes to the man that God is asking them to be — we all need that kind of inspiration," said Fr. Clark.

"Because one day, every man is going to be required to give an accountability for himself and those who were entrusted to him," he stated. "If we had to do that alone, yikes! But we don't have to. We're part of a Church, a body, and I think this event is going to make that abundantly clear."

"Clarity and strength"

Fr. Viviano will address what many recognize as a crisis of masculinity in the Church and in society.

"To me, a big part of that (crisis) is the abdication of one's role as leader and protector," said Fr. Viviano. "As a husband and father, you're supposed to be protector, guardian and leader of the spiritual life in your home."

"You've got to have that protector spirit, that guardian spirit, and that's where the masculinity comes in," he said.

To get the most out of the conference, Dr. Castle recommended cultivating an attitude of openness and acceptance.

"Surrender everything," he said. "Just bring you. Show up vulnerable. Show up ready to receive something meaningful from God."

He also suggested going to

Confession and receiving Holy Communion ahead of time.

"Get sacramented up in advance!" he said.

Finally, he advised arriving with a mission mindset.

"Expect that you are being sent on mission and that you are going to receive your mission or reinforce the mission you already have," said Dr. Castle.

"And, of course, pray unceasingly," he added.

Fr. Clark noted that many men in this society don't want to acknowledge the strong feelings God puts in their hearts at important moments.

"The Lord had feelings in this life," the priest pointed out. "And at times like these, he stirs our hearts and prompts us to practice being a little more docile to that spirit."

"Because at a conference like this, he's gonna' be speaking, and he's gonna' be speaking with clarity and strength. So, we need to prepare to have our hearts receive that in docility."

Sign up early

The cost per person for those who register for the conference by Wednesday, April 23, is \$30 for either day, \$40 for both days.

The cost is \$20 for students, and free of charge for priests and seminarians.

The cost for registration after April 23 and for walk-ins is \$40 per day, \$50 for both days.

Visit menofsignumcrucis.com/mens-conference for more information or to register.

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Catechist: Frequent Confession and Holy Communion keep people on the path to Christ

Says power of Reconciliation is essential part of Eucharistic Revival

See related story on Page 23

By Jay Nies

No one said it would be easy.

"Confession is hard. It's not supposed to be easy," stated Mary Madelyn Mertes, assistant director of catechetical formation for the Jefferson City diocese.

"It's natural and normal that we're not comfortable going and owning up to everything that we've done," she said. "But it's also good and healthy and holy to be able to stand before God and his priests and take responsibility for our actions and apologize and try to do better."

"So, that fear should not deter us," she said. "Because what we find on the other side of that fear is so much more than we could ever experience this side of heaven."

Miss Mertes is author of a master's thesis titled "And My Soul Shall Be Healed: Reconciliation and the Eucharistic Revival."

The Eucharistic Revival is a three-year initiative called for by the U.S. Catholic Bishops to renew understanding and belief in and increased reverence for the person of Christ fully present — Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity — in the Eucharist.

In her thesis, Miss Mertes adamantly asserted that frequent reception of both the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Communion are essential for coming to know God more fully and growing in deeper relationship with him.

"Reconciliation helps us receive the Eucharist with open hearts and respond more freely to what we receive," she wrote. "As the Church breathes new life into her Eucharistic culture, she must also vivify her culture of reconciliation, and in doing so, bring deeper renewal to the whole Body of Christ."

Reconciliation and the Eucharist, as the two sacraments that Catholics should receive regularly, play a special role in

the journey to eternal life.

"Both are important in God's work to conform our hearts to his (heart) and to build up the Body of Christ," Miss Mertes wrote. "Both flow from and point us back to the same, one heavenly liturgy."

The goal is to be constantly transformed into an ever-clearer image of Christ.

"The more we surrender ourselves to the Lord, the more room he has to transform our hearts," Miss Mertes wrote. "... If we want a Church filled with people who are striving for God and deeply desire to be transformed by him, we must be a Church that celebrates reconciliation."

Anyone who is aware of having committed a grave sin needs to go to Confession and have their sins absolved before receiving Holy Communion.

Frequent Confession, even in the absence of grave or mortal sin, is helpful in developing a clearer vision of God and becoming closer to him.

"The Eucharist and Reconciliation notably form each person in their relationship with God through regular, repeated reception," she wrote. "... There is no better way to prepare to receive the Eucharist with a radically open heart than reconciliation."

These 40 days

Miss Mertes noted that Lent is an important time for the whole Church to focus on preparing for the renewal of Baptismal promises at Easter.

"It is incredibly common for Ash Wednesday to be one of the busiest — if not the busiest — days in a parish," she observed. "People flock to Catholic churches at the beginning of Lent to receive a visible symbol of their sinful nature."

That impulse, she wrote, shows that Catholics, even those who are not predisposed to receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, "do maintain a sense of the sacred in admitting our guilt and reconciling and do have an attraction to the experience."



A priest offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation listens to a young woman at the SEEK25 conference in Salt Lake City earlier this year.

— OSV News photo/courtesy FOCUS

"There is a movement toward Reconciliation, but we don't see those same crowds in line for the sacrament," she noted.

What's missing among many is a true understanding of who God actually is and what sin actually does.

"To receive the gift of God's love and mercy, we must first believe that we need the gift; we must learn to be open to the gift," Miss Mertes stated.

"When we don't understand love as the foundation of God's plan, it becomes tempting to see the moral guidance of the Church as ethical impositions," she wrote. "If one never learns to see God as a loving Father, a good shepherd, or a merciful redeemer, then they can't feel the true pain of the wounded relationship that sin causes."

A person who isn't aware that sin wounds one's own relationship with God, self and others has a hard time understanding why the Son of God would take on human flesh in order to free humanity from slavery to sin.

"Receiving Jesus in the Eucharist is a demonstration that one wants to live like Christ,"

"When one approaches the sacrament out of love, not obligation, they are being proactive in their relationship with Christ," she said.

Not only is Reconciliation needed to heal an individual's relationship with God that's been wounded by sin, but also that sin's effects of on the entire Church.

"Sin is never strictly individual," said Miss Mertes. "The wounds of our sins wound the people around us."

Reconciliation has powerful potential to strengthen the bonds of the Body of Christ by transforming people's hearts and giving them the grace to see the reality of community into which God is constantly inviting people.

"Reconciliation helps us to address the social effects of our sin as well as the ways it wounds us individually," Miss Mertes wrote. "The sacrament not only restores our relationship with God but also our relationship and communion with the whole Body of Christ."

Healing the body

People come to Mass to receive Christ in the Eucharist and experience an incredible

See REVIVAL, page 23

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QUESTION CORNER

Can you receive Holy Communion twice in one day?

By Jenna Marie Cooper
OSV News

Q: Can a Catholic receive Holy Communion twice in one day? Also, is it possible to ask to receive Holy Communion outside of Mass under normal circumstances, or is this something that is only possible for the sick? (Scarsdale, NY)



A: To start with the second part of your question, the short answer is yes, it is possible for a Catholic to receive Holy Communion licitly outside of Mass, even if they are not ill or homebound.

As we read in Canon 918 of the *Code of Canon Law*: “It is most strongly recommended that the faithful receive Holy Communion in the course of a eucharistic celebration. If, however, for good reason they ask for it apart from the Mass, it is to be administered to them.”

Canon 918 does take care to underscore the importance of the relationship between the celebration of the eucharistic sacrifice — which takes place “in real time” at Mass — and our own personal participation in this same sacrifice via Holy Communion. Especially since the Second Vatican Council, the Church has always taken care to foster a lively awareness of this connection in the minds and hearts of the faithful.

Yet even if receiving Holy Communion during Mass is the ideal, reception of Holy Communion outside of Mass is still straightforwardly permitted by law. Holy Communion can be administered more privately to members of the faithful as long as they have a “good reason” for making this request.

Canon law does not give us a definition of what constitutes a “good reason,” but here the Church trusts us to use common sense. One concrete example that comes readily to my mind of a “good reason” for requesting Holy Communion outside of Mass is a situation where a daily communicant cannot make it to the regular parish daily Mass because of a travel schedule. But of course, there can be many other similarly reasonable scenarios.

Turning back to the first part of your question, a faithful Catholic may indeed receive Holy Communion twice in one day — but the second reception must be within the context of a Mass.

As we read in Canon 917: “One who has received the blessed Eucharist may receive it again on the same day only within a eucharistic celebration in which that person participates.”

To give a practical example of how this might play out in real life, a Catholic who received Holy Communion in something like a “word and communion” service could receive Holy Communion a second time during the course of the Liturgy if they had a chance to go to an actual Mass later that day. But the reverse would not be true. That is, a Catholic who received Holy Communion at Mass in the morning could not receive a second time that day at a non-Mass Communion service.

Or, to suggest another scenario, a Catholic could go to a regular daily Mass, then attend an additional Mass for a wedding or funeral, and receive Holy Communion at both Masses. This is allowed because the second reception of Holy Communion took place as part of a eucharistic Liturgy.

However, it’s important to note that there is one exception which allows a Catholic to licitly receive Holy Communion up to three times in one day: danger of death. Canon 921 says: “Christ’s faithful who are in danger of death, from whatever cause, are to be strengthened by holy communion as Viaticum [...] Even if they have already received Holy Communion that same day, it is nevertheless strongly suggested that in danger of

See QUESTION, page 19

No Papal Audience this week

Please pray for Pope Francis’s health

Monday of Holy Week pilgrimage with Bishop Perry to Fr. Tolton sites

DATE: April 14
TIME: 9 am - 3 pm

Bishop Joseph N. Perry, co-postulator for the sainthood cause of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, will lead a Holy Week Pilgrimage in the footsteps of Fr. Tolton on Monday, April 14.

Participants will gather at 8 a.m. at the Camp Tolton Lodge and Retreat Center, 3834 Shelby County 322 in Shelbyville, to meet and visit with Bishop Perry.

Bishop Perry will give a pilgrimage blessing at 9 a.m. and offer a glimpse into Fr. Tolton’s life.

A caravan will depart at 10:15 a.m. for historical St. Peter Church in Brush Creek, which stands at the place where Fr. Tolton was baptized.



A stained glass window in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City depicts the Baptism of Venerable Fr. Tolton.

Mass will be offered in the church at 11:15 a.m., followed at 11:45 a.m. by the dedication of a new stone memorial in the portion of St. Peter Cemetery where enslaved people are buried.

Lunch will

be served on the grounds of the church.

The caravan will leave at 12:30 p.m. for the town of Caulfield Junction to visit a church that was built on part of the plantation where Servant of God Julia Greeley, another African American candidate for being declared a saint, worked while enslaved.

The group will leave at 1:15 p.m. for Fr. Tolton’s burial place in St. Peter Cemetery in Quincy, Illinois, followed by a visit to St. Francis Solanus Church to see an original painting of Fr. Tolton.

Pilgrims may begin or end at any point.

Transportation will be available.

Born into a family of enslaved people on a northeastern Missouri plantation and baptized at the site of the current St. Peter Church in Brush Creek, Fr. Tolton escaped as a child with his family during the Civil War and overcame overwhelming obstacles toward becoming the Roman Catholic Church’s first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

He ministered heroically in Quincy, Illinois, and later in Chicago before dying of heat exhaustion at age 43.

The Chicago archdiocese opened a sainthood cause for him in 2010.

Following a rigorous study of his life, Fr. Tolton in 2018 was declared Venerable, meaning he exhibited heroic virtue throughout his life and at the time of his death.

Call 660-415-7362 for information about the pilgrimage.

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What exactly is a Jubilee Year and how can we celebrate it?

By Phyllis Emmel

A Jubilee Year is a special year in the Catholic Church.

Jubilees have roots in the Old Testament. In the Bible, the Jubilee Year happened every 50 years. The purpose was to bring fairness, healing and peace and to offer a fresh start to the Israelites.

The word “jubilee” comes from the Hebrew word *“yobel,”* which refers to the ram’s horn used to announce a jubilee in the Old Testament.

Old Testament origins

God told Moses every 50th year was to be set aside for the return of absent members to their households, the restoration of land to its owners, the release of Hebrew slaves and the forgiveness of

debts.

“This fiftieth year you shall make sacred by proclaiming liberty in the land for all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when every one of you shall return to his own property, everyone to his own family estate,” (Leviticus 25:10).

Pope Boniface VIII proclaimed the first Christian jubilee in 1300 A.D. it granted the full remission of sin for those who confessed their sins and made a pilgrimage to St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome.

Since then, it has become an important event in the Catholic calendar.

Once held every 100 years, then every 50, Jubilee Years now happen every 25 years.

Jubilee Years are a time for special celebrations, pilgrimages, acts of penance

and most importantly, focusing on God’s mercy and forgiveness.

The pope declares a Jubilee Year. During the Holy Year, Catholics are encouraged to renew their relationship with God through prayer, penance and acts of kindness. Pilgrimages to holy places are encouraged. The Jubilee Year is a time for all Catholics to grow closer to God and to each other, remembering that God always offers us new beginnings!

Recent Jubilee Years

1950: During this Holy Year of 1950, Venerable Pope Pius XII proclaimed the dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven.

1975: This Holy Year of reconciliation was proclaimed by Pope St. Paul VI.

1983: Pope St. John Paul II proclaimed a special Jubilee Year in 1983 to celebrate the 1,950th anniversary of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

2000: Pope St. John Paul II proclaimed the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000.

2015: Pope Francis declared an extraordinary jubilee for the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second Vatican Council. The jubilee was dedicated to mercy.

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope was proclaimed by Pope Francis in the papal bull *“Spec non Confundit”* (“Hope does not disappoint”).

The jubilee began in Rome on the vigil

See EMMEL, page 19

Fasting through Mom’s Lenten meals

By Elizabeth Scalia

OSV News



It’s OK, we can say it (you know it, and I know it): Compared to our Orthodox brethren and our Muslim friends, the Catholic idea of required fasting is — let me be diplomatic here — not terribly im-

pressive.

The Orthodox start fasting before Lent even begins, adapting a restrictive, very nearly vegan diet throughout the holy season. During Ramadan, followers of Islam fast from everything, even water, from sunrise to sunset, although they do feast once the sun goes down. A Muslim friend of mine never tires of breaking her fast with dates stuffed with blue cheese, which she says provides “an instant hit of sugar, salt, protein and fat” after a sometimes wearying day.

On the other hand, we Catholics (ages 18-59) are only required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, although it is recommended to continue the Good Friday fast through the Triduum, if one can. Catholics 14 and older are also required to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and on all Fridays in Lent.

Catholic fasting permits one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full one, but to observe Catholics on social media during these two days can be a bit embarrassing. Despite Jesus’ clear instructions: “When you fast anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be observed” (Mt. 6:17-18), Catholics carry on publicly about keening hunger, seek advice on drinking water to feel full, and wonder all day about whether one may chew gum, suck on a mint or “make the

smaller meals last a long time” by dragging them out.

As a child who knew nothing of age exemptions, I recall not being too terribly put out by the meal restrictions. That was largely thanks to my mother, who neither sewed nor baked, but was a truly terrible cook, to boot. Ash Wednesday brought a supper of pancakes — and gosh, we loved pancakes — but for the fast we would forgo butter and maple syrup for a can of corn mixed into the batter.

My brothers insisted that a multitude of sins were forgiven with every bite.

On Fridays in Lent (and throughout the year, before the Second Vatican Council) we would free countless poor souls in Purgatory with tuna-on-usual-burnt-toast (made gooey via a can of cream of mushroom soup) or by consuming potatoes with cheese and sauerkraut, or — if Mom was feeling jolly — cheese and pickle sandwiches with mustard.

In retrospect, all these meals were as awful as they sound, but — whether intentionally or not — they delivered a message that our fasting and our abstinences were meant to be taken seriously and not subverted through technicalities. (One can eat a very fine meal of shrimp or lobster while still observing “abstinence” after all, or eat something so hearty for a full-sized lunch that it stands one through the terrible hours until the smaller meal.)

In Mom’s kitchen, one was never tempted thusly, and I’ve come to believe that was probably a good thing. As I grew older, I learned to appreciate her harrowing Lenten efforts, both for their simple creativity and their profoundly penitential value. She tried; we offered it up. You can’t ask more out of a meal in Lent, can you? And in my adulthood, I’ve missed some of those weird dinners. I’ve felt an occasional yen to make the dry, crunchy corn pancakes of my youth — an offer which always leaves my husband speech-

less and unable to hide an expression of polite horror. Ditto the creamed tuna,

See SCALIA, page 19

REFLECTION

Burned and broken

By Mark Saucier

On an early-morning walk, I ducked into a church for a few minutes of prayer. It was a typical old Mexican church, drab with age and neglect, but filled with statues and 17th-century paintings that invite reflection.

Just inside the ancient stone communion rail on the right was a tall, free-standing crucifix.

A thorny crown pressed deep into the long, curly locks that hung from the drooping head.

The body, though carved of rigid wood, was limp and lifeless. It was black as coal and skirted in Lenten purple with gold embroidery.

This was *Cristo de las Ampollas* — “Christ of the Blisters.”

The story goes back to the early 1600s, a radiant vision, a mysterious artist, and a church fire that burned everything but the crucified corpus it left charred and blistered.

This seared survivor has been venerated by the Mayan people for centuries. Most don’t know that the original *Cristo de las Ampollas* was destroyed in the Caste Wars and that the crucifix enshrined in the cathedral, like the one in that church, is a replica.

But that makes little difference to their faith or their prayers.

I have seen countless depictions of Jesus: ascetic and athletic, skin tones from Nordic to Mediterranean, hair fifty shades of brown, and looks from deeply compassionate to divinely aloof.

But I have encountered few as compelling this one. I wondered what the throngs that followed this crucifix in procession or those who knelt alone at its foot saw in this Jesus.

The hair was dark like theirs, but curly like the Spanish royalty who once ruled their lives. This king, their king, abandoned the heights of power and met them in the depths of love.

These Mayans wear a darker skin after millennia of toiling under k’in, their tropical sun. But this Christ’s skin is even darker than theirs, in a world where gradients of white have ruled their lives.

A servant of the serfs, this Christ has placed himself below them, to lift them up.

Like their *Cristo de las Ampollas*, they too have been through the fire, seared and blistered by poverty, racism and exclusion.

They bow to a God they desperately need, one who knows the darkness of their pain.

For them, the cross is not the end. Easter is always on the horizon.

But it is the cross, and the One who hangs there with them, that gets them there.

Encounter

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

How your contributions help create hope



By Scott Thrasher

At Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO), it's crucial that we continually clarify our vision for the community within our diocese.

Despite recent challenges under government leadership, our commitment to our mission remains unwavering. What has changed is the way we will carry out our mission.

Our Catholic mission

Inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, Catholic Charities is dedicated to providing care and hope to the vulnerable through compassionate services that uphold the dignity of every person.

We engage the local community in this mission and serve the 38 counties within our diocese.

Our core values

We believe in the love and hope of the message of Jesus.

We affirm the sacredness and dignity of all human life.

We collaborate with others who share our mission.

We pursue excellence and integrity in all that we do.

We serve those in need, regardless of background, belief or circumstance.



Three pillars of service

CCCNMO will focus on three primary areas of service throughout the Diocese of Jefferson City:

Food, health and nutrition education — This includes food pantries, parish nursing programs, and nutrition education initiatives.

We serve those in need, regardless of background, belief or circumstance.

Community services at individual parishes — This pillar encompasses emergency planning, predatory loan relief and service consulting within

parish communities.

Expanding family immigration legal services — Legal service consulting will be available at sites across the five diocesan deaneries.

These three pillars will expand and develop as part of the ongoing Community Needs Assessment (CNA), conducted in collaboration with Lincoln University.

The CNA will examine the specific needs of each parish and community, allowing CCCNMO to tailor its efforts in alignment with each parish's Center of Mercy pastoral plan.

Additionally, CCCNMO's Charity and Mercy Grant program, highlighted in the pre-

vious issue by our Executive Director, plays an essential role in our parish outreach.

Your role: time, talent and treasure

Time — CCCNMO is expanding volunteer opportunities at the parish level, building on the incredible support from volunteers in our administrative offices and food pantries.

Through the parish outreach program, opportunities will arise at various events across the diocese.

Many parishes have already included Catholic Charities as a ministry on their time and talent stewardship forms.

Talent — Your unique talents can support specific programs like predatory loan relief, financial education, housing improvements (e.g., Beds for Kids, temporary housing), parish nursing and emergency planning/response teams.

Treasure — As we continue providing care and hope to those in need, your financial support is more crucial than ever.

We've provided a QR code for Vision to Reality contributions.

You can also reach us at: cccnmo.diojeffcity.org or call 573-635-7719.



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Communal reconciliation services for Lent

Lent is a good time for an examination of conscience and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Easter. Here is a partial list of Lenten communal reconciliation services in the Jefferson City diocese. The listings will be updated in upcoming issues of *The Catholic Missourian* and in our online edition. Most services will include a short prayer service followed by individual Confessions. Extra priests from neighboring parishes are typically present to help out.

Boonville — Sun., April 6 at 4 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Church

Brookfield — Thurs., April 10 at 7 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

Camdenton — Wed., April 9 at 6 pm, St. Anthony Church

Columbia — Thurs., April 3 at 7 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Edina — Fri., April 11 at 6 pm, St. Joseph Church

Eldon — Tues., April 8 at 5:30 pm, Sacred Heart Church

Fayette — Thurs., April 3 at 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church

Fulton — Wed., March 26 at 6 pm, St. Peter Church

Glasgow — Wed., April 2 at 6:30 pm, St. Mary Church

Hannibal — Thurs., April 3 at 6:30 pm, Holy Family Church

Holts Summit — Wed., March 26 at 6:30 pm, St. Andrew Church

Indian Creek — Wed., April 9 at 6:30 pm, St. Stephen Church

Jefferson City — Mon., March 24 from 4:30-5:30 pm and 7 to 8 pm; Tues., March 25 from 4:30-5:30 pm and 7 to 8 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph

Kirksville — Sun., March 23 at 2 pm, Newman Center

Laurie — Sun., March 23 at 2 pm, St. Patrick Church

Macon — Thurs., March 27 at 6 pm, Immaculate Conception Church (one priest)

Marceline — Sun., April 6 at 3 pm, St. Bonaventure Church

Marshall — Thurs., March 27 at 6:30 pm, St. Peter Church

Mary's Home — Thurs., April 10 at 6 pm, Our Lady of Snows Church

Mexico — Wed., April 2 at 6:30 pm, St. Brendan Church

Mokane — Thurs., March 27 at 6 pm, St. Jude Thaddeus Church

Montgomery City — Thurs., April 10 at 6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

Palmyra — Mon., March 31 at 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church

Pilot Grove — Wed., April 9 at 7 pm, St. Joseph Church

Rolla — Tues., March 25 at 7 pm, St. Patrick Church

Russellville — Thurs., March 27 at 6 pm, St. Michael Church

St. Clement — Thurs., April 3 at 6:30 pm, St. Clement Church

St. Elizabeth — Sun., March 30 at 5:30 pm, St. Lawrence Church

St. Martins — Wed., April 9 at 6 pm, St. Martin Church

St. Thomas — Tues., April 1 at 7 pm, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, St. Thomas

Salisbury — Tues., April 8 at 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church

Sedalia — Sun., March 30 at 4 pm, St. Patrick Chapel

Taos — Wed., April 2 at 6 pm, St. Francis Xavier Church

Warsaw — Tues., April 1 at 6 pm, St. Ann Church

Wien — Wed., March 26 at 6:30 pm, St. Mary of the Angels Church

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

From page 1

noted. "They are always ready to help people going through crises or a difficult time."

Neighbors in need

Charity ranks high on Pope Francis's objectives for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope.

"I ask with all my heart that hope be granted to the billions of the poor, who often lack the essentials of life," the pope wrote in "*Spes Non Confundit*," the Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee Year.

The need for hope is sometimes overwhelming.

"Each day, we meet people who are poor or impoverished," the pope continued. "They may even be our next-door neighbors. Often they are homeless or lack sufficient food for the day. They suffer from exclusion and indifference on the part of many," (#15).

Catholic Charities works to remedy these situations in a uniquely Catholic way by delivering compassionate, holistic care through multiple programs designed to uplift and

empower some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

"It's a rare opportunity when you can give to a mission we all believe in and can experience," said Scott Thrasher, president of the CCCNMO Board of Directors.

It does so as an agency by operating a large food pantry, providing health and nutrition services, legal family immigration services, and community services such as Predatory Loan Relief and counseling.

It also gives key assistance to charitable works in parishes throughout the diocese through targeted assistance known as Charity and Mercy Grants.

Recent grants include:

- \$5,000 to St. Joseph Parish in Salisbury to help support Chariton County Child Welfare, which provided Christmas gifts, food and clothing for the lowest-income families with children in that county.

- \$2,500 to St. Bernadette Parish in Hermitage to help support the Hickory County Child Advocacy Council,

which provided school clothing, Christmas food baskets and diapers to the county health department for families in most need in Hickory County.

- Another \$2,500 to St. Bernadette Parish in Hermitage to help support Hickory County Toys for Kids, which provided toys for families at the highest poverty levels in Hickory County.

- Multiple grants to parishes that have St. Vincent de Paul Society conferences, for their Beds for Kids Program.

"We're providing help to our whole diocese and to our individual parishes and communities," said Mr. Thrasher.

Rules of engagement

Mr. Thrasher, a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia, was introduced to the work of Catholic Charities by fellow parishioner Mike Maag, previous board president.

"Once I learned what Catholic Charities does and met the people here, I want-

ed to be a part of it," he said. "It makes me feel good to be a Catholic."

Bishop McKnight has instructed the parishes and the diocese's five deaneries to work on ways to use the resources of Catholic Charities and the experience of the people who work there to advance the cause of charity throughout the diocese.

"We're working on ways to promote more engagement

with parishes and with the deaneries," said Mr. Thrasher.

"Because once we're engaged, the mission and the good news of what Catholic Charities is doing will spread, and more people will want to be involved," he said.

"Once you get involved a little bit and you get around and you see how good the cause is, you want to figure out how you can do more," he added.


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Deacon candidates, wives attend retreat at Conception Abbey

By Deacon John Schwartz

The men of the diaconate formation class of 2025 recently completed their canonical retreat anticipating their ordination to the Order of Deacons.

The retreat was held from Feb. 13-17 at the Benedictine Abbey in Conception.

The beauty of having the retreat at the abbey is praying with the Benedictine monks and living life in their spiritual rhythm. The group came together with the monks to pray Morning Prayer (Lauds), Evening Prayer (Vespers), Night Prayer (Compline) and daily Holy Mass. On Saturday, all of the retreatants were offered the opportunity to go to seek God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The men were joined by their wives for the retreat.

Father Daniel Merz, diocesan vicar for permanent deacons, led the retreat and



LEFT: Deacon John Schwartz (holding book), diocesan the Director of Diaconate Formation, joins the class of deacon candidates who hope to be ordained this year, on their canonical retreat at Conception Abbey in northwestern Missouri. **RIGHT:** The deacon candidates and their wives attend a conference in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at Conception Abbey.



walked everyone through the Rite of Ordination. He also provided insights into the life and ministry of deacons.

Deacon John and Carol Schwartz and Deacon Mike and Lisa Berendzen also at-

tended the retreat with the candidates and their wives. Deacon Schwartz, the Director of Diaconate Formation, provided the opening session on Thursday evening with a look back at the candidates' early days in formation and the growth they have shown over the past four and a half years of formation.

He also walked them through the remaining steps that are required leading up to ordination on June 7 of this year.

Two times during the retreat, the wives had a separate activity. The first one was a tour of the monastery of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, which is about 5 minutes from Conception Abbey. The women were treated to a tour of the Romanesque Adoration Chapel, which was consecrated in 1911. They also toured the Relic Chapel, which holds over 550 first- and second-class relics of saints.

The second solo session was led by Karen Ceckowski of the

Conception Retreat Center, who offered a talk entitled, "Praying with Icons."

While the retreat was deeply spiritual in nature, it also offered the couples plenty of "sacred leisure" to reconnect and catch up with each other. On Friday evening, the Guest Center hosted a catered reception for the retreatants to celebrate Valentine's Day.

During the last session, the men came forward and proclaimed and signed their Oath of Fidelity and their Profession of Faith, which is a required step prior to ordination.

God willing, these men will be ordained as deacons for the Church at the Cathedral of St. Joseph by Bishop W. Shawn McKnight on June 7.

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St. Martin School Gymnasium
7206 Business 50 West, St. Martins

When:
Friday, March 28
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K of C Council 2027

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LOOSE CREEK

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Wardsville/Osage Bend Community Hall
Wardsville

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FISH FRY

FRIDAYS
MARCH 21, 28 & APRIL 4
4:30-7 PM

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Taos K of C Council #6430

FISH FRY

FRIDAYS
MARCH 28
& APRIL 11

4:30-7:30 pm
Dine-in or Carry-out

Fried fish or boiled shrimp, baked potato or fries, slaw, hushpuppies, baked beans, ice cream, tea & coffee

\$14

Kids burger & fries—\$6
Cash or check ONLY

Knights of Columbus Hall
TAOS

Preacher: Promise of eternal life with God is foundation of hope

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

With Pope Francis watching from the hospital, the preacher of the papal household told top members of the Roman Curia that eternity “is not just a future reward but a reality that begins here, in the measure in which we learn to live in love and communion with Christ.”

“Ultimately, our destiny is not written in fear but in hope,” said Capuchin Father Roberto Pasolini, whom the pope appointed in November, to be the preacher of the papal household.

The Capuchin friar was leading a Lenten retreat for cardinals and senior officials of the Roman Curia and the Vatican March 9-14 in the Vatican’s Paul VI Audience Hall. He provided summaries

of each reflection to Vatican News.

The theme chosen for the 2025 retreat, long before Pope Francis was hospitalized, was “The Hope of Eternal Life.”

The Vatican press office said Pope Francis watched the evening talk March 9 and the first morning talk March 10 from his room at Rome’s Gemelli hospital. Participants in the retreat could not see the pope, though.

Fr. Pasolini wrote in the summary of his first talk that “death is not a defeat but the moment when we will finally see the face of God and discover that the end was only the beginning.”

Citing the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, he noted that there are three possibilities for each person after death: heaven, “final damnation” or hell and purgatory.

Heaven or paradise is “an eternal communion with Christ in which each person finds their true identity,” while hell “is described as the definitive separation from God,” he

said.

However, he added, “the church has never declared with certainty that anyone has been condemned there.”

In Catholic teaching, “purgatory is seen as a process of purification for those who, though in God’s grace, are not yet ready for heaven,” Fr. Pasolini said. “The possibility of a final ‘moment’ of purification is an opportunity to fully come to terms with God’s infinite love.”

“Purgatory,” he wrote in his summary, “can be understood as the ‘moment’ in which we finally stop trying to prove something to God and simply allow ourselves to be loved.”

Fr. Pasolini’s second talk focused on Matthew 25:31-46 and its description of the final judgment, which is based on whether a person helped Jesus by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and other acts of mercy.

“It is not a judgment in the traditional sense but rather a declaration that unveils the reality already lived by each per-

son,” Fr. Pasolini wrote. “The criterion for entering the kingdom is not religious affiliation but concrete love for the least of our brothers and sisters, who, in the Gospel perspective, represent Christ’s disciples.”

The Gospel, he said, “invites us to recognize that eternal life has already begun; it is manifested in the way we live and love, opening ourselves to the transforming presence of God.”

The officials making the retreat begin with prayer at 9 a.m. each morning, followed by a meditation offered by Fr. Pasolini, and they return each evening at 5 p.m. for prayer

and another meditation.

From March 10 through March 13, they were to end the day by praying the rosary for Pope Francis. Members of the public could join online or by watching on video screens in St. Peter’s Square. The usual 9 p.m. rosary in the square was suspended during the retreat.

The retreat was scheduled to end the morning of March 14 with prayer and a final meditation. The Vatican said the Rosary for Pope Francis would resume in the square that evening “in a renewed manner,” but as of March 10 they had not said how it would change.

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fish frys

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Fish Fry

Sacred Heart Parish

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4:30-7:30 pm

DRIVE THRU ONLY



Fried fish, hush puppies, coleslaw, baked beans, buttered parsley potatoes & homemade bread

\$14

INITIATE

From page 1

"Going through all of this and transitioning to Catholicism has been wonderful," he stated. "And's going to be a lot more wonderful. And there's going to be more insight into what it means to be a Catholic and a Christian."

He said he never felt pressured to become Catholic.

"My wife let me come into this on my own when I was ready, and it's been a blessing," he stated.

Mrs. Tschannan said it was important as the wife of someone who was not Catholic to let her husband make his own decision about this.

"And then, once they make that decision, it's important to encourage and support them throughout all of the steps and accompany them to the services and congratulate them when everything is said and done," she advised.

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, held in cathedrals throughout the world on the First Sunday of Lent, is a significant milestone for those preparing to become committed, active members of the Catholic Church.

"You have been sent by your parish community to this special celebration in which the bishop personally and formally accepts you as members of the Elect and Candidates for the Easter Sacraments," Bishop McKnight told the assembly.

Catechumens, now known as the Elect, are seeking Baptism and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Candidates have already been baptized and are seeking full communion with the Church.

"We are our best selves when we become who God created us to be, and are able to give him thanks!" the bishop said. "During this special Jubilee Year of Pilgrims of Hope, may your immersion into the mystery of Christ renew the hope of the whole Church as we bring to fulfillment the good work Christ has begun in us all."

As part of the rite, each catechumen and candidate was summoned by name into the sanctuary and greeted by Bishop McKnight.



Members of the Elect, who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil in parishes throughout the diocese, gather with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight in the sanctuary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph during the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion on Mar. 9.

— Photo by Jay Nies

Godparents stood beside the catechumens, and sponsors stood beside the candidates as they answered the bishop's questions and received his blessing.

During the Rite of Election, Bishop McKnight accepted the catechumens' names into the Book of the Elect and urged the catechumens and candidates to spend the rest of Lent pursuing repentance and deeper conversion with the support of the Church.

The Book of the Elect is now on display through Lent in the Baptistry of the Cathedral.

"We celebrate as the Local Church that you have encountered God in this world despite the evils that are present in it," Bishop McKnight told the candidates and the catechumens — now known as the Elect.

He encouraged them all to continue praying and preparing. Everyone else present promised to continue praying for them.

"We celebrate that you will become another light of Christ in a world so desperately in need of Jesus's love," the bishop told the candidates and the Elect. "And we look forward to you experiencing the joy of receiving Holy Communion for the first time at this Easter Vigil."

In good company

People came from all directions to take part in the ceremony.

Heather Martin traveled from Fulton with her fiancé and their sons.

"I enjoyed it," said Scott,

who's 8 and preparing to be baptized during the Easter Vigil. "The neatest part was shaking the bishop's hand."

He and his classmates at St. Peter School are preparing to receive his First Holy Communion this spring.

Ms. Martin grew up going to a little country church on Sundays with her family.

She started going to Mass on Wednesdays and Fridays when her sons started going to St. Peter School.

"And I kind of fell in love with how the Mass is," she recalled.

She's also enjoyed learning about being Catholic by watching her fiancé and his mother, as well as the boys.

"And since Scotty is in second grade, he's getting ready to receive his First Communion," she said. "So, I wanted to officially become Catholic because I want to be able to help him on his journey."

Being initiated into the Catholic Church is a big commitment, but Ms. Martin believes it's worth it.

"The culture and the traditions are just beautiful, and the churches are beautiful and everybody I've met has been so nice and welcoming," she said.

"I really enjoy it," she said. "And I don't feel judged."

She enjoyed the bishop's greeting.

"Getting to shake his hand was probably the coolest thing about today," she said. "And the number of people here! I think it's amazing that so many people want to become part of the Catholic Church."

"God was missing"

Evan Lissick is a junior at the University of Missouri and a student coaching assistant for the MU Tigers football team.

The Eden Prairie, Minnesota, native was baptized in the Catholic Church but raised without religion.

"It's been kind of a long journey," he said. "The Lord has been working in my life, and it took me a while to re-

out with us?"

Mr. Lissick quickly answered: "Absolutely!"

"I regretted that about 15 minutes into it, when I threw up!" he said. "But I finished the workout, and that's when I realized that it didn't look like I thought it would, but that prayer had been answered."

He was praising the Lord as he got in his car, "and I felt him really just command me as loud as I've ever heard him to go to the Catholic church, right now," said Mr. Lissick.

"Never having had an experience like that, I listened!" he said.

When he got to church, a deacon was there to help him sort through some questions and suggest he visit the St. Thomas More Newman Center on the MU campus in Columbia.

"I put God at the forefront of my life, and it's been a joy ever since," he said.

What stood out to Mr. Lissick the most about the Liturgy with the bishop was the Bible verse written in large letters around the perimeter of the Cathedral: "They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers," (Acts 2:42).

"Adhering to the prayers and responsibilities that we have," said Mr. Lissick. "To me, it's such a beautiful thing that we get to be a part of. And it's definitely transformed my life and the lives of others. It was beautiful to see."

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

spond to his call."

The Tigers' impressive 2023 football season was a turning point for him.

"I got to be part of something incredible," he said. "We accomplished a lot, but it felt like a little. And I think it was because I noticed that God was missing. I never wanted to feel like that again."

He had been praying since he was little to be able to play football with people from his hometown.

"I ended up in a football field in Minnesota this past summer," he recalled. "I was there just trying to learn from some really talented guys."

"So, I went there just to film the workout and maybe learn from some of the coaches," he said. "And they were short some people, and asked, 'Do you want to come in and work

See RITE OF ELECTION, page 15



Catechumens who are preparing to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in parishes throughout the diocese gather with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight in the sanctuary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph during the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion on Mar. 9. — Photos by Jay Nies

RITE OF ELECTION

From page 14

Prayer and accompaniment

Luke Mach from Nebraska and Julia Hejkal from Des Moines, Iowa, are campus missionaries with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) at the University of Missouri.

They attended the Rite of Election as sponsors for people from the university who are entering the Church.

Mr. Mach said being a sponsor involves accompanying people on their walk.

"Really, what we're called to within the Church is to be a light to, be an example for the candidates and catechumens, and then to guide and lead them toward the truth of the Church," he said.

Ms. Hejkal said it boils down to being a role model for the person who's coming into the Church, of what it means to live a Christian life.

"Honestly, the biggest part of being a sponsor is praying for the person Jesus has entrusted you with," she said.

"And like the bishop said, working with Jesus and the graces that he's bestowing on his children right now, and praying for those graces to come to fulfillment at Eastertime and for the rest of their life," she said.

"It's truly a gift that through that person, Jesus chose us to be a part of this journey with them," she stated. "And loving them and supporting them in that way is the biggest thing you can do."

"Toll on the soul"

"I spent a decade running from God, at pretty break-neck speeds at some point, but he finally caught up with me," said Jacob Fitzgibbon, a student at the Missouri University of Science & Technology in Rolla.

He grew up in a Christian family, but he found the teachings and traditions of his congregation to be lacking.

He became friends with several Catholics and was inspired by their passion and intellect and how they justify what they believe.

"But now, I'm becoming more familiar with the idea of being in a state of grace, and how the Sacraments bring us closer to God and how mortal sins take us farther away from him."

The clarity of the Church's teachings on these matters appeals to him.

"The toll on the soul is there," he said. "There's no sin that doesn't have a price."

"So, what I'm expecting to get as I get further into a state of grace is, along with a stronger sense of conviction, which I think will drive me to do better, I'm looking forward to the

of it that I had imagined when I was in high school," he said.

He began searching for more.

He left the volleyball team and "tried everything on campus and everything Rolla has to offer."

He had been wrestling with being Catholic.

"I'd been baptized and received my First Communion, but my family has been only nominally Christian in recent years," he said.

He found how difficult life without God and the Church can be.

Working at the Student Success Center on campus, he came into contact with Victoria Allen, who was a FOCUS missionary on campus.

"Every Friday, when we had our office hours together for about a year, I would talk to her about faith, about Catholicism and about God in general," said Mr. Obsuth.

Those conversations helped him decide to sign up for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) and learn more about Catholicism.

"And through learning a lot of things and having a lot of my questions answered — especially about the clergy, the pope, what a saint is — all the things I think people who come from a Reformed Christian view doubt or have questions about," he said.

Those things have now been largely settled for him.

"I've realized that I'm not going to know everything," said Mr. Obsuth, "so I made a

decision to push those doubts aside and trust my intuition and trust what I do know, and make a commitment to something that's greater than me."

"Keep going"

Mr. Obsuth noted that many college students are searching for meaning and to do things that really matter.

"So, it's good to get involved and push yourself to explore new things," he said. "Embrace that spirit, go and try to learn and ask questions, and you'll be surprised at what you can figure out."

Ms. Martin said she intends to stay active in her parish and bring her family to parish events.

"When the church has activities or festivals or during Lent when we have fish fries or whatever, It helps remind us to keep coming back to church and not leave your faith behind," she said.

"Keep going," she advised. "If you miss Sunday, don't be like, 'Okay, I'm done.' Don't give up. Just keep in mind what you're going for, and keep on going!"

Gary Micka, a member of the OCIA team at St. Patrick Parish in Rolla, is serving as a sponsor to several students through the initiation process.

"It is my greatest privilege and honor to continue on this path with you," he told them. "If you have questions, keep asking. 'Most topics are either broad and shallow, or narrow and deep. The Catholic faith is broad and very deep. The Church will never cease to be a source of interest, excitement and challenge.'"



He was also struck by their steadfast humility.

"I found their faith to be very genuine as I talked to them more about it," he said. "It felt like less of a lifestyle choice and more of a really personal decision."

The more Mr. Fitzgibbon learns about being Catholic, the more sense it makes to him.

"I've received the Sacrament of Baptism already, and I feel the Holy Spirit," he said.

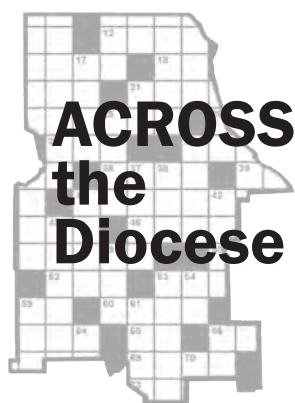
fruits of good labor manifesting itself in my life," he stated.

"New things"

Auston Obsuth, a St. Augustine, Florida, native, came to Rolla to play men's collegiate volleyball and study engineering management at Missouri S&T.

It had been his life's dream.

"I played volleyball for a season and then I didn't feel like I was getting the fulfillment out

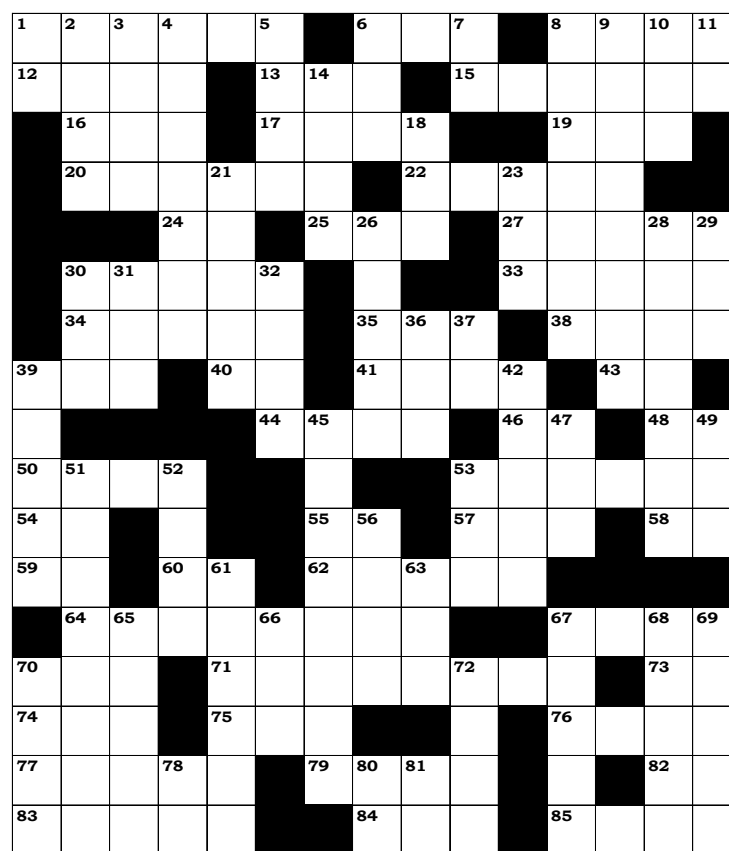


By Father Donald Antweiler

ACROSS

1. Six stone columns stand on the Columbia campus of the Univ. of Mo., an iconic ____ of the Univ.
6. "In the New Testament, we find Mary depicted in ways that echo the biblical portrait of ____ and the mysterious 'woman' of Genesis 3:15," —*Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary*, by Brant Pitre.
8. But the destruction of the young Univ.'s major building, and a scattered-about student ____, changed things. If the Univ. was ever to be moved, or parceled out, now was the time.
12. "I continue my pursuit toward the ____, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus," (Philippians 3:14).
13. Stomach muscles.
15. "You shall not fear the ____ of the night..." (Psalms 91:5).
16. It was to be a do-or-____ moment for the Univ. campus.
17. The morning after the fire, students and citizens rallied at a ____ meeting, organizing for classes to continue in churches, halls and public buildings around town.
19. In Britain, a small island.
20. "But he did not ____ him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed," (Matthew 27:14).
22. Site of Queen of Peace parish, on Hwy. 6 in Lewis County.
24. Letters for Social Anxiety, a medical disorder.
25. Make lace.
27. "And this will be ____ for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes..." —Luke 2:12 (2 wds.).
30. Paul appointed Titus to this island "to set right what remains to be done," (Titus 1:5).
33. Despite the Governor's support, the special session in Jeff. City was a chaotic welter of competing and confusing proposals about location and ____.
34. Efforts to save the building were hampered by exploding ammunition, a supply for the Univ.'s ____ Corps (that era's ROTC).
35. On March 15 in the Mo. legislature, Sedalia ____ over Columbia by 2 votes: 69-67. It needed 71 votes to pass.
38. Slang for a police officer dealing with narcotics.
39. Letters for United States Marines.
40. Licensed medical caregiver.
41. Mother Angelica's station.
43. Letters for lunar module. Though the Apollo lunar module was not built in Mo., both preparation programs, the Mercury and Gemini spacecraft, as well as the moon maps for the Apollo mission, were produced in St. Louis.
44. Letters for the Am. Assn. of Drilling Engineers; founded in New Orleans in 1978; 5,000 members in 11 U.S. oil-producing regional chapters.
46. "The 'largest-scale' Church family is even larger than the entire Church on earth, because ____ includes the Church Suffering and the Church Triumph," —*The Church as the Family of God*, by Fr. Pablo Gadenz.
48. "Millennialism is an episodic faith, one designed for a generation ____ a time, not for the ages," —*The End of the World?* by Reginald Stackhouse.
50. A brand of soap, or an old rotary ____ phone.
53. Large grayish-green lizard of tropical America, including the Florida Keys, Puerto Rico and Hawaii.
54. Prefix for joy or list.
55. Abbr. for equal.
57. Letters for National Health Insurance; although almost every developed country has some system of universal national health care, the U.S. has always maintained a mixed system of public and private health insurance.
58. Letters after the name of a

- member of the Society of Jesus (i.e., a Jesuit).
59. The new "three ____" are said to be Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
60. "I have always wanted to be a saint. Alas! When compared, there is a difference between them and ____ (as) between a mountain and an obscure grain of sand," —*Story of a Soul*, St. Thérèse of Lisieux.
62. "Jesus rebuked him and said, 'Be ____! Come out of him!'" (Luke 4:35).
64. "Gratitude changes the pangs of memory into a ____ joy," —Dietrich Bonhoeffer.
67. Red and Black, for example.
70. The letter "T" in the Greek alphabet.
71. The ____ finally gave way, and the Mo. House approved a bill saying the destroyed Univ. building would be rebuilt in Columbia.
73. Nicknamed the Granite State, its motto is Live Free or Die (abbr.).
74. Letters for Spiking Neural Network, an artificial neural network that closely mimics the biological network in the brain. Has to do with Artificial Intelligence.
75. Washington, D.C.'s summertime time zone designation.
76. "Often I find in ritual a shape I can fit myself ____; there, and nowhere else, I often find enough to keep going," —*The Lost Art of Walking on Water*, by Michael Heher.
77. 7up has always been proudly marketed as definitely NOT ____ (2 wds.).
79. "It behooves us to live ____ day as though it were our last, and to lie down every night as though the next day were to be our first," —Abbot Radulfus in a Brother Cadfael mystery, by Ellis Peters.
82. One of Jupiter's moons.
83. "All things being equal, people will do business with, and ____ business to, those people they know, like, and trust," —*Go-Giver*, by Bob Burg.
84. Wildebeest.
85. The six columns are re-



mindings of a time when, for ____ of only 2 votes, the Univ. of Mo. might have been relocated or even dismantled and scattered about the State.

in Columbia's former major competitors: Independence, Clinton and Sedalia.

10. Mo ____ has begun the huge process of expanding I-70 to 3 lanes each way through Mo.

DOWN

1. Country internet code letters for Singapore. Singapore, Monaco and Vatican City are the only 3 city-states in existence.
2. The small, wise and powerful green Jedi Master of Star Wars.
3. The columns are the remnants of a ferocious fire the night of Jan. 9, 1892 that completely destroyed Academic Hall, the ____ building of the 52-years-young University.
4. "____ are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," (Matthew 5:3).
5. "...the blind regain their sight, the ____ walk, lepers are cleansed..." (Matthew 11:5).
6. Shape of a skier's trail down the slope.
7. *Antiqua ____ Nova* (Ancient and New); Vatican document on the relationship between artificial and human intelligence; Jan. 28, 2025.
8. Mo.'s music capital.
9. The ____ competition for the location of the Univ. had been hostile and fierce. Resentments and new hope was rekindled
11. 52 wks.
14. Homer Simpson's son.
18. Gov. David Francis pledged his support and to call a special session to pass funds to rebuild. Univ. officials put together a plan to rebuild and ____ aside start-up funding.
21. Faulty wiring was blamed for the fire. The ____ supply to fight the fire was in a cistern in the building's basement. It was quickly drained.
23. "And behold, ____ with you always, until the end of the age," —Matthew 28:20 (2 wds.).
26. Unimpaired; not disabled.
28. "The more important cities farther up the river, for ex., Jefferson City, Boonville, Glasgow, Brunswick, and Lexington, received a rather large influx of ____," —*Longer Than a Man's Lifetime in Missouri*, by Gert Goebel.
29. America's most populous city.
30. Units of blood, for ex.
31. "As Abraham looked about, he spied a ____ caught by its horns in the

CLUES continued on page 17

CLUES

From page 16

- thicket," (Genesis 22:13).
32. Sicilian spouter.
36. A female sheep.
37. 5th bk. of the Bible.
39. "Jerusalem...how many times I yearned to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood _____ her wings..." (Luke 13:34).
42. "...the place he said was the prettiest he'd ever seen: the beautiful big white bowl of the Ruth Glacier where the northern lights put on their show every _____," —"A Life on the Road"; Charles Kuralt.
45. Columbia raised \$53,000 for a new building and promised _____ fire protection.
47. "*Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris _____*"; "And Jesus, blessed fruit of your womb" —from "Salve Regina," famous hymn to the Virgin Mary.
49. The _____ Mahal, the white marble mausoleum, has become a symbol of India.
51. "There is no _____ of a nation benefitting from prolonged warfare," —*The Art of War*; Sun Tzu, 500 B.C.
52. A type of bean, or the capital of Peru.
53. Possible three letter ending for serpent or rout.
56. A cut, as of chewing tobacco, or slang for one pound in British currency.
61. "Asking for thirds is smiled upon — in fact, nothing will _____ you to us faster," —*Bon Appetit* magazine, Emily Saladino.
63. "He found him looking _____ at ease, and pulled down by the prison atmosphere, but still unquenchably defiant," —*Clouds of Witness*, by Dorothy Sayers.
65. It was just a _____-the mill kind of day, until I finally took 10 minutes to pray (2 wds.).
66. Abbr. for the Latin phrase "*Quod Erat Demonstrandum*," (i.e., "that which was demonstrated") used to indicate the argument or proof is complete.
67. "...to the various expert workmen whom I have endowed with _____" (Exodus 28:3).
68. "Jesus speaks in parables. I suspect many were not grave at all but were _____, comic, often more than just a little shocking." —Frederick Buechner.
69. "So they _____ the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium," (Acts 13:51).
70. Pre-Communist Russian ruler.
72. Honolulu's island.
78. _____ Moulin Rouge in Paris is the famous cabaret synonymous with the French Cancan.
80. Abbr. for Agriculture; Mo.'s biggest industry.
81. Letters for Cartoon Network; cable TV channel owned by Warner Bros./Discovery.

See ANSWERS, page 19

Remember that you can leave a legacy to your local parish or school through a planned gift. The amount of the gift is not nearly as important as the fact that you remember your local parish or school in your final act of stewardship.

Have you already remembered your parish or school in your estate plans? Please let us know!



Planned Giving
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Jake Seifert
Director of Development
573-635-9127 x-227
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Fundraisers & Social Events

Mar. 21

Boonville, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish parking lot; **Columbia**, Sacred Heart K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School; **Eldon**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, Eldon Catholic Center; **Fulton**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm, St. Peter School gym; **Hannibal**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **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; **Montgomery City**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Owensville**, Immaculate Conception Parish fish fry, 3:30-6:30 pm; **Russellville**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Michael Parish Hall; **St. Clement**, St. Clement Parish fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, K of C Hall; **St. Elizabeth**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Versailles**, St. Philip Benizi Parish fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, church basement; **Wardsville**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Wardsville/Osage Bend Community Center; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm

Mar. 22

Boonville, K of C Ladies Auxiliary Spring craft show, 9 am-3 pm; **Tipton**, St. Andrew School Big Bucks dinner fundraiser, 6:30-10 pm, K of C Hall

Mar. 25

Jefferson City, Vitae Foundation 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 vitaefoundation.org/events

Mar. 28

Boonville, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish parking lot; **California**, K of C and Ladies Altar Society fish fry, 4-6:30 pm, Annunciation church basement; **Columbia**, Sacred Heart K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School; **Eldon**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, Eldon Catholic Center; **Fayette**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, St. Joseph Parish Hall; **Hannibal**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **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; **Montgomery City**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Owensville**, Immaculate Concep-

tion Parish fish fry, 3:30-6:30 pm; **Rich Fountain**, Sacred Heart Parish fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, school cafeteria; **St. Clement**, St. Clement Parish fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, K of C Hall; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **St. Martins**, St. Martin Parish fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, school gym; **Sedalia**, K of C fish fry, 4-7:30 pm; **Taos**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Tipton**, St. Andrew School CYO fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, K of C Hall; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm

Apr. 4

Argyle, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Boonville**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish parking lot; **Chamois**, Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish seafood buffet, 4-7:30 pm, parish hall; **Columbia**, K of C #1529 fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, K of C Hall; **Eldon**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, Eldon Catholic Center; **Fulton**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm, St. Peter School gym; **Hannibal**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Jefferson City**, Bishop McAuliffe K of C/Boy Scout Troop 104 fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall; **Montgomery City**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Owensville**, Immaculate Conception Parish fish fry, 3:30-6:30 pm; **Russellville**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Michael Parish Hall; **St. Clement**, St. Clement Parish fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, K of C Hall; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Versailles**, St. Philip Benizi Parish fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, church basement; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm

Apr. 6

Vienna, K of C monthly breakfast, 7:30-10:30 am

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

Mar. 25

Jefferson City, Vitae Foundation 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 vitaefoundation.org/events

Mar. 27

Camdenton, "Catholics Returning Home" meeting, 6:30-8 pm, St. Anthony Parish Education Building; **Eldon**, Vocations Ministry Night for parents and teens in grade 7 and above, 6-8 pm, Sacred Heart Parish

Mar. 30

Warsaw, Miracles presentation with Tim Francis, 1:30-4 pm, St. Ann Church

Mar. 31 & Apr. 1

Columbia, "Signs From God: Miracles and Their Meaning," presentation by Tim Francis, 6:30 pm each evening (same presentation), Sacred Heart Parish activity building

Apr. 3

Camdenton, "Catholics Returning Home" meeting, 6:30-8 pm, St. Anthony Parish Education Building; **Columbia**, Mid-Missouri Ultreya for Cursillo, 7-8 pm, Sacred Heart Parish Activity Building

Apr. 10

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

To get your event listed here
and the diocesan calendar AND/OR
to request advertising, go to:
DIOJEFFCITY.ORG/EVENT-LISTING

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

22-23 marzo

Marshall, Retiro de Vida en el Espíritu, iglesia de San Pedro, 8 am-7 pm, para más información contacte al líder RCC de su parroquia; **Sedalia**, Retiro de Vida en el Espíritu, capilla de San Patricio, 8 am-7 pm, para más información contacte al líder RCC de su parroquia

29 marzo

Marshall, Retiro de Quinceañera, iglesia de San Pedro, 9 am-3 pm, para más información contacte el equipo de quinceañera de su parroquia

26 abril

Columbia, Retiro de Quinceañera, iglesia de Sagrado Corazón, 9 am-3 pm, para más información contacte el equipo de quinceañera de su parroquia

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Every Tuesday

Jefferson City, "Tuesday With Faith," small group discussions, 6:30-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info, call 573-645-2478 or email jimkemna@gmail.com

Every Friday

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

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 or email registerariseevent@gmail.com

Mar. 28-30

Florissant, RENEW retreat for

Catholic singles, Pallottine Renewal Center, for info or to register visit RenewRetreats.org, email renewretreat.stl@gmail.com or call 314-703-1002

Apr. 5

Starkenburg, "Finding Hope in Suffering," diocesan Women's Ministry Spring Pilgrimage, 9:30 am-3:30 pm, Valentine Hall at the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry-upcoming-events

Apr. 7

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

Apr. 14

Shelbina, Holy Monday Pilgrimage of Hope, 8 am-3 pm, Camp Tolton Lodge and Retreat Center, for info or to register, email adurbin@ymail.com or call 660-415-7362

Liturgical

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

Apr. 8

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

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 ican-gels.com/youngadults

Mar. 27

Eldon, Vocations Ministry Night for teens in grade 7 and above and their parents, 6-8 pm, Sacred Heart Parish

Jun. 8-12

Union, MO, Camp Lolek Session 1 for junior high boys, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry

Jun. 15-19

Union, MO, Camp Lolek Session 2 for junior high girls, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry

Jul. 13-18

Camdenton, Camp MacCabee Session 1 for high school boys, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry; **Shelbina**, Camp Siena Session 1 for high school girls, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry

Jul. 20-25

Camdenton, Camp MacCabee Session 2 for high school boys, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry; **Shelbina**, Camp Siena Session 2 for high school girls, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry

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

Anniversaries

Tipton, St. Andrew
Bob & Sharon Fulton, 60 years

Baptisms

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Javier Carlyle Morales**, son of Alejandro & Emily Morales

Marshall, St. Peter — **Arthur B., Biandra** and **Zekaiah Marable**, children of Arthur Marable & Brenda Werley

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Charlotte Rose Evers**, daughter of Jeremy & Alyssa Evers

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Yaliana Gutierrez**, daughter of Yulisa Engelmeyer McManus

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Georgia Nicole Rowland**, daughter of Jeremy & Emily Rowland

Birthdays

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception — **Doris Dennis**, her 101st on Mar. 22; **Sybil Schreiner**, her 97th on Mar. 29

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Margaret Sachse**, her 95th on Mar. 24

St. Patrick, Shrine of St. Patrick — **Catherine Nichols**, her 91st on Mar. 24

Deaths

Palmyra, St. Joseph — **Gary Williams**

St. James, Immaculate Conception — **Charles Cornick**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Ambrose Bungart**

St. Patrick, Shrine of St. Patrick — **James Ellison**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Harvey Rackers**

EDUCATORS

From page 5

of spiritual reflection and dialogue. “Jesus, please help us all have open hearts like your mom,” Mrs. Lozano prayed. They began by focusing on praise and gratitude, faith, community and the needs in their hearts. From there, they used personal stories and clips from a popular TV show to illustrate important lessons about God, faith, life and the teaching profession. Key points included staying in touch with their reasons for being who they are and for doing what they do; actively seeking potential in every person they meet; staying curious rather than judgmental; coming to terms with their own struggles and shortcomings and presenting those to God in prayer; and believing in themselves as much as God believes in them.

“If we’re humble enough, we can learn from anyone or anything,” said Mrs. Lozano. “We are all works in progress and are loved more than we can imagine on this side of heaven.” Dr. Vader thanked everyone for their active participation in the day’s activities. “You showed up, you participated in it, you were ‘in it,’” she told the audience. “That’s how you are every day.” She commended the teachers and administrators on the beautiful things they do and witness in the children who are entrusted to their care. “It’s so important,” she said. “In a world that’s sometimes crazy and filled with so much noise, these kiddos are coming to a place where they can be safe and feel loved and feel seen, and they get to know God.”

QUESTION

From page 8

death they should communicate again.” So, even if a Catholic already had attended two Masses and received Holy Communion at both, if they were in a serious accident or fell deathly ill later that day, they could still receive Holy Communion once again. And reception of Holy Communion as viaticum would typically take place outside of Mass, due to the nature of the circumstances.

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.

EMMEL

From page 9

of the Lord’s Nativity on Dec. 24, 2024, with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter’s Basilica, and in local dioceses on Holy Family Sunday on Dec. 29. It will conclude in local dioceses the following Holy Family Sunday, on Dec. 28, 2025, and in Rome on Jan. 6, 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

Keep in mind

Some important things to keep in mind during this jubilee year include: •Jubilee indulgence: Special graces for the forgiveness of the temporal punishment due to sins are made available during the Jubilee Year. The faithful may obtain a plenary indulgence — remission of all temporal punishment (time in purgatory) for sin — by meeting the normal conditions (Confession, Holy Communion, prayer for the pope’s intentions, and no attachment to sin) and by participating in one of the following activities. •Pilgrimages: The four major basilicas in Rome are the main pilgrimage destinations, but pilgrims may also go to the Holy Land, their diocesan cathedral, or other officially designated locations.

Official pilgrimage sites in this diocese include: the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City; St. Peter Church in Brush Creek; the Shrine of St. Patrick in St. Patrick; the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg; and the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, in Laurie. •Pious visits to sacred places: At these locations, the faithful are to engage in eucharistic adoration and meditation,

among other spiritual practices. •Works of mercy and penance: The faithful are to perform the spiritual and corporal works of mercy or carry out works of penance, such as abstaining from meat on Fridays. •Holy doors: The pope opens the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica at the beginning of each jubilee year. Passing through the holy doors symbolizes a pilgrim’s journey of conversion. •Major Basilicas: The pope also opens the Holy Doors of the four main churches (called “major basilicas”) in Rome: St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls.

How can we participate in 2025?

•Make time for daily prayer and reflection on the themes of hope, reconciliation and mercy. •Read Scripture, specially the Psalms and the Gospels, that speak to the promise of hope. •Perform acts of mercy or kindness that make the world a better place and spread hope. •Celebrate the Sacraments, particularly the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation. •Make a pilgrimage, whether to Rome or to a nearby shrine or holy site. •Take part in retreats or events that focus on the themes of the jubilee to grow in understanding and build faith.

No matter what you and your family do to celebrate this Jubilee Year, I hope you take time to grow in your relationship with God while spending time visiting holy sites and doing works of mercy alongside your family members.

Mrs. Emmel teaches at Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City.

SCALIA

From page 9

which I must admit was ghastly. But we’ve all learned to love the beans-and-macaroni. Yes, as Mom made it, it’s simply macaroni and a can of white kidney beans, but it goes down easy on a cold Lenten evening. During Lent until Good Friday, we are required only to observe the Friday abstinence from meat. I’ll save my thoughts on how poorly we’ve taught Friday abstinences for another column, which you may find useful to read as a kind of Lenten penance. Do I sound cranky? I just realized that I might sound peevish. Well, I’m 66 years old and I’m fasting, so there. Maybe there is some sense to those age restrictions, after all. But I did wash my face, Jesus! I’m trying!

Elizabeth Scalia is editor at large for OSV. Follow her on X @the anchoress.

Crossword puzzle answers

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

Making 'goodie bags'



Students at St. Andrew School in Tipton decorate, fill and prepare to deliver community bags to thank local businesses Jan. 29 as part of their Catholic Schools Week observance.

— Photo from the St. Andrew Church and School Facebook page

Starting Lent off right



Members of a senior girls discipleship group at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City spent part of their Ash Wednesday preparing and serving a meal for guests at Jefferson City Room at the Inn homeless shelter at First Baptist Church.

— Photo from the Helias Catholic High School Facebook page

Getting ready for First Communion

RIGHT: Second-graders at St. George School in Hermann take part in their Center Night as part of their preparations for their First Holy Communion.

— Photo from the St. George Catholic School - Hermann, MO Facebook page



Reading for touchdowns in Marshall



First- and second-graders at St. Peter School in Marshall participate in a weeklong Reading Super Bowl. Every 20 minutes spent reading at home equaled 20 yards that each reader could move their football player on the field. The first-grade readers were the Eagles, and the second-grade readers were the Chiefs. Sixth-grade cheerleaders helped kick off the week with a mini pep rally. Both classes enjoyed a Super Bowl Party with a giant football field cake. — Photo from the St. Peter School Facebook page

Dressed for success

The pre-kindergartners and kindergartners at Immaculate Conception School in Montgomery City enjoy a visit from the fire marshal of the Little Dixie Fire Protection District and their favorite police officers.

— Photo from the Immaculate Conception School-Montgomery City Facebook page



Bible Accent

Did you know that Moses, a Hebrew, was raised as an Egyptian?

In Exodus 1, we read that Pharaoh enslaved the Israelites and ordered that all male Israelite babies be killed.

In Exodus 3, we read that a Levite woman gave birth to a baby boy and hid him until he was 3 months old.

By that age, she could no longer hide the child.

She decided to place the baby in a watertight papyrus basket and set it among the reeds on the bank of the Nile River.

She also sent her daughter to watch and see what would happen to the child.

Just then, Pharaoh's daughter came to the river to take a bath.

She saw the basket in the reeds and told her handmaid to bring it to her.

She opened the basket and saw the crying baby boy.

Her heart was moved with pity.

"It is one of the Hebrews' children," she said.

The baby's sister rushed up to Pharaoh's daughter.

"Shall I go and summon a Hebrew woman to nurse the child for you?" the girl asked.

Pharaoh's daughter agreed.

The girl went away and returned with her mother, who also was the baby's mother.

"Take this child and nurse him for me, and I will pay your wages," Pharaoh's daughter told the woman.

When the boy grew, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who raised the child as her own.

Pharaoh's daughter named the boy Moses, because she drew him out of the water.

God tells Moses to bring the Israelites out of Egypt

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

Moses was married to a daughter of Jethro, the priest of Midian. One day, Moses was tending his father-in-law's flock near Horeb, the mountain of God.

As Moses walked along, something strange caught his eye. A nearby bush was on fire, but the flames were not destroying it.

"I must go over to look at this remarkable sight, and see why the bush is not burned," Moses said in amazement.

God noticed that the burning bush had caught Moses' attention.

"Moses! Moses!" God called out from the bush.

"Here I am," Moses replied as he started to walk closer to the bush.

"Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground," God said. "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob."

Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

God told Moses that he had heard the suffering cries of the Israelites, who were slaves in Egypt.

"Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey," God said. "Now, go! I am sending you to Pharaoh to



Illustration by Linda Rivers

bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" Moses asked.

"I will be with you," God said, "and this will be your sign that I have sent you. When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God at this mountain."

Moses had another question for God.


"But when I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' if they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?" he wanted to know.

"I am who I am," God replied.

"This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I Am sent me to you," God added. "Thus shall you say to the Israelites: The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever; thus am I to be remembered through all generations."

Read more about it... Exodus 3

1. What was Moses doing when he saw the burning bush?
2. What did God want Moses to do?



Whom did Moses meet in the wilderness on his way to Egypt?
(Hint: Exodus 4:27)

Answer: Aaron

St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

Mark Rey was born in Sigmaringen, Germany, in 1577. He studied philosophy and law and eventually set up a legal practice in Alsace. He did not like the behavior of his fellow lawyers, so he became a Capuchin and took the name Fidelis. Fidelis was invited to Switzerland to bring Protestants back to the Catholic Church. In 1622, he was murdered by opponents of his work. We remember him on April 24.




Puzzle

Using the hints provided, fill in the blanks with the correct answers about Moses.

1. God told Moses to throw his _____ on the ground, and it turned into a snake. (Exodus 4:2-3)
2. Moses brought his _____ and _____ with him to Egypt. (Exodus 4:20)
3. Moses described himself as a poor _____. (Exodus 6:30)
4. Moses was _____ when he spoke to Pharaoh. (Exodus 7:7)
5. Moses was told to consecrate every _____ to God. (Exodus 13:2)

Answers: 1. staff; 2. wife, sons; 3. speaker; 4. 80 years old; 5. firstborn.

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'The Last Supper' is somewhat 'forced' but mostly theologically sound

Reviewed by John Mulderig
OSV News

New York

Viewers of "The Last Supper" (Pinnacle Peak), director and co-writer Mauro Borrelli's dramatization of events surrounding the Passion, may be able to tell that he has a strong visual background. A veteran art designer who has collaborated with such high-profile figures as Tim Burton, Borrelli gives us some warm and vivid imagery.

The tone of his film is, moreover, appropriately reverent. Yet some of the action feels forced and the mood occasionally becomes



Jamie Ward portrays Christ in a scene from the movie "The Last Supper."
— OSV News photo/Pinnacle Peak

overwrought.

That problem doesn't affect

Jamie Ward's performance as Jesus. Temple cleansing aside, his is a serene Savior. As for the Apostle Peter (James Oliver Wheatley), from whose viewpoint the story is told, his post-denial remorse flirts with excess but makes its dramatic point.

It's mainly Robert Knepper's twitchy Judas who comes across as emotionally overblown. And that isn't all the actor's fault.

Borrelli achieves some moments of genuine intensity as when Jesus washes the bewildered Peter's feet. These come mostly when he and his script collaborator, John Collins, adhere closely to Scripture.

Their effort to flesh out the biblical account, by contrast, frequently goes awry. This is most glaring in the case of Judas' motivation for treachery. He's shown to be tempted by the devil, and money grubbing from the start. But his thinking is otherwise largely unintelligible. In the absence

Movie Ratings



General Patronage

Paddington in Peru (PG)



Adults and Adolescents

Dog Man (PG)
The Last Supper (PG-13)



Adults

Captain America: Brave New World (PG-13)
Flight Risk (R)
I'm Still Here (PG-13)
Last Breath (PG-13)
Love Hurts (R)
You're Cordially Invited (R)



Limited Adult Audience

Mickey 17 (R)



Morally Offensive

Heart Eyes (R)
The Monkey (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

of any coherent characterization, Knepper has little with which to work.

Scenes showing Jesus being beaten bloody by his captors, while realistic, narrow the appropriate audience for "The Last Supper." So, too, do the glimpses we're given of the Crucifixion. Safe to say, this isn't apt fare for those eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Easter Bunny.

For those with a more mature outlook on the meaning of the holiday, this recreation of the original events is, for the most part, theologically sound. Thus the action begins with the multiplication of the loaves and fishes as well as Jesus' prophecy about the gift of the Eucharist as recounted in St. John's Gospel.

Cinematic sturdiness, however, is a different question.

The film contains some harsh gory violence and a suicide. The OSV News classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion

Picture Association rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

John Mulderig is media reviewer for OSV News.

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Three-parish joint Lenten mission, Reconciliation services in Cathedral

DATE: March 24-25

Priest to clarify difference between mortal, venial sins

By Jay Nies

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Immaculate Conception and St. Peter parishes in Jefferson City will hold a citywide Jubilee Year Parish Mission, incorporating all three parishes' Lenten communal Reconciliation Services, on Monday and Tuesday, March 24 and 25.

Both evenings' activities will be held in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St. in Jefferson City.

Father Jonathan Duncan, a priest of the Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina, will speak from 5:45 p.m. to 7 p.m.

He will give the same talk on both evenings, focusing on the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Several priests will be available as confessors from 4:30-5:30 p.m. and from 7-8 p.m.

All are welcome to attend.

Fr. Duncan's talk will include helping people understand the difference between serious (also known as mortal) sin, and venial sin, along with how often people should go to Confession.

Father Stephen Jones, pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, said that distinction is important.

He noted that three conditions must be present in order for a sin to be serious (mortal):

- it must be a grave matter;
- it must be committed with full knowledge; and
- it must be committed with deliberate consent.

Fr. Jones said the distinction matters for the faithful, in order to avoid receiving Holy Communion with the knowledge of grave sin that has not been confessed, while avoiding

the perils of scrupulosity and relentless feelings of guilt.

Although receiving Holy Communion while having unconfessed mortal sin on one's conscience is itself a mortal sin, Holy Communion is actually a remedy for venial sin.

"If you find yourself guilty of sin that is not mortal sin, the reception of the Eucharist cleanses you of those sins," Fr. Jones noted.

"That's why we have the Penitential Rite at the beginning of Mass," he said.

He noted that regular Confession can be very good for spiritual growth, and he would not want to encourage anyone to avoid it whenever necessary.

"But it's also important to remember the difference between mortal and venial sins, and to understand that the Holy Eucharist does, in practice, lead to the forgiveness of venial sin," he said.

REVIVAL

From page 7

level of closeness and intimacy with him.

"We receive God in the Eucharist so that we can become like him, so that we can go out into the world from Mass and change the world and be a little bit of Christ to everyone we encounter," said Miss Mertes.

She said the Sacrament of Reconciliation is important for sustaining the Eucharistic Revival because it not only restores individual people to a state of grace but also heals wounds in the entire community.

"My sin doesn't just hurt my relationship with Jesus," she noted. "I'm part of the Body of Christ, and when I'm wounded through my sin, the whole Body of Christ is wounded."

"Our sins hurt us and hurt our place in it," she said. "That's why when we confess our sins, we do it through the ministry

of the Church.

"Our actions offend God and they affect the Body of Christ, so God works through that body to bring us back into the community," she said. "He restores our relationship with us individually and restores the relationship with the Body of Christ."

"So, when I go to Confession and put myself before the mercy of the Lord and receive forgiveness through the ministry of the Church, the grace I receive, the whole Body of Christ receives."

Love beyond measure

While Miss Mertes was selecting a topic for her thesis, someone advised her to address a subject "that you're so passionate about that you don't want to shut up about it."

Why is she so passionate about Reconciliation and the Eucharist?

"The misconceptions around the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the fear people have toward it — it breaks my heart," she said in an interview. "It makes me so sad that people are afraid to be vulnerable

about their sins before God."

She likened this to the distinction between children who have a healthy fear of getting in trouble, versus being afraid of their parents.

"I think a lot of people fear our Father," she said. "We don't believe that God will be merciful, or we are afraid that we don't deserve mercy, or we don't trust."

There are also people who don't understand how much they need God's mercy.

"Whether you're on the side of being so afraid or ashamed of this that 'I can't ask for forgiveness,' or 'I don't think I need any forgiveness at all' — both are missing the point," she said.

Miss Mertes's approach to faith, to her work, to catechesis and evangelization centers on "the truth that our faith is not about complying with a narrow set of doctrines and dogmas, but is about entering into a personal relationship with a God who loves us more than we can possibly fathom."

That love is not conditional on people behaving well or doing enough.

"We don't earn salvation,"

Daily Readings

Sunday, Mar 23

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Ex. 3:1-8a, 13-15
Ps. 95:1-2, 6-9
1 Cor. 10:1-6, 10-12
Lk. 13:1-9

Monday, Mar 24

2 Kgs. 5:1-15b
Ps. 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4
Lk. 4:24-30

Tuesday, Mar 25

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Is. 7:10-14; 8:10
Ps. 40:7-8a-11
Heb. 10:4-10
Lk. 1:26-38

Wednesday, Mar 26

Dt. 4:1, 5-9
Ps. 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20
Mt. 5:17-19

Thursday, Mar 27

Jer. 7:23-28
Ps. 95:1-2, 6-9
Lk. 11:14-23

Friday, Mar 28

Hos. 14:2-10
Ps. 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17
Mk. 12:28-34

Saturday, Mar 29

Hos. 6:1-6
Ps. 51:3-4, 18-21ab
Lk. 18:9-14

Sunday, Mar 30

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jos. 5:9a, 10-12
Ps. 34:2-7
2 Cor. 5:17-21
Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32

Monday, Mar 31

Is. 65:17-21
Ps. 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b
Jn. 4:43-54

Tuesday, Apr 1

Ez. 47:1-9, 12
Ps. 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
Jn. 5:1-16

Wednesday, Apr 2

St. Francis of Paola, hermit
Is. 49:8-15
Ps. 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18
Jn. 5:17-30

Thursday, Apr 3

Ex. 32:7-14
Ps. 106:19-23
Jn. 5:31-47

Friday, Apr 4

St. Isidore, bishop and doctor of the Church
Wis. 2:1a, 12-22
Ps. 34:17-21, 23
Jn. 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, Apr 5

St. Vincent Ferrer, priest
Jer. 11:18-20
Ps. 7:2-3, 9bc-12
Jn. 7:40-53

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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said Miss Mertes. "We don't deserve it. We RECEIVE it."

Only because of that love does God offer mandates and imperatives that lead to a healthy relationship with him and with others and a life well lived.

"And the reason for doing those things is not to earn our way to heaven," Miss Mertes stated. "The reason of doing those things is that it shapes us to become people who desire heaven — people who know who God is and come to share

in his vision for the world, his desire, his plan."

All human beings are created to receive God, to be cherished by him and to be in right relationship with him.

"Whether we believe that or not, in the depths of our soul, there is a part of us that cries out to be seen and known and unconditionally loved and accepted," she asserted.

"And if we can't receive that from God, we will kill ourselves trying to receive it from something else."



Masses, Adoration to mark “24 Hours for the Lord” in Laurie

DATE: March 28-29
TIME: 9 am - 9 am

The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church in Laurie will hold a “24 Hours for

the Lord” observance on Friday and Saturday, March 28-29 for the Jubilee Year of Hope. Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. on Friday and Saturday in the St. Michael Chapel inside

St. Patrick Church, 176 Marian Drive, off of Highway 5 in Laurie. Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament will take place in the chapel throughout the

hours between the Masses. All are invited to commit to spending an hour or more of Adoration. Pope Francis has called for all to participate in “24 Hours for the Lord” in the Jubilee Year of Hope. A Jubilee indulgence is granted to those who devoutly participate at Mass or engage in Eucharistic Adoration and meditation, concluding with the “Our Father,” the Profession of Faith and invocations to Mary, the Mother of God. Visit mothersshrine.com to sign up for an Adoration time.



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2 TIMOTHY 1:7