Meaghers make beautiful music together

Andrew Meagher, music director for the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and his wife Kathy followed God and music to each other and then to this diocese.

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The AHOLIC MISSOURIAN

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Abp.-designate McKnight returning to Kansas



Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, left, greets Archbishop-Designate W. Shawn McKnight at a press conference April 8 announcing Bishop McKnight's appointment as archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.

— Photo by Todd Habiger, courtesy of *The Leaven*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas

"Spirit and Truth" — decree, instruction issued for ongoing discernment on music in the liturgy

By Jay Nies

Ongoing discernment for the use of music in sacred liturgies will move to the parish level under an updated decree issued by Archbishop-designate W. Shawn McKnight.

He signed and promulgated the decree, along with an accompanying 2,500-word document, "Spirit and Truth: Instruction regarding the use of music in the liturgy," on April 5.

"The shape and quality of our liturgical celebrations should reflect the mission of the Church herself: to bring glad tidings to the poor and to heal the broken-hearted," stated Archbishop-designate McKnight, who will be installed as archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas on May 27.

The timeline given in the decree allows parishes to begin and complete the local portion of the Sacred Music Consultation process by the end of the current liturgical year, in keeping with the original timeframe for the diocesan-wide process.

The instructional document's title, "Spirit and Truth," refers to a prediction Jesus made to the Woman at the Well in John 4:23: "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him."

The decree and instructional document are focused on various factors that make such worship possible.

Namely: drawing on the fullness of sacred music's power to teach, evangelize and draw people into closer communion with

See SACRED MUSIC, page 17

To be installed as archbishop of Kansas City in his home state May 27

Successor yet to be named for Jefferson City

See "Frequently Asked Questions," Page 8

By Jay Nies

Archbishop-designate W. Shawn McKnight harbored a combination of sadness and joy in the weeks following Pope Francis's invitation for him to be the next archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas.

He will move back to his home state and take up his new role on May 27, while the Jefferson City diocese awaits the announcement of his successor.

"You know, I hate — I HATE — to say goodbye," he stated during an April 8 press conference in Kansas City, Kansas. "But I do love to say hello."

The archbishop-designate has been serving this diocese as bishop since 2018.

As news of his new assignment was published by the Vatican on April 8, Archbishop-designate McKnight shared a statement of gratitude to the people here.

"You welcomed me as your bishop over seven years ago, and together we have grown in faith and service to the Lord," he stated.

"You have been my first flock as a bishop, and that bond will always hold a special place in my heart," he said.

He offered thanks for the people's trust, prayers and dedication to living the Gospel in their communities here.

"As I prepare to answer this new call, please know of my abiding affection and prayers for you all," he stated.

"I am confident that God's providence will continue to guide and bless

See ARCHBISHOP, page 16

Find us online at CATHMO.COM and @DIOJEFFCITY

MOVING? If you are moving or changing parishes, please fill out information below. Clip and mail to THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN, 2207 West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Or complete the online form at diojeffcity.org/update-information. Allow two weeks. **NEW ADDRESS** NAME ADDRESS CITY, STATE, ZIP _ OLD PARISH_ 04/18/25

Vatican Astronomer to give Perry Lecture at CMU in Fayette

DATE: April 21 TIME: 7 - 8 pm

on Monday, April 21, Central Methodist University in Fayette will welcome to campus Jesuit Brother Guy J. Consolmagno, director of the Vatican Observatory and president of the Vatican Observatory Foundation, to give the 2025 Perry Lecture on Faith and Science.

Brother Guy will present his lecture, titled "Genesis, Creation, and the Vatican Observatory," at 7 p.m. in the Inman Lecture Hall (Stedman 200), 411 Central Methodist Square.

The public is invited.

Known as "The Pope's Astronomer," Brother Guy focuses his research on asteroids and meteorites. His address will reflect on how faith in a Creator gives humanity the courage to study creation, and how understanding creation gives us an intimate familiarity with that Creator.

Brother Guy was born in 1952 in Detroit. He has a master's degree in Earth and Planetary Sciences from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a doctorate in Planetary Science from the University of Arizona. From 1978-80, he was a postdoctoral fellow and lecturer at the Harvard College Observatory and from 1980-1983 continued as postdoc and lecturer at MIT.

He served for two years in the U.S. Peace Corps, teaching physics and astronomy in Kenya.

Paraprofessional position opening

james.hendler@miparishschool.org.

on Indeed.com.

PARISH

Catholic elementary school serving pre-k
through 8th grade is accepting applications for

a paraprofessional. This position is a nine-month position for the 2025-2026 school year. The successful candidate is a practicing Catholic in good standing who can minister to students regardless of subject area, or a teacher who, consistent

with the mission of the school, promotes and teaches the

Catholic faith as reasonably determined by the principal. All

interested persons should complete the application at tinyurl.

com/diojeffcity and contact the Principal, James Hendler, at

The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking a canonist to serve full-time as Judge,

working cooperatively with the Matrimonial Tribunal staff at the direction of the Judicial

Vicar. As assigned by the Director of Canonical

Services, he/she also advises on canonical matters

and prepares drafts of decrees and other canonical

documents, as needed. The qualified candidate should

have a licentiate in Canon Law and a minimum of 5 years

experience in a Matrimonial Tribunal. The candidate must

be a Catholic in good standing and adhere to the doctrine

and moral teaching of the Church, especially with respect

to marriage, and have a strong grasp of procedural Canon Law and knowledge of Rotal jurisprudence. Bilingual in Spanish is preferred. Contact Cheryl Hertfelder, Executive

Director of Human Resources at 573-635-9127 or email

at hrdir@diojeffcity.org. Applications are also accepted

Matrimonial Tribunal Judge Needed

He then served as an assistant professor of physics at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, where he taught until his entry into the Jesuit order in 1989.

He took vows as a Jesuit brother in 1991, and studied philosophy and theology at Loyola University Chicago and physics at the University of Chicago before his assignment to the Vatican Observatory in 1993.

He has served in numerous other teaching positions and on influential boards, has written books on astronomy and wrote or helped write four books exploring issues of faith and science. Since 2004, he has written a monthly column on astronomy for the British Catholic periodical, The Tablet.

Chancery Closing

The chancery offices in the Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center will be closed on **Good Fri**day, April 18, and on Easter Monday, April

Mary Immaculate School in Kirksville, Mo.,

through 8th grade, is accepting applications for

Motion picture on millennial saint

"Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to from April 27 to May 1. Reality," a 90-minute motion picture about Blessed Carlo Acutis, who on April 27 will become the first member of the

Newman Center (2015)

Brinktown (1970)

The film explores the life and legacy of the soon-to-be Saint Carlo Acutis and how he navigated the modern world. Millennial Generation to be It tackles urgent technolodeclared a saint, will be shown gy-related questions, examinin several local movie theaters ing how the virtual landscape

threatens people's fundamental understanding of what it means to be human.

The film also tracks the journey of a group of high school students who embark on a two-week pilgrimage from North Dakota to Italy to visit Blessed Carlo's tomb. A requirement for their pilgrimage: disengage from technology and leave their phones at home.

For information, visit: fath omentertainment.com/releas es/carlo-acutis

"CHRIST SPEAKS: "Mu strength is gone. I can no longer bear the cross alone. And so, the le-gionnaires make Simon give me aid. This Simon us like you, my other self. Give me your strength. Each time you lift some burden from another's back, you lift as with your very hand the cross's awful weight that crushes me."

> – Fifth Station, "Simon Helps Jesus," from "Everyone's Way of the Cross," by Clarence Enzler

The Catholic Missourian

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

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

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight Publisher

Jay Nies, Editor editor@diojeffcity.org



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Fifth Grade Teacher Needed - Westphalia

Pray for deceased priests

Columbia Nursing Home Ministry (2000)

Apr. 21 – Fr. Raymond W. Rau, St. Anthony, Rosati (1978)

Apr. 22 — Fr. William P. Kottenstette, Chaplain, Kirksville

Apr. 25 — Fr. Jerome F. Bestgen, St. Anthony, Rosati (1986);

Apr. 27 — Fr. Richard C. Hunkins, director of pilgrimages;

Apr. 28 — Fr. Richard C. Reichling, Holy Guardian Angels,

Fr. John J. Vandenberghe, service outside the diocese



ST. JOSEPH

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 at tinyurl. com/diojeffcity and contact the Principal, Jeremy Horvath, jhorvath@stjosephwestphalia.org.

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 tinyurl.

com/diojeffcity for the full job description and to complete an application.





Official Decree of Appointments

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

<u>PRIESTS</u>

Reverend Monsignor Gregory L. Higley, VF, from Pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Rolla, and Parochial Administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish, St.

Apr 19

Apr 20

Apr 22

Apr 23

Apr 26

Apr 27

Apr 28

Apr 29

Apr 30

James, and St. Anthony Parish, Rosati to Pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Lake Ozark, effective July 1, 2025.

Reverend Monsignor Marion J. Makarewicz, from residence at St. Stephen Parish, Indian Creek to residence at St. Joseph Parish, Pilot Grove, effective July 1, 2025, continuing with assistance to the pastor as able.

Archbishop-designate

McKnight's

Calendar

Hal Dulle Radio Show, KWOS Radio Station 950

AM/104.5 FM; Easter Vigil Mass, 8:30 pm, Cathedral

Easter Sunday Mass, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 10 am,

Easter Tuesday Mass, 5:30 pm, St. Benedict Abbey,

Atchion, KS; Dinner with students at Benedictine

Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School senior retreat

Mass, 1:40 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City

Knights of Columbus State Convention Mass, 4:30

Confirmation Mass, St. Thomas More Newman

Center Parish and Sacred Heart Parish, 2:30 pm, St.

Pontifical College Josephinum Annual Good Shepherd

Pontifical College Josephinum Seminary Mass, St.

Turibius Chapel, 7 am; Board of Trustees Meeting,

Interview with The Leaven, newspaper of the

Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, 1:30 pm,

Chancery; Confirmation Ceremony, St. Peter Parish,

Thomas More Newman Center, Columbia

Dinner, 6 pm, Columbus, OH

8:30 am, Columbus, OH

6:30 pm, Jefferson City

APRIL

Apr 21-23 Meetings in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas

of St. Joseph, Jefferson City

College following Mass

Jefferson City

pm, Columbia

Very Reverend Jason T. Doke, STL, VF, from Pastor of St. Martin Parish, St. Martins and St. Michael Parish, Russellville to Pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Rolla, Immaculate Conception Parish, St. James, and St. Anthony Parish, Rosati, effective July 1, 2025, continuing as Chair of the Diocesan Building Commission.

Very Reverend P. Gregory Oligschlaeger, VF, from Pastor of Holy Rosary Parish, Monroe City and St. Stephen Parish, Indian Creek to Pastor of Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, Boonville and St. Joseph Parish, Pilot Grove, effective July 1, 2025, continuing as Spiritual Director of the English Cursillo Secretariat.

Reverend César A. Anicama, from providing Mass coverage with residence at St. Peter Parish, Marshall to Parochial Administrator of St. Mary Parish, Milan and the Mission of St. Mary, Unionville, effective May 16, 2025.

Reverend Gregory J. Clever, from Associate Pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Pettis County, to an immersion experience in Costa Rica for Hispanic ministry, effective from May 23 until June 30, 2025; and thereafter to Associate Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and Hispanic ministry in Columbia, effective July 1, 2025.

Reverend Christopher A. Hoffmann, from Associate Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Columbia to Parochial Administrator of Holy Rosary Parish, Monroe City and St. Stephen Parish, Indian Creek, effective July 1, 2025.

Reverend Walter Kispotta, from Temporary Parochial Administrator of St. Cornelius Parish, Crocker and St. Theresa Parish, Dixon, to hospital and nursing home ministry in Jefferson City and Mass coverage as assigned by the Vicar for Priests, with residence at the Cathedral rectory, effective July 1, 2025.

Reverend Martin Masii-

sa, from providing Mass coverage with residence at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, St. Thomas to Associate Pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Pettis County, and providing Mass coverage as assigned by the Vicar for Priests, effective May 16, 2025.

Reverend Anthony N. Onyeihe, from Parochial Administrator of Holy Cross Parish, Cuba, St. Michael Parish, Steelville, and St. Francis Caracciolo Parish, Bourbon to Parochial Administrator of St. Cornelius Parish, Crocker, and St. Theresa Parish, Dixon, effective July 1, 2025.

Reverend Nicholas J. Reid, returning from service for the Archdiocese for the Military Services to Pastor of St. Martin Parish, St. Martins and St. Michael Parish, Russellville, effective July 1, 2025.

Reverend Greivin F. Rodri-

guez Agüero, from Parochial Administrator of St. Mary Parish, Milan and the Mission of St. Mary, Unionville to Associate Pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Pettis County, effective May 16, 2025.

Reverend Mark S. Smith, J.C.L., from Pastor of Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, Boonville and St. Joseph Parish, Pilot Grove to Pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Cuba, St. Michael Parish, Steelville, and St. Francis Caracciolo Parish, Bourbon, effective July 1, 2025, continuing as Tribunal Judge.

DEACONS

Deacon Chad R. Lewis, from Holy Cross Parish, Cuba, St. Michael Parish, Steelville, and St. Francis Caracciolo Parish, Bourbon to diaconal ministry at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, St. Robert and St. Jude Parish, Richland, effective June 1, 2025.

Given at the Chancery in Jefferson City on the 3rd day of April in the Jubilee Year of Our Lord 2025.

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

Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL Chancellor

Bishop McKnight's April prayer intention for our Local Church

For all who have suffered abuse, that they may experience healing and restoration. That we may be evervigilant in protecting the vulnerable and ensuring our parishes remain places of safety, love, and respect. We pray to the Lord.

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

Por todos los que han sufrido abuso, para que experimenten sanación y restauración. Que estemos siempre vigilantes en la protección de los vulnerables y en asegurar que nuestras parroquias permanezcan como lugares seguros, de amor y respeto. Roguemos al Señor.

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

MAY

- May 1 Diocesan 8th Grade Mass, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 10 am; Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, 11 am, Chancery; Dinner Meeting of Priests' Personnel Board, College of Consultors and Very Reverend Deans, 5 pm, Bishop's Residence, Jefferson City
- May 2 Helias Catholic High School walk through, 11 am; Annual St. John Society Dinner, Bishop's Residence, 5:30 pm
- May 3 Diocesan Youth Council Meeting, noon, Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish Office; Consecration of Altar, 5:30 pm, St. Andrew Church, Tipton
- May 4 Confirmation Mass, St. Andrew Parish, Tipton and Annunciation Parish, California, 2 pm, St. Andrew Church, Tipton
- May 5-16 Jubilee Pilgrimage to Italy

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Jubilee of Hope passports enhance Holy Year pilgrimages in diocese

By Jay Nies

Just as the Three Wise Men traversed afar, gave homage to the newborn King and returned home different for having encountered him, the faithful of the Jefferson City diocese are being encouraged to make spiritual pilgrimages for the Jubilee Year of Hope.

The diocese recently released a "Jubilee Passport" for people making a sacred journey to any of the five designated Jubilee pilgrimage destinations in the diocese

The destinations include:

•the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City (See City Deanery)

•the Shrine of St. Patrick in St. Patrick (North Deanery)

•Historical St. Peter Church in Brush Creek (Central Deanery)

•the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, in Laurie (Southwest Deanery); and

•the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg (Southeast Deanery).

Each destination will be the site of designated pilgrimage events during the Jubilee Year.

The colorful and informative passport is available at each of these locations and for download and printout at the diocese's Jubilee 2025 page at

diojeffcity.org/jubilee-year.

The passport includes photos and information about each of the pilgrimage destinations, along with a place to add a sticker from each.

It also contains the Jubilee Prayer, information about how to make a good pilgrimage and ways to obtain a plenary indulgence from making a Jubilee pilgrimage.

Scanning the QR codes in the passport leads to more information about each pilgrimage location, as well as other Jubilee resources on the diocesan website.

People can also upload photos from their pilgrimage to the diocesan website, adding to the collective experience of the Jubilee.

Maureen Quinn, diocesan director of religious education and youth/young adult ministry, said the Jubilee Passport is a physical reminder of the spir-

lies," she said. "It helps them to be engaged at a higher level."

She likened the effect to the beautiful artwork in churches.

"They remind us of what is unseen in our faith," she stated. "You can't necessarily see an experience, but you can see this passport with this sticker that reminds you of where you went, in the footsteps of countless pilgrims before you."

Mrs. Quinn believes pilgrimages are a great way for families to bond while encountering Christ in new ways during the Jubilee Year.

"I envision families packing a picnic or hunting down a local restaurant and seeing parts of our diocese that they may have never seen before," she

2025 JUBILEE PASSPORT

Your guide to Jubilee Year pilgrimage sites in the Diocese of Jefferson City

"As such, we're all like extended family to one another," Mrs. Quinn stated. "So, it may be like having some distant relatives that we don't get to see very often, and some of them

in Starkenburg, which has miracles associated with it and a history that's so rich, and our newly renovated Cathedral, which is a symbol of the unity we all share as Catholics of this diocese.

"And at each of them, the minute you arrive, you know you're on sacred ground," Mrs. Quinn stated. "And that is a beautiful gift."

She encouraged families, youth groups, parish organizations and even entire parishes to organize pilgrimages to one ore more of

these sites — and maybe not just the one that's closest or most convenient.

"Who knows?" she said.
"We could be walking in the paths of saints who went there

before us. And how great would it be for those who come after us to be able to say they walked in our footsteps — perhaps in the path of even more saints?"





itual encounter that takes place during a pilgrimage.

"I think there's something really powerful about taking something home, especially for young people and fami-



said.

All Catholics in the diocese are bound by their connection to one Church, under the local leadership of one bishop.



we may not feel as connected to.

"Then," she continued, "we go to our family reunion, and we're reminded of how they fit into the big picture, almost like pieces of the family quilt, and we find that there is something to treasure out there."

She marveled at the diversity of history, architectural styles and surroundings that each of the pilgrimage sites possesses.

"You have the Brush Creek church, which stands where Venerable Fr. Tolton was baptized, and it's so old and simple, while the shrine in Laurie is very big and elaborate and modern," she said.

"And you have the shrine

A year of favor

Worldwide Jubilee celebrations in the Church, in modern times held usually every 25 years, hearken back to the early history of God's chosen people.

In keeping with the Law of Moses, the Israelites of antiquity celebrated a jubilee year every 50 years.

They let their fields lie fallow for a year, having saved up enough to eat during the previous year.

They celebrated a year of thanksgiving, renewal, liberation of captives and freedom from debt.

See PASSPORT, page 23





Jubilee of Hope permeates Abp.-designate McKnight's last Chrism Mass in this diocese



<u>LEFT:</u> Archbishop-designate W. Shawn McKnight mixes fragrant balsam with the Oil of Sacred Chrism while consecrating it for sacramental use, during this year's Chrism Mass April 15 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph. <u>RIGHT:</u> Archbishop-designate McKnight and the priests of the diocese renew the promises they made at their ordination, during this year's Chrism Mass. — Photos by Annie Williams

By Jay Nies

The hopeful witness of dozens of priests and hundreds of lay faithful ascended from the altar, the ambo, the pews, the organ and the bishop's chair in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

"We are a people of hope!" Archbishop-designate W. Shawn McKnight proclaimed, his voice rising with grateful anticipation.

A week after the announcement that he'd been appointed to lead the Archdiocese of Kansas City in his home state of Kansas, Archbishop-designate McKnight celebrated one more annual Chrism Mass with the priests and people of this diocese.

It was the afternoon of April 15, the Tuesday of Holy Week.

He and the priests blessed the oils and consecrated the Sacred Chrism that will be used to administer the Sacraments in every parish in this diocese in the upcoming year.

Gathered around the sunlight-saturated altar, they also renewed the promises they made at their Ordination.

"This Mass of the Holy Chrism, with the renewal of priestly promises, recapitulates the death, resurrection, ascension, gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the birth of the Church, all at once," the archbishop-designate stated.

An ample delegation of faithful pilgrims from all five deaneries attended the Mass, with many others watching the livestream video.

The archbishop-designate framed the message of his homily with the Church-wide celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope.

"We are charged with being bearers of hope in a world often hardened by confusion, discouragement or even despair," he reminded the priests. "The hope we bear to people burdened by sin and weighed down by the demands of life, especially hectic family life, is the hope of the Resurrection and our future incorporation into the mystery of the eternal heavenly banquet."

Sacred Chrism, named for Christ, is used in Baptism, as well as Confirmation, the ordination of priests and bishops, and the dedication of churches and altars.

Archbishop-designate McKnight noted that if his successor is appointed within the next year and has not already been ordained a bishop, Sacred Chrism consecrated at this Chrism Mass would likely be used in the ordination of that new bishop.

"During the rite of Ordination of a Bishop, following the laying on of hands and the prayer of consecration, the Sacred Chrism is poured onto the head of the newly ordained, symbolizing his unique anointing with the fullness of Priesthood," the archbishop-designate noted.

"Whether it be the ordination and installation of a new bishop of Jefferson City, or a simple in-



stallation, it will be a great day of rejoicing and celebration in a very special Jubilee Year of Pilgrims of Hope!" he said.

He pointed out that he will use Sacred Chrism next month to dedicate the altars of St. Andrew Church in Tipton and Holy Rosary Church in Monroe City, which are being renovated.

"These, too, shall be joyful days within the Year of Jubilee," he stated.

So also will be the Easter Vigil, when adults who have been preparing for Baptism throughout the diocese will receive a sacred anointing and have the stain of original sin washed away.

"I pray that our celebrations of the Easter Triduum may foster a healing in our parishes and communities, and bring about a greater communion in our Church," said Archbishop-designate McKnight.

Oil of gladness

The archbishop-designate talked about how Catholics are assisted by anointing with the sacred oils, which both symbolize and facilitate the interior anointing received from the Holy Spirit.

"Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One, who was priest, prophet and king," the preacher stated. "His disciples call themselves Christians to affirm this belief and share in his mission."

The Oil of Catechumens is used for infants during the baptismal ceremony, and for the anointing of the elect during the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) as they prepare to be baptized.

It designates all members of the Church as learners and gives them a protecting strength against evil.

"It is a good reminder to us priests, too, that our primary duty is to teach the faith," said Archbishop-designate McKnight. "There can be no celebration of the Sacraments without first proclaiming the

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

Word."

The Oil of the Sick — the most regularly used of the holy oils — is for administering the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

"We ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen and heal those who shall be anointed in order to mend their bodies, refresh their spirits, restore their broken relationship with God, and to heal our fractured humanity," the archbishop-designate stated.

Their spiritual healing, including the forgiveness of sins, is the primary aim of the sacrament. This oil, therefore, represents all that the priests and people do to manifest God's kingdom in works of charity and mercy.

"When we provide a place for those suffering from addictions to gather for support and healing, we are proclaiming the Kingdom of God," said Archbishop-designate McKnight.

"Whenever we tend to those who grieve and mourn over the death of a loved one, and offer the Church's Funeral Rites,

we are evangelizing people about the reality of Christ's death," he stated.

"In short, our acts of charity and mercy are concrete expressions of our hope in the Resurrection. In times of sadness, the oil of gladness lifts up our spirits."

He encouraged everyone to build a stronger culture of hope and mutual respect, "so that we may deal more effectively with the challenge of a declining number of active priests, the pressures on families, and the challenges our young adults face."

Ad multos annos

Everyone present also honored this year's priestly jubilarians:

See CHRISM MASS, page 27

Service to God through music drew Cathedral music director and his wife to each other, to this diocese

By Jay Nies

There was a baby who enjoyed "singing" with the choir each Sunday at Mass.

His name was Andrew, and some things don't change much.

"A lot of people are brought closer to God by music than by spoken words," said Andrew Meagher, DMA, director of music for Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City.

"It does add something powerful," he said.

Dr. Meagher plans the music for all parish and diocesan liturgies in the Cathedral, directs the parish choir and provides organ and piano accompaniment at several Masses each weekend.

He works with Father Stephen Jones, pastor of the Cathedral parish, and members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission to help leverage music's potential to elevate communal worship and help people grow in their relationship with Christ.

"What we're ultimately trying to do is bring people closer to God and help them get to heaven," said Dr. Meagher.

His wife, Katherine, who holds two master's degrees in vocal music, regularly serves as cantor and a section leader for the choir at Mass.

Dr. Meagher was selected for this role about two years ago, following a national search prompted by the retirement of his predecessor, Thomas Halpin.

Dr. and Mrs. Meagher moved to Columbia from the Archdiocese of Detroit and became members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

They're both convinced that God brought them together and led them to this community.

"Any time you take a job, you pray about it," Dr. Meagher stated. "I'm convinced that God steered me away from other opportunities so that we would wind up here."



Andrew and Katherine Meagher stand by the new organ in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City after Sunday afternoon Mass on April 13. Dr. Meagher is director of music for Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish. Mrs. Meagher is a trained vocalist.

Dr. Meagher holds a bache-

He has served as an ac-

lor's degree in piano music and

a master's degree and a doctor-

companist, choir director and

director of music for several

Catholic and Protestant con-

York, native played piano with

his parish youth ensemble

The first time he helped ac-

"That was when I started

"And that I wanted to do it

company Mass was at his own

to realize how much I enjoyed

my Catholic faith and that this

might be something I want to

for God rather than the acco-

lades of other human beings."

Try, try again

minded him that he would

sing along with the choir at

grade attempt to learn viola,

he took up piano and wound

church when he was little.

up excelling with it.

Dr. Meagher's mother re-

Having failed at his fourth-

do for a living," he said.

when he was in high school.

The Binghamton, New

ate in organ music.

gregations.

Confirmation.

Photo by Jay Nies

"That just shows that if you're not good at one instrument, you should try another," he said.

His mother suggested he take piano lessons using the Yamaha Method, which places a heavy emphasis on singing.

"The best way to learn to read music is to sing," he said. "After all, the human voice is the original instrument that we used in church."

He advanced quickly in his keyboard technique.

He took two years of private lessons with a jazz piano teacher, then switched to classical piano lessons for all four years of high school.

"My teacher was also an organist," he noted. "I once heard him give a recital on a four-manual Möller organ. I was so amazed by that."

Dr. Meagher was accepted into the music school at Ithaca College in Upstate New York.

"I had this lifelong dream of being a concert pianist," he acknowledged.

His instructor at Ithaca tempered those aspirations, noting that only about 1 percent of the people who try become successful concert pianists.

"It was a foolish pipe dream of mine," said Dr. Meagher.

But another dream — this one actually involving pipes — was already taking shape.

"I explored some other things during my sophomore year," Dr. Meagher recalled. "I started taking organ lessons my junior year."

Meanwhile, he and two other Catholic piano students took turns accompanying Sunday Masses in the chapel.

He then pursued and completed a master's degree in organ music at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, followed by a doctorate at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

That's where he and Kathy met.

Singular vision

Mrs. Meagher grew up near Detroit and joined the honors choir in grade school.

Her teacher told her she had a beautiful voice and perfect pitch.

She took piano and flute lessons for a while, then played viola in the school orchestra for a year in middle school.

She sang in the choir and played in the school band.

She did so despite being severely sight-impaired since birth.

"Then, in high school, I got serious about music," she recalled.

She joined the school's show choir and studied under a very influential voice teacher.

"Because of her, I decided that I wanted to pursue music," said Mrs. Meagher.

From there, she went to the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston for undergraduate studies in music, then pursued a master of arts degree in vocal performance at New York University in New York

Having completed that, she went to the University of Michigan to pursue a master's degree in music and voice.

The couple crossed paths a few times and got acquainted through friends.

In the winter of 2010, Mrs. Meagher went to hear her future husband's final dissertation organ recital.

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See MEAGHER, page 19

Keeping high school students connected to their Catholic faith

It used to be understood that incoming college students needed to connect with a faith community within a week of arriving on campus or risk falling away.

Recent studies show that that window of opportunity has now shrunk to the first 72 hours.

Studies show that nearly 80% of young Catholics disengage from their faith after high school — not because they've rejected it, but because they were never intentionally connected to a new faith community.

The Diocese of Jefferson City is partnering with Newman Connection's Faith Forward movement to connect high school seniors to their campus ministry or military chaplain before they leave home for college or military service.

"This isn't just about maintaining numbers — it's about souls," said Maureen Quinn, diocesan director of religious education and youth/young adult ministry. "We're creating a bridge between our parishes, schools and college campus ministries that helps our young people stay rooted in their faith during a critical time in their lives."

Seniors can sign up for Faith Forward using the quick online form at *signupnc.newmanministry.com*.

After the student submits the form, Newman Connection will connect each senior to their campus ministry using their diverse network of contacts, at no cost to the student.

The program's approach is remarkably straightforward, yet effective. Working with Catholic high schools and parishes throughout our diocese, Newman Connection helps connect graduating seniors directly to Catholic campus ministry at their chosen college or military base — before they even arrive on campus. Since 2009, the organization has successfully connected more than 600,000 students across over 800 college campuses nationwide.

The initiative's timing couldn't be more crucial. Recent studies by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) indicate that young adults often begin distancing themselves from the Church before their college years, with over 60% reporting they stopped identifying as Catholic by age 18. However, early con-

nection to campus ministry can help reverse this trend.

Participation in the program is free thanks to Newman Connection's donor-supported model. Schools and parishes simply share graduating seniors' contact information and college or military destinations, enabling campus ministry teams to reach out and welcome students from day one.

In addition, Mrs. Quinn encourages parents to help their college-bound children take a proactive approach to carrying on their faith.

"When we visit a college with our kids or tech school or wherever they're going to go, one of our stops needs to be where they're going to worship," she stated.

"We should be taking our kids there and making introductions and helping them get connected," she said.

Graduating high school seniors are encouraged to sign up for Newman Connection by the "Sunday of Sending" on April 27, the canonization date of Blessed Carlo Acutis. However, the form can still be submitted after this date. All are encouraged to continue to promote this movement as the summer months get closer.

Giving glory to God, affirming human life at Midwest March for Life, May 1 in J.C.

DATE: May 1 TIME: 8 am - 2:30 pm

By Jay Nies

A powerful slate of activities to honor and glorify Jesus Christ and defend innocent human life are slated for the 16th annual Midwest March for Life on Thursday, May 1, on the grounds of the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City.

Activities are planned from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Parishes and schools throughout the diocese are encouraged to attend.

Participants are urged to wear red.

The event will begin at 8 a.m. with a Prayer Walk in the Capitol.

Father Anthony Viviano — pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Tipton and Annunciation Parish in California, and diocesan

moderator for pro-life activities — will lead a May Crowning of the Blessed Mother and the praying of the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 9 a.m. on the Capitol North

Announcements will begin at 9:45 a.m. on the South Lawn, followed by a premarch Rally, including prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, presentation of Team P.L.A.Y. awards for Pro-Life Champion of the Year and Pro-Life School of the Year, and rally speakers.

Presenters will include: David Bereit, executive director of the Life Leadership Conference; Christina Bennett, a Live Action correspondent; Missy Martinez-Stone, president and CEO of the Center for Client Safety; Toni McFadden, a prolife advocate and author; and

Brandy Meeks, president of the Vitae Foundation.

An impressive march around the Capitol, past the Governor's Mansion and through the heart of Jefferson City will begin immediately after the rally.

A grilled hot dog lunch pre-

pared by the Knights of Columbus St. Peter Parish Council in Fulton will be offered at a reasonable cost from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

At 1 p.m., Jerry Angelo, founder, president and CEO of Vanguard Marriage and Family

Advocates, will lead a National Day of Prayer event on the Capitol South Steps (moprays. org/events).

Further information and a full listing of the agenda for the day can be found at: *midwest marchforlife.com*.



Notice of Delegations and Appointments

Subsequent to the announcement of his appointment as the next Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas, Archbishop W. Shawn McKnight delegated to:

Reverend Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki all of the powers he previously held as Vicar General, effective immediately and until the Archbishop's installation in his new see.

Reverend Christopher L. Cordes all of the powers he previously held as Vicar for Priests, effective immediately and until the Archbishop's installation in his new see.

Reverend Joseph S. Corel all of the powers he previously held as Vicar for Prison Ministry, effective immediately and until the Archbishop's installation in his new see.

Reverend Daniel J. Merz all of the powers he previously held as Vicar for Permanent Deacons, effective immediately and until the Archbishop's installation in his new see.

Prior to the announcement of his appointment as the next Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas, Archbishop W. Shawn McKnight made the following appointments:

DEACONS

Deacon Rick Vise, from diaconal ministry at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, St. Robert and St. Jude Parish, Richland, to diaconal ministry at Holy Cross Parish, Cuba, St. Francis Caracciolo Parish, Bourbon, and St. Michael Parish, Steelville, effective March 7, 2025.

LAITY

Anne Hackman, to Chair of the diocesan Stewardship Council for a term of two years, effective Feb. 25, 2025.

Ann Gray, to the diocesan Stewardship Council for a term of three years, effective Jan. 17, 2025.

Leigh Ann Grant, to the diocesan Stewardship Council for a term of three years, effective Jan. 17, 2025.

From the Office of the Chancellor,

Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL

P23 "epic" summer discernment camp for boys

Boys going into grades 6 through 8 this fall are invited to attend P23 Discernment Camp from June 26-28 in Shelbina or July 9-11 in Camdenton.

Organized by the diocesan Vocations Office, Camp P23 is an overnight summer camp for junior high boys, that pulls from Psalm 23 in looking at Christ and his priests through the identity of a shepherd.

Over three days and two nights at this outdoor-focused experience, campers join small groups led by seminarians and participate in games, prayer and activities that promote openness to the priestly vocation.

The cost is \$100 per person. Visit *diojeffcity.org/ amp-p23* for information or to register.

QUESTION CORNER

Are there saints who had a difficult relationship with the Church?

By Jenna Marie Cooper OSV News

Q: Are there any saints who had a difficult relationship with the Church? (New York)

A: The answer to this question would depend on exactly what you mean by "a difficult relationship" or even the term "the Church." But the short answer is that yes, there have been many canonized



saints who were treated very badly by Church leaders of their day, through no fault of their own.

To give just a few examples: St. Joan of Arc was condemned as a heretic in a clearly biased and politically motivated ecclesiastical trial and was subsequently burned at the stake; St. John of the Cross was imprisoned and regularly beaten by the members of his own religious community due to his work for the reform of the Carmelite Order; St. Mary MacKillop of Australia was unjustly excommunicated in retaliation for her reporting child abuse; and St. Padre Pio was for a time forbidden from exercising public priestly ministry due to concerns about his extraordinary mystical gifts, notably his stigmata (i.e., his bearing of the five wounds of Christ on his own body).

And to put things into perspective, we only know about these and other saints' stories of "friendly fire" persecution because they have been formally canonized. It's likely that there are other holy but less famous Catholics throughout history — who would be "saints" in the strict technical sense of any person who is actually in heaven — who endured similar sufferings.

This can be one of the most difficult scenarios for a faithful Catholic to wrap their mind around. Unlike other organizations, the Church as a visible institution was founded by Jesus himself and exists to continue his saving mission in the world until the end of time. We believe that the Church is holy. Naturally, the darker chapters in the lives of these saints can prompt the question of how the Church could apparently hurt her own members.

This is where it becomes important to make some distinctions. "The Church" as the people of God and the spotless bride of Christ does not hurt people. Rather, sinful human beings within the Church do. While this can still be a difficult truth, in some ways it should not be surprising. After all, during his Passion and death Jesus himself was denied and abandoned by his own apostles, who would go on to become the Church's very first bishops.

Of course, this in no way excuses bad behavior on the part of bishops, religious superiors or anyone else who represents the Church in the course of their ministry. We should keep in mind that the canonized saints who were persecuted by the Church did not become saints because they were naïve to this reality of fallen human nature or because they cheerfully kept up a "party line" they knew to be false.

Instead, these men and women were saints because of their clarity of spiritual insight, which allowed them to know and love the Church for what it truly is, and because of their courageous fidelity and patience under trials from those in the Church who ought to have behaved in a way befitting their vocation but failed to do so.

Pope Benedict XVI discussed this dynamic in his General Audience of Jan. 26, 2011, wherein he reflects on the life and witness of St. Joan of Arc: "In Jesus Joan contemplated the whole reality of the Church, the 'Church triumphant' of Heaven, as well as the 'Church militant' on earth. According

See QUESTION, page 23

Frequently asked questions about this time of transition for the diocese

With the announcement of Archbishop-designate W. Shawn McKnight's new appointment, the Diocese of Jefferson City enters into a time of transition.

Here are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about this time:

When is Archbishop-designate McKnight leaving the Diocese of Jefferson City?

Archbishop-designate McKnight will officially cease governing the Diocese of Jefferson City when he is installed as Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas.

The installation Mass will take place at 11 a.m. on May 27, 2025, at the Church of the Nativity in Leawood, Kansas. As there is very limited seating, the installation will be livestreamed for all to watch. More details will be available later.

What happens between now and his installation in Kansas City, Kansas?

Archbishop-designate McKnight will continue his role governing the Diocese of Jefferson City until his installation in the Archdiocese. During this time, he is expected to govern according to the canonical principle of "sede vacante, nihil innovetur"— that is, "When the see is vacant, nothing is to be altered" (cf. Code of Canon Law, can. 428, 1). This will restrict his ability to approve major changes or innovations during this time of transition.

All initiatives, programs, pastoral plans and decisions already in place are to be carried out during the interim.

Who will lead the diocese after the installation?

After the installation in Kansas City on May 27, the See of Jefferson City will be officially vacant. The diocesan College of Consultors will meet to elect a diocesan administrator for the Diocese of Jefferson City.

The College of Consultors in the Diocese of Jefferson City is comprised of:

- •Very Reverend Brad T. Berhorst, JCL
- •Very Reverend Christopher L. Cordes

- •Reverend Monsignor David D. Cox
- •Very Reverend Jason T. Doke, STL
- •Reverend Monsignor Gregory L. Higley
- •Reverend Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki
- •Very Reverend P. Gregory Oligschlaeger
- •Very Reverend R. William Peckman

Once selected, the diocesan administrator will serve as the leader of the diocese until a new bishop of Jefferson City is appointed by the Holy Father and takes canonical possession of the diocese

The diocesan administrator can fully govern the diocese and make all necessary decisions to safeguard it while awaiting the appointment of a new bishop. He is, however, bound by the same principle: *sede vacante, nihil innovetur* — When the see is vacant, nothing is to be altered. This means that he will be obligated to carry out all existing diocesan laws and policies, which he will not be empowered to change.

What happens to the policies that have been implemented in the Diocese of Jefferson City?

The departure of a bishop does not nullify his policies. Clergy, religious, staff and the faithful are expected to continue to work to fulfill the requirements that have been put in place in the diocese.

When will we get a new bishop?

There is no official timeline for the selection of a new bishop. Once Pope Francis has appointed a new bishop to lead the Diocese of Jefferson City, and he has accepted, the announcement will be published in the daily Vatican Bulletin.

This could happen at any time. However, in recent similar situations, it has taken several months for a new bishop to be named.

In the meantime, we encourage all the faithful to pray for Archbishop-designate McKnight, our diocese and the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas during this time of transition.

Let us also pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to guide the Holy Father as he discerns the next shepherd for our diocese.

Papal preacher: Faith in Resurrection means not clinging to the past

By Justin McLellan Catholic News Service

Vatican City

The temptation to cling to the past — to hold on to what was, including something sacred — can keep believers from truly embracing the hope offered by the Risen Christ, said the preacher of the papal household.

The human desire to preserve memories of meaningful spiritual moments "is beautiful and even important," said Capuchin Father Roberto Pasolini, the papal preacher. "But it can also be an illness of the heart: loving life as it was, instead of seeking the life that rises again, preventing God from reopening the boundaries of our heart and our eyes."

Offering his final Lenten meditation to cardinals and senior officials of the Roman Curia April 11, Fr. Pasolini meditated on Jesus' words to Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection — "Stop holding on to me" — describing it as the last and perhaps most difficult

conversion that Christians are called to undergo.

Mary Magdalene "is already turned toward Jesus but does not recognize him," he said. "Only when Jesus calls her by name does she turn again. It's as if there's a second conversion — the one we so often struggle to make."

This second conversion "is a movement we cannot accomplish by our own strength, but it happens when God manages

See RESURRECTION, page 13

The Catholic Missourian April 18, 2025 **VIEWPOINT**

Good News brightens Ordinary Time

By Lucia A. Silecchia



Years ago, I read reports about a study positing that the American news media can be biased toward reporting bad or negative news. What saddened me was the report's assertion

that negative articles are the ones most sought out by the public as reports of bad news garner more clicks and public attention. Could it be that we seek out bad news more than the good?

I hope not.

As we enter our celebrations of Easter joy, this is our season of Good News.

The celebrations of Holy Week and Easter show nothing more clearly than the triumph of the Good News over the sorrowful, sinful and sad. As I look over the accounts of these sacred days, good news unfolds in unlikely places.

A much-mocked woman poured expensive oil over Christ to anoint Him in an exuberant display of her love and devotion. Two millennia later, her kindness is retold. Fearless, generous love like this is good news.

At the Last Supper, Christ washed the feet of His closest disciples — and met with their confusion and objections. When God stoops to serve in this most humble of ways, He gave us the best example of how to serve each other. That is good news.

In a more particular way, at that same gathering, the special life of service in the priesthood was instituted. This has been, and remains, a sacred gift for generations to follow. That is good news too.

At that Last Supper, Christ also said for the first time, "This is my body." "This is my blood." With those now-familiar words, Christ established the Eucharist — the nourishment to sustain all of us who were not with Him during His brief years on earth. The gift of His real and true presence is, really and truly, good news.

In the agonizing hours in Gethsemane, Christ prayed "Not what I will but what you will." This example of trusting obedience reverberates through the millennia as the most courageous prayer I

know. Although uttered in the depth of sorrow, the love for God and for all of us that is embedded in this prayer is achingly good news.

When St. Peter heard the cock crow after his third denial of Christ, "he broke down and wept." To be capable of feeling such deep sorrow, having the grace to weep, and ultimately knowing the forgiveness of a loving God is also good news.

At the foot of the Cross, Christ's faithful mother remained with St. John. To them, Christ said "Behold your son" and "Behold your mother." In that gesture, Christ shared His mother not only with John but with all of us. Being entrusted

See SILECCHIA, page 23

Loving sinners, admonishing sin

By Jaymie Stuart Wolfe OSV News



Matthew, Zaccheus, Mary Magdalene, the woman at the well, the one caught in adultery, the sinful woman at the house of Simon the Pharisee, tax collectors, sinners, and Samaritans: the list of first-century

undesirables — named and unnamed — is long. And yet, Jesus of Nazareth was seen with them all. In fact, Jesus made a habit of associating with lowlifes. So much so that sincere and upstanding Jews could not overlook it.

But when they challenged Christ openly about it, he challenged them in return. "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Lk. 5:31-32). "Today salvation has come to this house" (Lk. 19:9). "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone" (Jn. 8:7). "The one to whom little is forgiven loves little" (Lk. 7:47).

Unlike the other religious teachers of his time, Jesus did not treat people according to their merit. Instead, he separated sinners from their sins. That is, after all, what a savior must do. Separating the sinner from his sins is, in the basic sense, the definition of salvation.

Loving sinners is hard. That's why so few of us commit ourselves to doing it. Even more, there are plentiful facsimiles and alternatives that demand much less of us. Two-thousand years ago, it was much easier for people of faith to keep sinners at a safe distance and tell themselves that holiness and virtue required them to do this. Sinners were the spiritual equivalent of lepers. Anyone who associated with them was risking contam-

ination. But there was also an element of pride in play. Those who kept the law were likely to consider themselves superior to those who did not. For these, Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the publican must have been jarring.

must have been jarring.

But before we shout "Yay, Jesus!," bask in the apparent superiority of our enlightened times, and applaud the Nazarene for putting it to observant people of faith, we ought to fully consider how Jesus treated sin. And in that, Christ's willingness to offer himself as a sacrifice for sin tells us everything. Jesus did not ignore the seriousness of sin in the slightest. On the contrary, the Son of God treated sin even more seriously than the religious leaders of his day did. He died for it.

I don't think today's Christians apply the teachings of Christ any more correctly than the Pharisees did. We are much more comfortable with sinners but have also become very comfortable with sin. We use words like "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged" (Mt. 7:1) as a pretext for excusing ourselves and the people we love from sinful behavior. Instead of genuinely loving sinners, we deny or accommodate their sins. That is, we ignore the seriousness of sin and its consequences.

A very large number of us are more than willing to do this when the sin we're ignoring has to do with sexual morality. Sexual sins aren't necessarily worse than other sins. But it seems to me that we are more willing to overlook — and even justify — them. That's a poor substitute for the saving grace of conversion. When we minimize sin, we rob the Gospel of its power.

When I minister to women at the local jail on Monday evenings, I cannot reach them unless I remember that I am not better or more valuable than any of them. I, too, am a sinner. Under the "right" (read "wrong") circumstances, I would be capable of committing any of

the crimes of which they are accused, and

See STUART WOLFE, page 23

REFLECTION

Loosed on earth

By Mark Saucier

We were moving into a building we bought for our ministry to women looking for redemption, recovery and reentry.

I was working with a man I'd never met, a volunteer from the church most of our women attended.

He had a tough but welcoming look. He had a veteran's cap, a scruffy beard and muscular, inked-up arms. When he wasn't talking though, his face rested around a smile.

I learned about his service time, his motorcycle days, and a tempestuous relationship with his father that had weathered its way to love and respect.

He told me that he was helping us move into this new center that would house classrooms and offices because he knew what these women were going through.

He was lucky — never got caught, never did time like the women, though in a way he regrets that. He said he may have gotten sober sooner and hurt fewer people had he been forced to face himself in confinement.

He led a wild life. Hung with a tough crowd. Then he fell in love. She was an addict, too, but found the courage to get clean. Then, she led him to sobriety.

As he stumbled his way along, he got into an argument with his running buddy. In their parting words, his friend threatened to come over and beat him. "Try it," he had replied, "and I will kill you."

This animosity simmered for years. My man admitted that while he swore off drugs and alcohol, he never addressed the anger and pain that lurked below the surface.

After some therapy, he and his wife were looking for a church. A cousin invited him to his, where, admittedly, the sinners far outnumbered the saints.

They were going to try it but then heard that the former friend went there. But his wife convinced him to go. They would sit up front where he wouldn't have to look at anyone.

At one point, he inadvertently turned around and saw the guy. He looked away and started planning his exit.

But when the service ended, instead of heading for the door, he found himself going up to his old friend, seeing tears in his eyes, and wordlessly embracing him.

The healing took later conversations, but the grace of forgiveness was immediate.

"Jesus," he said, "it was a powerful experience."

I didn't ask whether his "Jesus" was an emphatic of that experience or an attribution of its source.

I trust it was both.

Strength in community: Supporting families facing hardship



By Tessa McIntyre

MaryAnn, unable to work due to illness, couldn't afford the prescription medicine she needed.

With bills piling up, she turned to a predatory lender for a quick loan.

What seemed like a temporary fix quickly became unmanageable, trapping her in a cycle of debt while struggling to recover and cover basic medical expenses.

Life is full of unexpected challenges — vehicle emergencies, job loss or the rising cost of living.

This often forces families to seek financial assistance wherever they can.

Unfortunately for many, this means turning to predatory loans with outrageous interest rates, trapping them in a cycle of debt that is nearly impossible to escape.

In the U.S., payday lenders charge an average annual percentage rate of 391%, with some rates exceeding 1,000%.

According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, approximately 12 million Americans use payday loans each year.

Predatory lenders target vulnerable individuals with low income, poor credit or urgent needs by offering quick loans with crippling high-interest rates.

A Federal Reserve study shows one-third of Americans would struggle to cover a \$400 emergency without borrow-

Loans like payday and title loans can quickly spiral, turning a \$500 loan into \$2,500 due to compound interest.

As the debt grows, it limits their ability to afford even basic necessities.

This cycle is not only a financial burden but also an emotional and spiritual strain.

Additionally, 60% of payday loan borrowers end up rolling over their loans or taking out new loans to pay off the old ones, which only increases their debt.

Many feel hopeless, ashamed and isolated, and research shows that debt often leads to anxiety, depression and relationship stress.

As a community, we must show them they are not alone and there is a way out.

At Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO), we address both the immediate crisis and the root cause.

Our Predatory Lending Relief Program provides relief and empowerment to individuals impacted by predatory lending practices, equipping them with tools to achieve financial stability and indepen-

By partnering with banks, we help refinance predatory loans with low-interest alternatives, making payments more manageable.

Clients also enroll in finan-



cial education classes, gaining skills in budgeting, goal setting, debt repayment, credit building and saving for the

These programs align with the Church's mission to uphold human dignity and promote economic justice.

We also refer clients to agencies for support with resume writing, employment opportunities and affordable

As Catholics, we are called to help those who are strug-

We can do this by offering spiritual and emotional support, but practical support is just as important.

One powerful way to do this is by contributing to programs like our Predatory Loan Relief Program, that help families break free from the predatory lending trap.

Additionally, you can volunteer your time to help with financial literacy classes and workshops, equipping others with the knowledge to overcome financial challenges.

Studies show that financial literacy programs can reduce the likelihood of individuals falling into high-interest debt by 40-50%.

vocate for ethical lending practices by speaking out in your community and pushing for stronger consumer protec-

Through the generosity of our spiritual community, we provide relief and restore financial stability to those in need.

Matthew's story is a powerful example of transformation.

After facing a financial crisis due to a vehicle emergency, Matthew turned to high-interest loans that quickly became unmanageable.

Overwhelmed and seeking relief, he applied for our Predatory Loan Relief Program.

Matthew secured a lower-interest loan and, with the added support of our pantry, was able to manage other expenses.

With reduced financial stress, he focused on career growth, earning a promotion and higher pay.

Six months later, Matthew reached a major milestone closing on his first home.

His journey underscores the power of financial relief, community support and perseverance in building a secure

While this program is effec-Furthermore, you can ad- tive, it depends on the com-

munity's generosity to continue and expand our mission into all 38 of our mostly rural counties.

With your ongoing support, even more families can break free from the cycle of debt and build a brighter fu-

In Luke 6:38, Jesus says, 'Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap; because the standard you use will be the standard used for you."

When we give to programs that help those in financial crisis, we reflect God's love and mercy.

Predatory lending exploits society's most vulnerable, trapping them in financial crises and emotional turmoil.

But through the power of community and faith, we can offer solutions.

Standing together, embrace the call to love our neighbors and care for the least among us.

Let us act in faith, generosity, and compassion, because no family should have to face hardship alone.

Client names have been changed to protect their identity.



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BUILDING DEMOLITION?

Future deacons reflect on their call to ministry

First in a series

By Jay Nies

Archbishop-designate W. Shawn McKnight has summoned 14 men to the diaconate — 13 of them for the permanent diaconate and on seminarian for the transitional diaconate.

They will be ordained during Mass on Saturday, June 7, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

The permanent diaconate candidates and their wives have been preparing since 2020.

This is the first in a series of articles profiling the candidates:

"Humility and sacrifice"

When members of the previous diaconate ordination class came and spoke to the current

Harvey and Stacey Million

group of candidates several years ago, Harvey F. Million Jr. sensed a special presence among them.

"I don't recall what they said, but I do recall leaving that day thinking that they are men of great hope," he said. "That's how I want to be."

Mr. Million grew up in Centralia and has been a member of Holy Spirit Parish his entire life.

He entered diaconal discernment and formation not yet knowing whether God was calling him to be a deacon.

He has revisited that question many times during the process.

"I believe even more strongly now that God has called me to this office and has put people in my life to prepare me to step out into the mystery of what he has planned," he said.

Mr. Million aspires as a deacon to be a faithful witness to Christ and his Church.

"I hope to serve others with humility and sacrifice, reflecting Christ's love and mercy for all humanity," he said.

He holds a master's degree in business administration and has been a small-business owner in his hometown for over 20 years.

He and his wife, Stacey, have been married for almost 33 years. They have raised five daughters, three of whom are married.

The couple has eight grandchildren, including one who will be born later this year.

Mr. Million believes his greatest opportunities as a deacon to lead people to Christ will come with faithfully celebrating the Sacraments of the Church and praying the Divine Office.

"It is through these that we are strengthened as individuals

and as a community," he stated.

Ordination does bring him trepidation, but he's also excited to be of service to the Lord and his people.

Mr. Million said he's inspired by all the deacons and priests of

this diocese who have influenced him throughout his for-

He has also "been blessed to have the support of my wife, my family and the clergy and parishioners of Holy Spirit Church," he stated.

"I have been blessed with a great formation director who has prepared me, I have a great spiritual director who guides me, and a generous business partner who has allowed me the time I needed to complete formation," he said.

Mr. Million asked for prayers for his ordination class, "that we be faithful to the office of the diaconate, that our families and communities will be strengthened by our presence and that we will always remain humble servants."

"I need God"

Service is in Denis P. Gladbach's DNA.

"My parents raised my four siblings and me with a work



Denis and Wendy Gladbach

ethic, committed to Christian service," said Mr. Gladbach, a member of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City.

Yet, he did not fully understand the need to serve until he was supporting his children in their youth projects.

"Regardless of what we were involved in, the component of service kept coming up," he said.

When he was asked to consider the diaconate, the focus on service stood out for him.

"I look forward to serving

my parish, my diocese and my community with my ordination," he stated.

Through that service, he wants to share God's Good News.

"I hope to be able to communicate with those who used to be members of the faithful, but through misunderstanding of Catholicism in the past, chose a different path," said Mr. Gladbach. "God's love is for all. Humans make errors. Come back."

Mr. Gladbach was born in Kansas City into a Catholic family — his mother from Marshall, his father from Indi-

an Grove.

fam-The moved Jefferson to City, where Mr. Gladbach attended St. Joseph Cathe-School dral Helias and Catholic High School.

After graduation, he joined the U.S. Army, served

active-duty time and returned to Jefferson City.

He met his wife, Wendy, joined the Missouri National Guard and graduated from the University of Missouri-Rolla with a degree in mechanical en-

gineering

Job opportunities moved the family from Rolla to Minnesota, to Iowa and back to Jefferson City.

The couple raised four children and sent them to Catholic schools.

Retired from the Missouri National Guard after 40 years, Mr. Gladbach is currently a project engineer at the Maneuver Support Battle Lab at Fort Leonard Wood.

Mrs. Gladbach owns and operates Ana Marie's Bridal in Jefferson City.

They are active members of their parish and sing in the parish choir.

Mr. Gladbach is convinced that his greatest opportunity to promote hope, beginning during this Jubilee Year, will be through humble service — "to my parish, to my diocese, to my community."

One area of ministry he hopes to pursue is for military members of the Missouri National Guard.

"Obviously, we are short on priests," he noted. "There are none in the Missouri National Guard. My desire is to provide Catholic ministry to soldiers during their training."

He believes humility and service will be his most effective avenues to leading people

See DEACON, page 13





Fr. Kapaun, native of Abp.-designate McKnight's home diocese, declared Venerable, a step toward beatification

Candidate for being declared a saint had several connections to the Jefferson City diocese

The crucifix in Kapaun Mt. Carmel School in Wichita, Kansas, was carved in honor of a chaplain who helped shepherd many prisoners of war through their own Way of the Cross.

That chaplain was Venerable Father Emil J. Kapaun (1916-51), a candidate for being declared a saint, who hailed from Archbishop-designate W. Shawn McKnight's home dio-

"Fr. Kapaun was an example of holiness for all of us," said Archbishop-designate Knight, while discussing the recent announcement that Fr. Kapaun's sainthood cause had reached an important mile-

Archbishop-designate McKnight will be installed as archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas on May 27.

Pope Francis on Feb. 24 authorized the Vatican's Dicastery for the Causes of Saints to promulgate a decree naming Fr. Kapaun as "Venerable."

In its decree — which also addressed the canonization causes of six other individuals — the Vatican said it recognized Fr. Kapaun's "offering of life," a criterion for sainthood established by Pope Francis in a 2017 document on sainthood causes.

Archbishop-designate McKnight noted that "holiness looks different according to who you are. And holiness

isn't gonna' look the same on everybody."

In the case of Fr. Kapaun, it looked like a country priest who ministered to soldiers in battle during World War II (1939-45), went home to his diocese, and volunteered to return to the front when the call went out for more chaplains during the Korean War (1951-53).

"He was willing to go back!" said Archbishop-designate McKnight. "He had served in World War II, and he volunteered to go back, because they were still in need."

Fr. Kapaun knew what he was getting himself into, and chose to get into it anyway.

By that, he set a prime example of Catholic masculinity.

"He was very brave," said Archbishop-designate Knight. "He was manly in a way that was not, as we unfortunately understand it a lot of the time, as being filled with might. Rather, it was his ability to make self-sacrifice."

"It's not the ability to inflict one's will on others," the archbishop-designate stated. "It's the ability to give oneself completely and make the ultimate sacrifice. The kind of self-surrender that our Lord, who was the greatest example of manliness, showed us on the cross."

Fr. Kapaun was taken into custody by Korean and communist Chinese forces and sent to a military prison camp in Pyoktong, North Korea.

He was known for never



Father Emil Joseph Kapaun, a U.S. Army chaplain, is pictured celebrating Mass from the hood of a jeep Oct. 7, 1950, in South Korea.

- OSV News photo/courtesy U.S. Army medic Raymond Skeehan

leaving anyone behind while they were on death marches in the Korean camps.

And while their captors were trying to indoctrinate the prisoners with communist propaganda, Fr. Kapaun would stand up after they'd finish speaking and tell the prisoners, "Don't believe any of that."

"That was his character," Archbishop-designate McKnight. "And it got him in trouble.

Prioritizing the needs of others over his own health, Fr. Kapaun developed pneumonia and a blood clot while imprisoned. He was denied medication and died in the prison camp May 23, 1951, at age 35.

He blessed his captors be-

For decades after the war, his earthly remains were kept with those of other unidentified servicemen and women at a military repository in Hawaii, awaiting identification.

Hidden valor

Fr. Kapaun graduated from Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis in 1940 as part of the largest ordination class to-date in that seminary's history.

Among his classmates at Kenrick were the late Father Joseph B. Boland, who served for many years as a priest of this diocese, and the late Monsignor Jerome Sommer PA, a fellow military chaplain and priest of this diocese who until

his death in 2012 was Fr. Kapaun's last living classmate.

The late Bishop Christian Winkelmann of Wichita, who ordained Fr. Kapaun to the Holy Priesthood in 1940, had previously served as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Rich Fountain in what is now part of the Jefferson City diocese.

In a 2008 interview, Msgr. Sommer recalled liking and admiring Fr. Kapaun as a fellow seminarian but not foreseeing his heroic accomplishments and possible recognition by the Church as a saint.

"I remember that he was always attentive to his duties in school, in chapel, in class," Msgr. Sommer stated.

But behind the veil of the ordinary during Fr. Kapaun's seminary years, God was setting into place a foundation of faith that would support an edifice of courageous, life-giving Christian witness made complete by death in Christ.

Msgr. Sommer, who also became an Army chaplain about a year after Fr. Kapaun entered the service, did not find out about Fr. Kapaun's death until shortly after the fighting ceased

"Some of his fellow prison-Msgr. Sommer in a 2008 in-A higher percentage of the POWs in that particular camp survived than in other places where our American soldiers were held captive. And those survivors attribute their survival in great part to him."

Sometime around 1954, Msgr. Sommer read an article about Fr. Kapaun in the Saturday Evening Post. It included testimony by men who credited him with helping to keep them alive.

"I thought, 'This is my classmate! He's a hero!" said Msgr. Sommer, who appears briefly with two other classmates in a documentary about Fr. Kapaun produced by FOCUS Worldwide TV Network. It is called "A Catholic Chaplain in Combat Boots."

Different kind of holy

All of the men in the prison camp found in Fr. Kapaun a familiar soul.

"He had a gift for relating to people," said Archbishop-designate McKnight. "There was a real 'humanness' in his sense of humor and practicality."

He ministered to everyone, regardless of their religious affiliation.

"Protestant, Jewish, as well as Catholic fellow soldiers in the camp all respected him and spoke highly of him," Archbishop-designate McKnight stated.

The priest's holiness was thoroughly expressed in his humanity, not above or despite

"I think that's part of the adjustment a lot of people need in their conception of what holiness looks like," said Archbishop-designate McKnight.

The crucifix now prominently displayed in Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School in Wichita was carved by a Jewish former prisoner of war who had spent time in the same prison camp where Fr. Kapaun

"He never knew Fr. Kapaun, but he was so taken by the stories he was hearing about him from his fellow soldiers, he was inspired to carve that crucifix,"

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.

ers wrote about him and how heroic he was over there," said terview. "They attributed their very lives to his influence, that he kept up the morale of them.

See FR. KAPAUN, page 21

DEACON

From page 11

to Christ.

"Opportunities for all to help others," he said. "Through working together, we learn from each other and our shared experiences.

"Any challenge appears daunting, but if a group can each achieve little victories, a lot more can be accomplished," he added.

He emphasized the need for full reliance on God.

"I am no better than anyone else," Mr. Gladbach stated. "God reminds me daily of my humanity. I need God to be successful."

Mr. Gladbach asked for prayers for God to help him "be grounded in humility, maintain a conviction of service, and maintain a pleasant willingness to acquire God's grace for my diocese, my parish, my family and myself."

"Out of the ditch"

Brian M. Lutz thinks back to something Father Joseph Corel said while teaching the



Brian and Patricia Lutz

deacon candidates a class on moral theology.

The priest talked about how their role will be to help "keep people out of the ditch."

"I want to do that and help them stay on the path to salvation," Mr. Lutz stated. "I want to meet people where they are and help them recognize that Christ loves them in all their brokenness and wants them to be with Him for eternity."

Mr. Lutz grew up in Boonville, the oldest of two sons in a Catholic family.

He received all of his sacraments, from Baptism to Marriage, in Ss. Peter & Paul Church.

He attended the parish school and the former St.

Thomas Aquinas High School Seminary in Hannibal.

He and his wife, Patricia, got married in 1997. They have a daughter, Rachel, who is 25.

Mr. Lutz worked for 23 years as the general manager at HiTek Mobility in Columbia, but made a career change in November 2024. He is now the facilities coordinator for the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

He said he's always felt a calling to serve the Church in some form.

"Maybe I did not always hear or understand the calling, but it had always been on my heart," he stated.

Having had time to grow closer in his relationship with God, "and because of great people being placed in my life at just the right time," he wants to help others with their journey toward God and eternal life.

"I consider it a great privilege to be led by the Holy Spirit to assist people in that journey," he said.

Mr. Lutz often states that

he's not seeking to become a deacon because he is holy, "but because I want to become more holy."

He recognizes that the diaconate is a gift from God "not something I think I deserve, but something I

am willing to do for God's glo-

Mr. Lutz especially enjoys youth ministry, which he's been involved with for 13 years in his parish, and would like to do more with adult faith formation, and marriage preparation.

He's grateful for the formation he's received over these past four-and-a-half years from Archbishop-designate McKnight, Deacon John Schwartze and "many of our amazing priests in the diocese."

Because of them, Mr. Lutz is confident that he'll be able to help answer people's questions about faith, "so they can have a better understanding of the truth, so they can grow in their personal relationship with Christ."

He's excited to be ordained during the Jubilee Year of Hope.

"Hope is such an awesome word, basically because it means that there is still a chance," he stated.

Hope prompts him to reflect on St. Dismas, the penitent "good" thief who was crucified beside Jesus.

"Dismas was on the cross, ready to die, and was able to ask forgiveness from his heart, and he was rewarded with eternal life," Mr. Lutz stated.

With that understanding, he wants to teach others and encourage them to enter into a relationship with Christ, "because there is always the hope of eternal life if we desire it in our hearts."

"Hope is that thing that people hold onto when all else seems lost," he stated, "and I want to help them to know that hope is enough to start ourselves on to the next step to life eternal."

"I would like to help those in my parish, community and Church to see and identify what it is that is our beacon of hope," he said.

Mr. Lutz asked for prayers for God to continue to guide him in his ministry and help him serve God well.

"And that I will continue to allow the Holy Spirit to work through me so that the words of the Holy Spirit, not my words, are spoken to the people," he said.

"Bring the light"

When he was younger, Kenneth J. "Ken" Arthur enjoyed being an altar server and gave some thought to becoming a



Kenneth and Alisa Arthur

deacon someday.

He forgot about it for a while, but God reminded him.

"Several years ago, while I was in prayer, the thought of becoming a deacon returned many times," said Mr. Arthur, a lifelong member of St. Patrick Parish in Rolla. "This thought turned into a constant tug."

He hopes as a deacon "to serve God and his Church and bring the light of Christ to others and help them grow and strengthen their faith."

Mr. Arthur and his wife, Alisa, got married after college. They have three children.

He has spent most of his career in information technology, currently as an IT manager.

He highlighted the importance of deacons serving as ministers of charity.

"Deacons are actively involved in helping those in need such as the poor, the sick, and

the homebound in our c o m m u n i ties," he noted.

Mr. Arthur hopes to focus on the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, and ministry to people in hospitals and nursing homes.

He believes that each human encounter can present an occasion to minister.

"Every time I see someone in the grocery store or out in the community, I have the opportunity to bring the light of Christ to them by showing them Christ's love and sharing our faith with them," he said.

He believes a deacon can promote the virtue of hope in his parish by living the Gospel and loving others as Christ loves them.

He asks for prayers "for God to bless and strengthen me in my ministry of service."

RESURRECTION

From page 8

to call us again to hope and to life, precisely us, by name," Fr. Pasolini said.

Mary Magdalene's instinct, he added, was to preserve what she had regained. "This is the last temptation we must face to access the joy of the Ascension," he said, "to take the risen Lord and confine him."

"That is, to draw the power of the Holy Spirit back into fixing our earthly lives, rather than letting it lead us into something totally new," he explained.

Fr. Pasolini turned to the Acts of the Apostles, recalling the disciples' gaze as Jesus ascends and two angels ask them: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking at the sky?" While the preacher encouraged a contemplative gaze toward heaven, he warned against the religious temptation of idealism.

"Lifting our gaze upward is always the fascination of aspiring to some ideal world," he said, "projecting our life upward instead of

continuing to walk the horizontal path that awaits us."

After the Ascension, the "immense responsibility" left to the church is to become the presence of Christ in history through lives shaped by the Gospel, Fr. Pasolini said. "The Lord leaves the stage of history to leave us, men and women, who are still very frightened, with the task of becoming fully human."

The preacher highlighted Jesus' words before ascending: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature."

This, Fr. Pasolini said, is not only a geographical mission, but also an anthropological

"To bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth means also to bring it to the depths of humanity, going ever deeper," he said. Especially where human ways of thinking "struggle to understand or classify — there, we are called to bring the light of hope."

New sculpture in St. Peter's Square offers message of hospitality

By Justin McLellan Catholic News Service **Vatican City**

A new bronze sculpture installed in St. Peter's Square, near the showers and medical clinic the Vatican runs for people in need, invites visitors to reflect on the sacredness of welcoming others, especially the marginalized.

Titled "Be Welcoming," the work by Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz was unveiled April 15 in its place on the steps leading into the square from the colonnade.

Inspired by Hebrews 13:2 — "Do



"Be Welcoming," a bronze sculpture of a traveler by not neglect hospi- Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz, is seen in St. Peter's tality, for through it Square at the Vatican April 15. — CNS photo/Justin McLellan Peter's Square.

some have unknowingly entertained angels" — the sculpture depicts a weary traveler appearing as a homeless man.

However, from another angle, his tattered belongings transform into angelic wings.

The statue aims to make Scripture tangible by offering a "physical experience" of the biblical text, said a press release April 15 from the office of the papal almoner.

Schmalz is also known for "Angels Unaware," a sculpture depicting migrants from various historic periods and ethnic groups, that stands on the opposite side of St.

VIEWPOINT

Walking the road to Emmaus as a family

By Laura Kelly Fanucci

OSV News

Right now is a difficult time for nearly every family I know. Parents are stressed. Teens are depressed. Kids are anxious. Studies on mental health back this up with statistics, but start a conversation with friends, family, neighbors or parishioners and you'll soon hear stories of struggle and suffering.

In the midst of tumultuous times in our homes and nation, what does it mean to celebrate Easter? Can we really rejoice in a moment like this?

Tucked within the Gospel of Luke is a story that shows us exactly how to live out the Easter season — not as a oneday celebration, but 50 full days of feasting. What's more, the walk to Emmaus gives us a road map to guide our journey together as families into the hope of Easter.

First, we need to leave home. The disciples' courage to step beyond their comfort zone — especially when their own safety was threatened – let them meet the Risen Christ. Later, after they recognize the stranger who walked with them, the same impulse spurs them onward: "They set out at once and returned to Jerusalem," to share with others what had been revealed to them (Luke 24:33). How is God calling us to step out in faith this Easter? To be not afraid, even in troubling times, to share with others the good news we have found?

Second, we must welcome the stranger. The disciples did not dismiss the traveler who joined them on the road. They engaged him in conversation, even when he corrected them

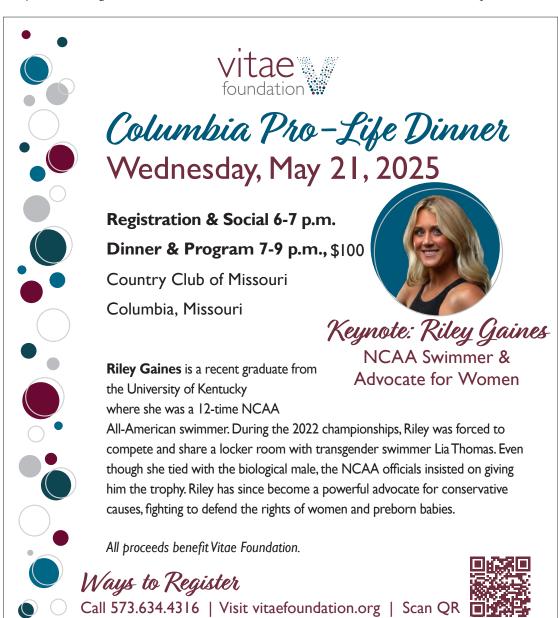
in stark terms: "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!" (Luke 24:25). If the disciples had turned a cold shoulder instead, they might have missed everything God had waiting for them. How can we open our hearts and homes this Easter to those we do not know? Can we remember that Christ is the face of every stranger, or will fear or judgment keep us locked away?

Third, we have to keep talking together. The disciples are willing to converse, question and debate the difficult news and most pressing questions of their times, "the things that have taken place there in these days" (Luke 24:18). They even share what weighs heaviest on their hearts. When Jesus asks what they are discussing, "they stopped, looking downcast" (Luke 24:17). Can we keep talking through differences and disagreements, bringing our full selves to each other in good faith?

Fourth, we need to break bread together. In meals around our family table and at the altar of the Eucharist, we must keep breaking bread in order to encounter Christ present among us. What place will feasting hold in our Easter celebrations? How can we pray for the wisdom to see Christ among us and the courage to respond to his call?

The road to Emmaus reminds us that Christ goes with us everywhere, walking and talking among us: in our conversations and debates, in ordinary meals and sacred liturgies, in journeys near and

See EMMAUS, page 15





Montgomery City parish celebrates longevity in Holy Matrimony



Feb. 14 was a special Valentine's Day for 21 couples of Immaculate Conception Parish in Montgomery City who have been married for 50 years or more.

The Montgomery City conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul treated the couples to an annual Valentine's Day event.

The day began with 10 a.m. Mass and a special blessing and anointing from Father Ernest Dike, pastor.

After Mass, everyone met at the Knights of Columbus Hall for lunch. The meal started

EMMAUS -

From page 14

far. Our hearts burn within us, too, whenever we realize he has been right next to us all along.

When the disciples approached the village, Jesus "gave the impression that he was going on farther" — but they pressed him to stay with them (Luke 24:28). This small detail holds the key. No matter what is happening in our families or the wider world, inviting Jesus to stay close is the way to discover what God has waiting for us.

"Stay with us." Their plea is our prayer, too. We need the hope of the Risen Christ, perhaps now more than ever.

Laura Kelly Fanucci is an author, speaker and founder of Mothering Spirit, an online gathering place on parenting and spirituality.

with salad, fruit and muffins, followed by ham, potatoes and green beans.

Emcee Jerry Witthaus entertained the couples with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting a collection of photos of the couples.

A champagne toast was given by the emcee, and cake made by Geri Park was served to all.

Individual photos were taken by Ruth Ann O'Keefe with a beautiful backdrop and decorations provided by Debbie Heidelberger.

James Longstreet and the kitchen crew prepared the meal.

In attendance were: Leroy and Betty Hanneken (63 years), Bill and Margie Cobb (61 years), Richard and Carole Bainbridge (59 years), Tom and

Margo Nichols (56 years), Denis and Mary Dickherber (55 years), Don and Lila Broz (53 years), Ron and Dianne Talley (53 years), Pat and Janet Stumbaugh (52 years), Charlie and Pat Korman (51 years), Don and Sandy Oakes (51 years), Harold and Sharon Pottebaum (51 years), and Glen and Pamela Landolt (50 years).

Eight couples were unable to attend: Richard and Shirley Arens (67 years), Tony and Laverne Wessel (64 years), Charles and Judy Nelson (61 years), John and Ruth Schneider (56 years), Steve and Kathy Holtz (52 years), Terry and Vicki Parker (52 years), David and Mary Falloon (52 years), George and Pricilla Banfield (51 years), and Barry and Jane Hubbard (50 years).







ARCHBISHOP

From page 1

you in the days ahead," he said. "You will always remain in my heart and in my prayers."

Archbishop-designate Mc-Knight will continue to serve apostolic administrator of the Jefferson City diocese while preparing to be installed as archbishop in Kansas City on Tuesday, May 27.

After that time, the College of Consultors in this diocese will elect a temporary administrator to serve until a new bishop is installed after being appointed by the pope.

Archbishop-designate Mc-Knight succeeds Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, who led the Kansas City archdiocese

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for 20 years until submitting to Pope Francis his request for retirement, as is required upon turning 75.

At the April 8 press conference, Archbishop-designate McKnight recalled taking a call from Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the Pope's diplomatic liaison to the United States, shortly before administering the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Stephen Church in Indian Creek.

"When the nuncio asked me about the pope appointing me to Kansas City and how did I feel about it, I said, 'Well, it's my home state. Of course!" Archbishop-designate Mc-Knight recalled.

'Cardinal Pierre's call was a graced moment

for me, renewing my sense of being on mission, like many who have come before me," he



Archbishop-designate W. Shawn McKnight of Kansas City in Kansas listens to his soon-to-be predecessor, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, who is retiring after two decades as archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas.

- Photo from The Leaven, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas

ergy. Each bishop brings unique gifts and talents to the Church."

Archbishop Naumann spoke of Archbishop-designate McKnight's "keen intelligence, deep faith and love for the Church," along with his academic credentials and his experience as a Newman Center chaplain, member of a seminary faculty, head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of Clergy and Consecrated Life, pastor in the Wichita diocese and bishop of Jefferson City.

"I look forward to seeing what God wants to do through him to enrich the already vibrant faith life of the archdiocese," said Archbishop Naumann.

A time to plant

Archbishop-designate McKnight was appointed the fourth bishop of Jefferson City

in November 2017 and was consecrated as a bishop and installed Feb. 6, 2018.

In his time here, he ramped up the diocese's pastoral planning process for parishes and deaneries, assisted in the expansion of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri and the acquisition of its current headquarters in Jefferson City, instituted a stewardship model for carrying out the work of the parishes and funding the ministries of the diocese, deepened relationships with the overseas dioceses that send missionary priests to serve here, and oversaw the substantial renovation of the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

Archbishop-designate McKnight will now be the fifth archbishop and 12th bishop of what is now the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.

A livestream of the press conference can be found online at:

> diojeffcity.org/ bishop-mcknight.



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Yet, a very isolating time for Archbishop-designate Mc-Knight followed that call.

'You really enter into a lim-

inal moment," he recalled. "For two weeks, I had to keep it all to myself.

"It's

strangest experience when you know you've got the call, you know it's happening, and you're not allowed to say anything to anyone, and you just keep going on with things," he

The archbishop-designate is now acutely aware that the transition — "the leaving and

"You have been my first flock as a bishop, and that bond will always hold a special place in my heart." — Abp.-designate W. Shawn McKnight

the coming" — is under way.

"In this in-between time, I feel a mixture of feelings," he said. "A homecoming has a very good feeling about it. But it is also bittersweet."

"Fresh eyes"

Archbishop Naumann, a St. Louis native, described the Kansas City archdiocese as a big family, spread across 21 counties in northeast Kansas, with approximately 200,000 Catholics.

'Together, we've had some challenges," the retiring archbishop stated. "At the same time, there have been miracles of grace happening on a daily basis in our parishes, schools and ministries. God has blessed us abundantly.'

He said a change of leadership is healthy and good.

"It brings fresh eyes to the archdiocese," he stated. "It will bring about renewed en-

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SACRED MUSIC

From page 1

God and one another; staying focused on Christ; promoting conscious, full and active participation in the Mass by everyone present; respecting each member's needs and differences; maintaining sacred silence at appropriate times during Mass; and helping people who lead and facilitate worship obtain the training and formation they need to help them do so successfully.

The bishop clearly seeks to balance unity of faith and purpose with the diversity and pastoral needs of each individual parish and community in the diocese.

He addresses these and several other themes that consistently emerged in 6,725 surveys submitted and participation by nearly 400 people in 13 listening sessions, equally divided between English and Spanish, in various locations in the diocese.

Many of the listening session participants spoke emphatically about how the quality of the melodies and lyrics of hymns at Mass have affected the growth of their relationship with God.

People also expressed how being able to join in the hymns and the sung responses to the parts of the Mass help them feel that they belong.

The archbishop-designate pointed out that more than eight out of 10 survey respondents indicated that music, including the lyrics, is an important expression of the Catholic faith and a very important part of the Mass.

Nine out of 10 said their participation in music enhances their prayer life and builds a sense of belonging to their parish.

Some expressed a desire for liturgical music to be less "performance-oriented" or dictated by the preferences of the lead musicians or pastor, and that poorly executed music can negatively impact the experience of the liturgy.

Toward greater unity

Archbishop-designate Mc-Knight called on every parish in the diocese to help members become familiar over the next three years with four settings for the sung responses to the Mass: the traditional Roman Missal Chant (Latin, English, or Spanish); the Mass of St. Frances Cabrini; the Revised Mass of Creation; and the bilingual Misa del Pueblo Inmigrante.

"While this is not intended to be a limitation on the Mass settings that can be used in the parish liturgy," the archbishop-designate explained, "parish priests and all who collaborate with them should prioritize the use of these settings to develop competence and comfort in their use."

He also encouraged frequent use of bilingual (Spanish and English language) hymns — including "Prayer of St. Francis"/"Hazme un Instrumento"; "Fisher of Men"/"Pescador de Hombres"; "We are the Body of Christ"/"Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo" — in parishes throughout the diocese.

He said these steps will allow for greater participation by everyone present.

He noted that inclusion of these Mass settings and bilingual hymns will require a concerted and organized effort by clergy and lay leaders in the parishes.

"Instead of legislating this change, I am asking all of us to work together to foster a renewal in our liturgies, encouraging greater active participation by the lay faithful through the proper formation and training of all the Christian faithful," he wrote.

Archbishop-designate Mc-Knight encouraged Catholics throughout the diocese to approach various kinds of liturgical music with openness to where the Holy Spirit is trying to lead them, and not to form small communities of people based on their preference for worship styles.

"We will know we are on the right path when we are less focused on our own personal preferences and are more concerned about the quality of music that will foster full, active participation by the whole assembly," he stated.

He said the Holy Spirit "reminds us that each of has a unique role to play in the community."

"It is one way to express what it means to be Catholic: to celebrate and honor the

many gifts God has given us to worship him and to express our unity in prayer and sacrifice," the bishop wrote.

Truth and charity

Archbishop-designate Mc-Knight also addressed the difficult situation of music that

has become beloved by many for Mass, but was composed by people who used their status to take advantage of vulnerable people.

The decree forbids in dioc-

esan liturgies the use of music composed by anyone who has been credibly accused of sexual abuse.

At the same time, the bishop has directed the pastors to lead a process of prayerful discernment within each parish regarding whether any such hymns could be used on occasion in that parish.

This is based in part on testimony presented at each listening session by Teresa Pitt Green, a survivor of clerical sexual abuse.

Mrs. Pitt Green called for respectful, open dialogue about using music by such composers, acknowledging the hurt it may cause to people who themselves are abuse survivors, as well as those who are heartbroken at the prospect of not being able to use beloved hymns at crucial moments in their faith life.

The archbishop-designate set a Nov. 30, 2025, deadline for each pastor to submit an official policy on the use of music by composers credibly accused of abuse, along with a description of the discernment process that led to the decision.

Referring to one of the main concerns that ultimately led to the Sacred Music Consultation, Archbishop-designate McKnight reiterated that some commonly used, even beloved, hymns could contain lyrics some consider problematic.

He instructed pastors and parish music personnel to take into account the principles outlined in a document from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Doctrine, titled "Catholic

Hymnody at the Service of the Church: An Aid for Evaluating Hymn Lyrics."

That document offers clear guidance on determining whether a hymn contains deficiencies in the presentation of doctrine pertaining to the Eucharist, to the Holy Trinity,

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sultation with the diocesan Liturgical Commission, was immediately controversial.

In light of comments he received, the archbishop-designate 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 US-CCB document's evaluative principles.

That second decree called for the process of synodal consultation that led to the April 5 decree and which will continue in parishes through the end of the current liturgical year.

Archbishop-designate Mc-Knight sought feedback from the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Presbyteral Council and the bishop's cabinet, with input from the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and members of the local NPM chapter before promulgating the final decree.

"We are all edified by the number of responses, both in the survey and in the listening sessions," the archbishop-designate stated. "Catholics understand, in a deeply personal and profound way, the importance of music in their relationship with God and with others."

The members of the local NPM chapter are now working on an implementation proposal and budget to discuss with the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, for submission to Archbishop-designate McKnight before May 27.

Visit *diojeffcity.org/sacred-music* to read any of the following:

•the text of the decree;

•the text of the instructional document, "Spirit and Truth: Instruction regarding the use of music in the liturgy";

•the preliminary report from the CARA survey; and

•a report on the listening sessions.

to God and his relation to humans, or to the nature of the Church; or incorrect Christian anthropology or doctrinally incorrect views of the Jewish people.

Hymns with such lyrics undermine the quality of worship and the mission of the Church.

Archbishop-designate Mc-Knight called on pastors, music directors and others involved in choosing and accompanying sacred music to make good use of the resources the diocesan chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) provides.

"This organization is a necessary and vital collaborator in our effort to worship in Spirit and truth," the archbishop-designate stated.

He also directed diocesan Chancery personnel to work with the diocese's NPM chapter to develop and make available resources for forming and training people who lead music for worship in the parishes.

Powerful responses

The Sacred Music Consultation dates back to last October, when Archbishop-designate 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

The decree, written in con-







<u>LEFT:</u> Fifth-graders from Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City, from left, Macie McBaine, Avery Berhorst and Reese Lawrence, along with Ella Brown, background, crochet at school. Macy is wearing a scarf she crocheted during this school year. <u>CENTER:</u> Ella Brown focuses on her needle and yarn during study hall at Immaculate Conception School, where several students have taken up crocheting. <u>RIGHT:</u> Shown are some of the items students from Immaculate Conception School have made since they've learned to crochet last semester.

— Photos by Julie Smith, courtesy of the *Jefferson City News Tribune*

Jefferson City I.C. School students crochet for fun in free time

By Anna Campbell

A new hobby has taken the students of Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City by storm.

Students can be found with balls of yarn at their feet, twisting their crochet needles together, sitting in circles with classmates during study hall and research.

Some carry around bags with their creations: tiny dinosaurs, octopuses, dogs and scarves.

When students finish up their work during study hall, teachers have been trying to get them "unplugged" and doing activities that don't involve a screen, and crocheting has been a popular option.

Landra Collins began as a counselor at the school this

year. When students noticed her collection of crocheted blankets, they began asking questions.

One thing led to another, and students were soon learning to crochet.

The students have come far enough that they now teach each other and work more or less independently.

Not only does crocheting offer a creative alternative to screens, it is also an exercise in patience and dexterity, which studies show children are increasingly losing as digital devices become a greater part of daily life.

Crocheting has spread beyond study hall to encompass recess, after-school gatherings, and time at home or at school events. Fifth-grader Holly Wieberg crochets during car rides on the way to volleyball matches.

She'll also crochet during breaks and while watching her brother's baseball tournaments.

"It's just fun to do whenever I'm bored," she said.

She knew how to crochet before this year, but said she's not a good teacher. But she enjoys crocheting alongside other people.

"It's really easy to make once you get to know how to make (the starting ring), but at first, whenever you're learning how to make it, it's really hard," Holly said.

Scarves became very popular during the winter, but students found them challenging.

Fifth-grader Avery Berhorst received a Wooble for Christ-

mas, a kit to create a crocheted animal, so she began learning the craft.

To begin, you need to get in the crocheting position, she explained, wrapping the yarn around the pinky and behind the finger, holding it with a middle finger and thumb.

Then you create a "magic ring," a little circle upon which many crocheting projects are built.

After forming the ring, you crochet outward, increasing each time to create larger circles.

When finished, you sew your project closed.

Avery said she also enjoys crocheting at home.

"It's very calming," she said.

Most of the items are donated from teachers and parishioners who heard about the students' interest and found some yarn lying around the house.

Ms. Collins said she hopes the students can turn around and donate to others next year by making items like poppies or hats.

This article and photos were originally published April 4 in the Jefferson City News Tribune

(newstribune.com) and are republished here with permission.

April flowers



Springtime blossoms adorn the Blessed Mother grotto outside St. Mary of the Angels Church in Wien on April 11.

Photo from the St. Mary's-Wien, MO
 Facebook page





MEAGHER

From page 6

The couple wound up going to a few hockey games together, and he came to a one-act opera she sang in and brought her flowers.

They sat together at graduation. They took a day trip to Chicago and talked a lot on their way home.

Dr. Meagher applied for a job as an organist at a Catholic parish in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

"One June 23, 2010, we got the good news that he got the job and was going to stay," said Mrs. Meagher.

Praying twice

Kathy had been baptized and grown up in another Christian faith tradition.

"Right before we started dating, I went with Andy to a church where he was playing," she recalled. "I really liked the music that they did."

She started going to Mass every weekend to hear him play the organ.

One day, her mother called to tell her that her father had been in a car accident and sustained a serious brain injury.

He had been airlifted to St. Mary's of Michigan Medical Center in Saginaw, about 85 miles from where Kathy was living in Ann Arbor.

"I called Andy," Kathy recalled. "He wanted to come with me, but he couldn't."

Bishop Earl Boyea was coming to Ann Arbor, and Andrew had to accompany the Mass.

Kathy attended, not knowing whether her father would survive the emergency brain surgery he was having at that time.

"That day, I met Bishop Boyea, and he prayed with me for my dad," she recalled.

Gradually, her father made a full recovery.

Andrew began accompanying Kathy's voice recitals in the winter of 2013 at the University of Michigan and started serving as her voice coach about a year later.

His grandfather died at age 101 in October 2015. Andrew invited Kathy to sing at the funeral.

Her voice led the way into his family's heart.

On Aug. 27 of the follow-

ing year, Andrew told her he didn't want to be her boyfriend anymore.

He got down on one knee and asked her to be his wife.

They got married a year later

The couple continued collaborating musically and enjoying each other's company.

"I also found that I liked the spirituality and the music of the worship at the Catholic oratory," said Mrs. Meagher.

She told her husband she wanted to become Catholic.

He quickly replied that "this has to be because you want it, not because of me."

Sure of her intentions, Mrs. Meagher entered what is now known as the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) in 2016 and was received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church on Easter Sunday, 2017.

Dr. Meagher went on to serve as accompanist, choir director and director of music at parishes throughout the Detroit archdiocese and Lansing diocese.

Mrs. Meagher served as staff singer at another parish, St. Paul on the Lake in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan.

All for one

Dr. Meagher applied for the director of music position at the Cathedral in Jefferson City in 2023.

The selection committee was impressed with his experience, credentials and passion for his work.

"So, I went from being organist to director of music, then director of music at a larger parish, and now, director of music at a cathedral," Dr. Meagher stated with delight.

"Here I am, two years in, and I couldn't be happier to be serving God in this capacity and sharing God's love — not just with the people of this parish but with the whole diocese," he said.

He and Mrs. Meagher are committed to helping people participate more effectively at Mass.

"We're here to help other singers and musicians, so they can serve," said Dr. Meagher. "We want to help bring people closer to God."

"To build up the ministry, to build up the Church," Mrs. Meagher added.

"And help God save souls," said Dr. Meagher.

He noted that music in communal worship has the power to bring people closer to God and fill them with a desire to serve him with all their heart.

"It can also help them decide that they want to become more active in the Church and receive the Sacraments," said Dr. Meagher.

"It's one way to foster full and active participation — and not just for people in the choir," he stated.

He agrees with an insight a colleague once shared with him: "The whole congregation is a choir of 500 singing for an audience of one —that one being God."

Joy from joy

Dr. Meagher said he's grateful to Archbish-op-designate McKnight; Fr. Jones and his predecessor, Father Louis Nelen; the members of the committee who selected him; and Mr. Halpin, who continues to help and en-

courage him.

Dr. Meagher is delighted to make sacred music in the exquisitely renovated Cathedral with its soon-to-be-completed new organ.

Knowing that there's no way to please everyone, he continues working to draw as many people into sacred worship as possible.

"The greatest joy in my job comes from helping people in need and celebrating their joys," he told fellow parishioners shortly after he arrived.

What can people do to help Dr. Meagher serve the Cathedral parish and the whole diocese better?

"Stewardship of your time and talent," he stated. "I'm not saying leave your own parish, but come here for the diocesan events, join the diocesan choir and sing out!"



Andrew Meagher Ph.D., director of music for Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, accompanies his wife, Katherine Meagher, while she sings "The Holy City" at Mass on Palm Sunday in the Cathedral.

— Photo by Jay Nies

He suggested that people who are interested in serving in music ministries at their home parish connect with the diocesan chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

"They offer great resources and opportunities for your formation, to help you share your voice or your gift for playing an instrument," he said.

He asked for prayers to be able to continue his work with

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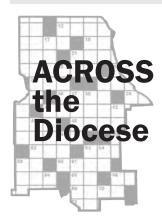
wisdom, patience and a gentle, contrite heart.

Mrs. Meagher requested prayers for peace in the world and for people not to overlook the gifts of people who have disabilities.

"A church is not a building — a church is a people!" Dr. Meagher pointed out. "I try to never lose track of the fact that I am serving God's people and using music to help bring them closer to him."



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By Father Donald Antweiler ACROSS

- 1. "Few States can match the ____ of Missouri, geologically, economically, culturally, historically and most basically, in the particular and unique space it occupies," —Guide to America's Heartland, by Tom Weil.
- 8. "Even though that campaign was a very ____ one for the first few weeks, it was not an easy war. No war is easy for those who fight it," —*Up Front*, by Bill Mauldin.
- 12. Land of Lincoln State to Mo.'s east (abbr.).
- 13. "This people honors me with their _____, but their hearts are far from me," (Matthew 15:8).
- 14. "Gov't. relations (lobbying) was repulsive but paid so well that every D.C. law firm had _____ wings of lawyers greasing the skids," —*The Street Lawyer*, by John Grisham.
- 15. "At last came the day when I took the _____ to Evanston, 'Home,' announced a big sign on the station platform, 'of the Women's Christian Temperance Union,'" —A Life on the Road, by Charles Kuralt.
- *Road*, by Charles Kuralt.

 16. Grain for Dobbin, perhaps.
- 18. "Mo. was a Civil War border State, and still is, bordering the nation's regions from its position ____ in the middle," —Weil, ibid.
- 21. Abbr. for the Jewish sabbath day.
- 23. "The terms 'back East,' 'out West,' 'up North,' and 'down South,' have greater _____ if you're standing in Missouri than almost anywhere else," —Weil, ibid.
- 27. The ____ of the small Church steeple bell was inviting.
- viting. 30. Lion's den prophet; after Ezekiel (abbr.).
- 31. "Perhaps the best proof that there is intelligent Life

- in ____ Space is the fact it hasn't come here," —Arthur C. Clarke.
- 34. "Rapp preferred running an ____ with an understaffed team over risking a new recruit who might get the entire team killed," ___ The Last Man, by Vince Flynn.
- 35. "History was happening, and though we were only _____ years old and far away from the game, we felt as if we were a part of it," —*Calico Joe*, by John Grisham.
- 38. In real estate, letters for Living Room.
- 39. Leaning tower city.
- 41. "Tripp was his new business associate. He couldn't ____ him out like a sock with a hole in it," —*Murder, Sonoran Style,* by Kathy McIntosh.
- 42. "Missouri is ____ States from both the east and west coasts, —Weil, ibid.
- 44. "Southwestern Missouri equidistant from 3. Maine and California, Weil, ibid. 4.
- 47. "We will see our country free, or we too, will die. There is no ____ future before us," —*People of the Book*, by Geraldine Brooks.
- 51. The debate team coach gave a rousing ____ talk to the team to motivate their performance.
- 53. __ & __; root beer brand.
- 54. The ____ used in the Sacrament of the Sick is consecrated only for use in that sacrament.
- 56. "___ missa est"; in English
 "Go, (the Mass) is ended";
 ending words of a Latin
 Mass
- 57. A gorilla or orangutan.
- 58. "The northern Corn Belt in Missouri, with its commercial farms and small _____, dips down to the Mo. River," —Weil, ibid.
- 60. "In 1540, Coronado, accompanied by Fr. Niza, traveled as ____ north as modern-day Wichita, Kansas," —Historic Missions & Churches of the Arizona-Sonora Borderlands, by Richard J. Morgan, Jr.
- 61. "...all the male firstlings of your animals shall belong to the Lord. Every first-born of an _____ you shall redeem with a sheep," (Exodus 13:12-13).
- 62. Letters for Major League

- Baseball.
- 64. Prefix for dermis or center.
- of shouts far across the water and now and then the echoed thunk of an ____ on a boat hull," —The Christian Science Monitor, Michael S. Hopkins, 2020.
- 68. Q through U.
- 69. A traditional Japanese (often ornate) case used to hold small items like medicine or seals, typically suspended from the obi (sash) of a kimono.
- 70. 4th book of the Bible.
- 71. "Missouri has been called the ____ State of America," ___Weil, ibid.

DOWN

- 1. "You eat meat and drink wine: 'Eat and drink, for tomorrow we ____!" (Isaiah 22:13).
- 2. "Tis better to bear the ____ we have than fly to others that we know not of," Hamlet, Shakespeare.
- 3. Napoleon's first island of exile.
- 4. Newport in this State is famous for sailing and Gilded Age mansions (abbr.).
- 5. "As a Missouri State document once ____ of Mo.: Not middle America but the middle of America," — Weil, ibid.
- 6. "According to John (Gospel, Revelation), Mary ___ second Eve and the woman of Genesis 3:15, the mother of the Messiah whose offspring would conquer Satan and undo the Fall of Adam and Eve precisely by dying on the cross," —Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary, by Brant Pitre (2 wds.).
- 7. "For however many are the promises of God, their ____ is in him..." (2 Corinthians 1:20).
- 8. ____. (abbr.) Leonard Wood, on the bottom edge of our diocese, since 2000 has been home to the Army Engineer, Chemical, and Military Police Schools. It covers 62,000 acres.
- With all the scratches and cuts from clearing brush and chopping wood last summer, I sure used my share of band-____!
- 10. 4th year high school student (abbr.).
- 11. "I used to walk barefoot to the (Marine) ____ camp

- towing a red wagon filled with quart jars of milk from our cows and sugar cookies my grandmother had baked. It never took more than a few minutes to sell out," –Kuralt, ibid.
- 17. "I want people to know that there is a light at the end of the ____," —Amber Mark, singer.
- 19. "____ culpa"; in English, "(through) my fault"; originally from the Latin Confiteor at the start of Mass.
- 20. Letters after a member of the order of the Congregation of the Mission, founded by St. Vincent de Paul (i.e., the Vincentians). They have a long history in Missouri.
- 22. "One of the myths of our scientific _____ is the naïve belief that science is a dispassionate seeker after truth and not a tool by those who are most powerful to increase their wealth and power further," —Further Up & Further In: Understanding Narnia, by Joseph Pearce.
- 24. 4-week Church season for Christmas preparation.
- 25. "Kansas Rangers were a real menace to the rebels in northwest Mo. for they had _____ daydreaming feeling of humanity to spare the rebels and the bullets in their revolvers were never rusty," —Longer Than a Man's Lifetime in Missouri, by Gert Goebel.
- 26. "Missouri is two States from Canada, and two States from the _____," —

- Weil, ibid.
- 27. "The center of the U.S.

 ____ is centered in Mo.,
 near Hartville, Mo. in
 Wright County," —Weil,
 ibid.
- 28. Prefix for cure or center.
- 29. Pasture.
- 32. Prefix for angle or cycle.
- 33. Fish eggs.
- 36. Prefix for teem or chew.
- 37. The Royals belong in the AL; the Cards in the ____.
- 40. "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will ____ God," (Matthew 5:8).
- 43. Vice President.
- 45. ____ Jima was the costly Pacific WW II battle where American Marines famously raised the Stars and Stripes over Mt. Suribachi in Feb. 1945.
- 46. "He was too stunned to respond. How could you possibly, humanly forgive a drunk who slaughtered your two ____ less than seventy-two hours earlier?" Sycamore Row, by John Grisham.
- 47. Medical abbr. letters for *"oculus laevus,"* Latin for "left eye."
- 48. "The South of Mo., with its _____, timber, small farms and growth of industry, retirement and people, comes as far north as the Mo. River," —Weil, ibid.
- 49. *Ora* ____ *Labora*; Benedictine motto.
- 50. Penalty calling football official (abbr.).
- 51. "The book says that chil-

CLUES

From page 20

- 52. "The West in Mo. begins either at St. Louis or St. Joseph, depending on which _____ of history you choose," —Weil, ibid.
- 55. "No, that one shall not be your heir; your own ____ shall be your heir," (Genesis 15:4).
- 59. "Filipinos everywhere are known for their love of God, fervent piety and their _____ devotion to Our Lady and her rosary!" —Pope Francis at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Manila, Philippines.
- 62. Possible letters before a wife's name.
- 63. Letters for British Thermal Unit, the measure of energy for air conditioners, furnaces and heat pumps.
- 65. First syllable for view or side.
- 67. Chemical letters for gold.
- 69. Pope St. John Paul ____. See ANSWERS, page 23

Pope thanks medical team that cared for him



Pope Francis receives a chocolate Easter egg during a meeting at the Vatican April 16, 2025, with the heath care workers and medical staff who cared for him during his hospitalization.

— CNS photo/Justin McLellan

By Justin McLellan Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Francis personally thanked the health care workers and medical staff who cared for him in Rome's Gemelli hospital for 38 days while he recovered from respiratory infections.

"Thank you, thank you above all for what you did," the pope told leaders and staff from Gemelli hospital, the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart — which oversees the facility — and the Vatican's health department.

The 20-minute meeting took place April 16 in a room behind the Vatican's Paul VI Audience Hall and included about 70 people, the Vatican press office said.

"Thank you," the pope said, gesturing toward Elena Beccalli, rector of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart. "When women are in charge, things go (forward)," he joked with a smile.

Daniele Franco, president of the board of directors of the Gemelli Foundation, opened the meeting with greetings, Easter wishes and words of support for the pope's ongoing recovery.

In response, Pope Francis told the group, "I pray for you; please, do so for me, thank you. And thank you for your service in the hospital, very good, keep it up."

The meeting with the medical staff was the pope's first public meeting since he was discharged from the hospital.

FR. KAPAUN

From page 12

said Archbishop-designate McKnight.

The chaplain's ministry was one of radical presence: "To have a sense that someone cared for them that much in their hellhole, who was there with them," the archbishop-designate said.

Lord of the dance

Archbishop-designate McKnight was working at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' headquarters in Washington, D.C., in 2013 when President Barack Obama posthumously presented Fr. Kapaun the Congressional Medal of Honor.

"I was very fortunate to is be at the ceremonies at the White House and the Pentagon and to see some incredible things from the inside," said Archbishop-designate Mc-Knight.

One of these involved a young man waltzing in the White House entryway.

"This young man from a country parish was in a pole-vaulting accident in his senior year in high school, leaving him paralyzed," said Archbishop-designate McKnight. "He wasn't expected to survive, let alone ever walk again."

The young man's inexplicable recovery took place in the months after his injury, following fervent appeals to God through Fr. Kapaun's intercession.

"So, there at the White House, the Marine Band was playing music for the reception, and this young man had his eye on this cute young woman, and he just went up and asked her to dance, and she said, 'okay,' and they started dancing," the archbish-op-designate recounted.

Almost everyone there knew his story. They all stood aside and basked in what was likely the aftermath of a miracle.

"You see? That happened in our White House!" Archbishop-designate McKnight noted. "The seat of the presidency of the United States."

Homecoming

DNA testing in 2021 yielded a match between Fr. Kapaun's earthly remains in the Hawaii repository and several



Venerable Father Emil Kapaun (1916-51), a U.S. Army chaplain, is pictured in an undated portrait.

 OSV News photo/St. Louis Review of his living relatives.

Once there was a positive identification, his body could be returned to Wichita for a Mass of Christian Burial, some 50 years after his death.

It had all the trappings of a state funeral.

"They had generals there, they had a caisson and the horses in Missing-Man Formation and all kinds of military personnel involved," the archbishop-designate recalled.

Archbishop-designate Mc-Knight was able to return to Wichita as a visiting prelate to concelebrate the Funeral Mass at a local convention center, the only venue large enough to accommodate a crowd that size.

Afterward came a military procession from the convention center to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita, where a crypt had been built for Fr. Kapaun.

Archbishop-designate Mc-Knight then participated in the burial service for Fr. Kapaun in the same cathedral where the archbishop-designate was ordained to the Priesthood in 1994.

"Fr. Kapaun is a role model for all of us who profess the Christian faith, not just priests," he stated at the time of the funeral and burial. "I am honored to participate in this historic funeral and pray that his example will inspire all priests throughout the world."

Also attending the Mass was Father Derek Hooper, a Kansas native and current parochial administrator of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg, Sacred Heart Parish in Vandalia and the Mission of St. John in Laddonia.

Fr. Hooper has held a strong devotion to Fr. Kapaun since his own time of serving in the Army.

"The life of Fr. Emil Kapaun is one that we can all look to for comfort and encouragement," Fr. Hooper stated in 2021.

To each his own

Archbishop-designate McKnight will soon serve as metropolitan archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas, his home state.

He anticipates with great hope the day when God will send more miracles to reveal that the archbishop-designate's fellow Kansan, Venerable Fr. Kapaun, is truly a saint in heaven.

Archbishop-designate McKnight said there's no way in this life to know whether Fr. Kapaun possessed such intense holiness and the capacity for martyrdom throughout his life, or whether the prison camp served as a crucible for purifying that holiness.

"Either way, he took steps all along to get himself there, relying always on God's help," the archbishop-designate stated.

He reemphasized that holiness looks different on everybody.

"That's an important thing for us to remember," he said. "Because if we start comparing ourselves to other people, we're going to feel as though we're never gonna' measure up.

"What we have to discover are the ways in which God IS calling all of us to holiness," he said. "Fr. Kapaun found his."

More information about Fr. Kapaun's life, ministry and sainthood cause can be found at frkapaun.org.

Contributing to this report were Gina Christian of OSV News; Christopher Riggs, editor of Catholic Advance in Wichita; and Jean M. Schildz, formerly a reporter for the St. Louis Review in St. Louis.

Fundraisers & Social Events

Apr. 18

Hannibal, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7

Apr. 25

Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School Marching Crusaders trivia night, 6-10 pm, auxiliary gym; Loose Creek, K of C Council 2027 drive-thru chicken dinner, 4:30-7 pm, Immaculate Conception School

Apr. 25-26

Camdenton, St. Anthony Parish SISTERS in Christ Spring garage sale, Fri. 7 am-4 pm, Sat. 7 am-2 pm, lower level of church

Apr. 26

Jefferson City, Pregnancy Help Center of Central Mo. "Bubbles & Bounces 5K walk/ run," with registration at 8:30 am, race at 9 am, Memorial Park, for info or to register visit friendsofphc.org

Apr. 27

Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels Spring dinner, 11 am-4:30 pm

May 4

Vienna, K of C monthly breakfast, 7:30-10:30 am; Vienna, Visitation Parish Spring dinner, 11 am-5 pm

May 10

Jefferson City, Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, 9 am-4 pm, Jefferson Street Post Office

May 21

Columbia, Vitae Foundation Pro-Life Event, with keynote speaker Riley Gaines, 7-9 pm, Country Club of Missouri, for info or to register visit vitae foundation.org/events

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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

Apr. 21

Fayette, CMU Perry Lecture on Faith and Science, featuring "The Pope's Astronomer, Brother Guy J. Consolmagno, S.J., 7-8 pm, Central Methodist University's Inman Lecture Hall

Apr. 22

Jefferson City, Seasons of Hope grief support group (6week program), 6:15-8 pm, St. Peter Parish's Fr. Ahren's Room, for info call 573-636-

May 1

Columbia, Mid-Missouri Ultreya for Cursillo, 7-8 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Flanagan Hall; **Jefferson** City, MidWest March for Life, 9 am-2:30 pm, Missouri State Capitol

May 16-18

St. Louis, 26th Annual St. Louis Marian Conference, Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel, for info or to register visit stlmc.

May 21

Columbia, Vitae Foundation Pro-Life Event, with keynote speaker Riley Gaines, 7-9 pm, Country Club of Missouri, for info or to register visit vitae foundation.org/events

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Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

26 abril

Columbia, Retiro Quinceañera, 9 am-3 pm, iglesia de Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte el equipo de quinceañera de su parroquia; Sedalia, Sesión: Plan Pastoral, 9 am-12 pm, capilla de San Patricio; Sedalia, Curso Introductorio de Planificación Familiar Natural, 9 am-12 pm, capilla de San Patricio (sótano)

26-27 abril

Marshall, Retiro de Jóvenes, iglesia de San Pedro

2-4 mayo

St. Martins, Retiro de Primavera para Diáconos, Salón de los Caballeros de Colón

10 mayo

Columbia, Curso Introductorio de Planificación Familiar Natural, 9 am-12 pm, iglesia de Sagrado Corazón, edificio educativo

Jefferson City, "Tuesday With jimkemna@gmail.com

Every Friday

Jefferson City, Conception Parish

Apr. 25-26

Jefferson City, "Heart of a Hero" men's conference, with Fr. Anthony Viviano, Fr. Paul Clark, Joe Heschmeyer and Dr. Pat Castle presenting, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall, for info or to register visit menofsignum crucis.com/mens-conference; Creve Coeur, Encounter School of Identity retreat, St. Monica Church, for info or to register fox.com/school-of-identity-stlouis-mo

May 5

Charismatic Prayer gather-

ing, 7-8:30 pm, Korean Martyrs

Room, St. Thomas More New-

May 16-18

Conception, MO, Encoun-

tering Christ silent retreat for

men, for info visit conception

abbey.org/guests/upcom

May 23-25

Conception, MO, Encoun-

tering Christ silent retreat for

women, for info visit concep

tionabbey.org/guests/up

May 30-Jun. 1 Conception, MO, Encoun-

tering Christ silent retreat for

men, for info visit conception

abbey.org/guests/upcom

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul

Parish live Stations of the Cross

procession from Sacred Heart

Chapel to St. Patrick Chapel,

Monthly CoMo

Young Adults First Wednesdays each month Jefferson City, Rooted/Conencounterministries.reg nected/Searching in Community young adult group,

5-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info visit icangels.com/ youngadults

May 12 Jefferson City, Monthly com-

munity prayer hour for support

of our diocesan priests, 5:30-

6:30 pm, Immaculate Con-

May 13

Jefferson City, Monthly com-

munity prayer hour and Mass

for Vocations to the Priest-

hood and Religious Life to the

Priesthood and Religious Life,

with Adoration at 4:30 pm, Ro-

sary at 5 pm and Mass at 5:30

pm, Immaculate Conception

Church; Starkenburg, Second

Tuesday Mass, with the Sacra-

ment 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 &

ception Church

Jun. 8-12

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

Jun. 15-19

Union, MO, Camp Lolek Session 2 for junior high girls, for info or to register visit diojeffci ty.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

Health & Wellness

Apr. 30

Meta, Blood drive, 2-6 pm, Citizens Civic League

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Every Tuesday

Faith," small group discussions, 6:30-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info, call 573-645-2478 or email

Centering Prayer Group, 2-3 pm, Emmaus Room, Immaculate

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

Columbia,

ing-retreats

coming-retreats

ing-retreats

3-4 pm

Liturgical

man Center Parish

17-18 mayo

Columbia, Retiro de Vida en el Espíritu, iglesia de Sagrado Corazón

24 mayo

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

30 mayo

Marshall, Convivio Diocesano Juvenil, 10 am-4:30 pm, iglesia de San Pedro

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Jefferson City

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

Virgil & Mary Jane Koechner, 69 years Mitch & Janet Lutz, 55 years Duane & Rhonda Huhmann, 50 years

Taos, St. Francis Xavier
Frank & LaVerne Twehous, 65 years

Baptisms

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — Liam Michael Schulte, son of Cody & Rebekah Kempker

Palmyra, St. Joseph — **Rylie Vee Leftwich**, daughter of Taylor &
Natalie Leftwich; **Alexander H. Orig**, son of Lorenz Marie Orig &
Joshua Lee Yakle

Salisbury, St. Joseph — Adajayne Leann (Adelaide) Pancoast, daughter of Christa Pancoast

Westphalia, St. Joseph — Ella Mae Plassmeyer, daughter of Jacob & Erin Plassmeyer

Birthdays

Tipton, St. Andrew — Virgil Koechner, his 95th on Apr. 15

Deaths

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — Alfred Lueckenhoff

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — Ronald Morff

Salisbury, St. Joseph — $\bf Donald\ M.\ Fox$

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Rita J. Kerperin**

Westphalia, St. Joseph — Constance Reichart

diojeffcity. org

STUART WOLFE

From page 9

the fact that I am not in jail testifies more to God's mercy and grace than it does to my goodness.

On the other hand, sidestepping the sinful and destructive choices that brought these women to where they are doesn't help them either. Seeing them as separate from their sins and loving them where they are might. But that is only possible when we are honest with ourselves about the seriousness of sin.

If the Cross of Christ shows us anything, it is that loving sinners requires a willingness to suffer. There are no discounts, shortcuts or tricks. The good shepherd who leaves the 99 to search for the one is the same good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. Loving sinners will cost us everything. And that's why it has the power to make us more like Christ.

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

A PRAYER FOR OUR DIOCESE

HEAVENLY FATHER,

SEND YOUR HOLY SPIRIT UPON US TO INFLAME OUR HEARTS AND ENLIGHTEN OUR MINDS

AS BAPTIZED MEMBERS

OF THE ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH

PRESENT IN THE DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY.

HELP US TO DISCERN YOUR HOLY WILL FOR OUR CHURCH

AS THE BODY OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD. MAY WE SHAPE OUR FUTURE TOGETHER BY EMBRACING OUR MISSION TO BE SANCTUARIES OF MERCY AND CENTERS OF CHARITY. OPEN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS SO THAT OUR PARISH COMMUNITIES

WILL THRIVE IN THE SPIRITUALITY OF STEWARDSHIP

AND WITH A CULTURE OF CO-RESPONSIBILITY.

MAY WE BE EVER MORE STRONGLY UNITED IN OUR CATHOLIC FAITH, PRAYER AND COMMUNAL LIFE.

THIS WE ASK THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

- ARCHBISHOP-DESIGNATE W. SHAWN MCKNIGHT

SILECCHIA

From page 9

to the care of a loving mother is good news.

A Roman centurion, caught up in the most ignoble of executions, declared in awe at Christ's death "[T]ruly this man was the Son of God." For reasons I can't quite explain, that exclamation touches my heart every time I read it. When the most unlikely of people recognizes the glory of God in the darkest of hours, that is good news.

Joseph of Arimathea was, by scriptural accounts, wealthy and highly ranked. He donated a grave in which to bury Christ with dignity and care. When someone of rank and privilege does a kindness for one who has suffered so much, that is good news.

And, in the early hours of a remarkable Sunday, the best of all good news came. In the Great Vigil of Easter, light bursts through the darkness with the glorious simplicity of the Gospel words, "He has been raised. He is not here."

"He is not here." He is not here in the darkness of a tomb, in the agony of Gethsemane, in the corrupt court of Pilate, in the midst of a jeering crowd, in the embrace of a betrayer, on the path to Golgotha, or in the last hours of a brutal execution.

"He has been raised." That is the Good News! That is the Good News that dispels the darkness. This was not merely the Good News to brighten a Sunday morning nearly two thousand years ago. This Good News dispels the darkness for all eternity. Even in a world that still knows all too much of the sorrowful, sinful and sad, this Good News can also brighten our ordinary times.

May God bless you and yours with a

joyous Eastertide!

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

PASSPORT —

From page 4

Jesus presented himself as the fulfillment of a new jubilee when he told the assembly at the synagogue these words from the Book of Isaiah — "The Spirit of God is upon me, for he has anointed me to announce a year of favor for the Lord and a day of vindication by our God, to comfort all who mourn" — which were being fulfilled in their hearing.

Pope Boniface VIII called the Church to celebrate her first holy year in 1300. Since then, holy years have been times for repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, special blessings, prayers, pilgrimages and commitment to Christ.

Pope Francis called for this year's Jubilee observance — a quarter-century past the Church's Great Jubilee 2000 celebrating the beginning of the third millennium of Christianity — to be a "pilgrimage of hope."

Christians must "abound in hope" to be credible witnesses of God's love, the pope wrote in a document formally proclaiming the current Holy Year.

QUESTION

From page 8

to her words, 'About Jesus Christ and the Church, I simply know they're just one thing,' this affirmation, cited in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (n. 795), has a truly heroic character in the context of [her] Trial of Condemnation, before her judges, men of the Church who were persecuting and condemning her. In the Love of Jesus Joan found the strength to love the Church to the very end, even at the moment she was sentenced."

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.

LOCAL YOUTHThe Catholic Missourian April 18, 2025

Da Vinci would be proud

The fourth-graders at Holy Family School in Hannibal created this life-size display of the Last Supper for Holy Week.

— Photo from the Holy Family School – Hannibal Facebook page

Celestial voices



The St. Stanislaus Children's Choir gathers for a photo in the choir loft of St. Stanislaus Church in Wardsville after leading the singing at Mass on Palm Sunday.

Photo from the St. Stanislaus Catholic Church Wardsville Facebook page

Hosanna to the Son of David



Fourth- and fifth-graders at St. Joseph School in Salisbury separate the palms that would be distributed at church on Palm Sunday.

— Photo from the St Joseph Catholic Church -Salisbury, MO Facebook page

Out the land of Egypt



Father Mike Coleman, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Centralia, joins the fifth-graders in his parish religious education program as they learned about the Seder Meal, which God commanded the Israelites and their descendants to celebrate each year in commemoration of their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. Jesus celebrated a Seder Meal as his Last Supper with his apostles the evening before his passion and death.

— Photo from Fr. Mike Coleman's Facebook page

What wondrous love!



The second- and seventh-grade CCD classes at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in St. Anthony present the Shadow Stations of the Cross on April 12.

— Photo from the St.

Anthony / St. Lawrence
Catholic Churches
Facebook page



Bible Accent

As the first Christian community continued to grow, the apostles came to realize that they needed assistants.

In Acts 6, we read that the Hellenists complained to the apostles that their widows were being neglected during the daily distribution of food to the Christian community's needy.

The apostles called the community together.

"It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table," the apostles said. "Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The community agreed with the apostles' proposal.

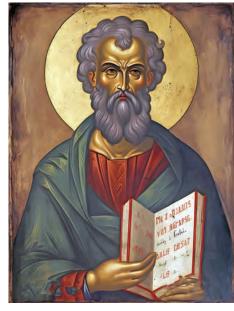
So they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, as well as Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicholas of Antioch, who was a convert to Judaism.

The men were presented to the apostles, who prayed and laid hands on them.

The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the followers in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

St. Matthias

After Jesus returned heaven, apostles set about replacing Judas Iscariot, the apostle who betrayed Jesus. St. Matthias and Joseph called Barsabbas were suggested. Each man met the condition set down by Peter in Acts 1:21-22: that he "accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which



he was taken up from us." After praying first, the apostles chose Matthias by drawing lots. Later traditions had Matthias evangelizing in Judea, Cappadocia (now Turkey) or Ethiopia before being martyred. We remember him on May 14.

The apostles did many signs and wonders among the people

By Jennifer Ficcaglia Catholic Courier

After Jesus returned to heaven, the apostles did many signs and wonders among the people.

The sick were carried into the streets and laid on cots and mats so when Peter came by, his shadow might fall on them and they would be healed. Many people from towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also brought the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

During this time, many people came to believe in Jesus.

The high priest and the Sadducees were jealous and had the apostles placed in jail.

During the night, an angel of God came to the jail, opened the doors and led the apostles out.

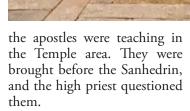
"Go and take your place in the Temple area, and tell the people everything about this life," the angel said.

The apostles went to the Temple area early in the morning and taught.

When the high priest and his companions arrived at the Temple, they convened the Sanhedrin, the full senate of the Israelites, and sent for the apostles.

But the court officers who went to the jail reported that the apostles were not there, even though the doors were locked and guards were on duty

Another report came in that



"We gave you strict orders (did we not?) to stop teaching in that name," he said.

"We must obey God rather than men," Peter replied. "The God of our ancestors raised Jesus (and) ... exalted him at his right hand as leader and savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit that God has given to those who obey him."

Peter's response angered from jail?

the Sanhedrin members, who wanted to put the apostles to death. One member, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, said to let the apostles go.

Illustration by Lin

"For if this endeavor or this activity is of human origin, it will destroy itself," he said. "But if it comes from God, you will not be able to destroy them; you may even find yourselves fighting against God."

Read more about it... Acts 5

- 1. Who was jealous of the apostles?
- 2. Who released the apostles from jail?



What did the Sanhedrin do to the apostles before releasing them?

(Hint: Acts 5:40)

Answer: Flogged them.

Puzzle

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

- 1. ___ Community members shared the money they made from selling their property and possessions. (Acts 2:45)
- 2. ___ Ananias and his wife, Mary, sold some property and gave all the money to the community. (Acts 5:1-2)
- 3. ___ Once when the Christian community prayed together, the place where they were gathered shook. (Acts 4:31)
- 4. ___ Some members of the Christian community complained that their widows were being neglected. (Acts 6:1)

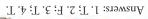
Planning for death is as natural for the Christian as planning for life.
Having a will is good stewardship and planning of your assets.
Remember to always take care of your family, and consider taking care of your parish family long after you are gone.

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



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Bible-based films for Holy Week and Eastertide

By John Mulderig OSV News

From the silent era through the mid-1960s, Bible-based films constituted a reliable staple of Hollywood's output. Directors both famous and obscure mined the Scriptures for stories they could bring to the big screen, with results that ranged from the reverential to the exploitative.

Today, many of these films are available for streaming. With Easter approaching, viewers of faith may want to dip into this store of vintage of-

ferings, especially in search of pictures suitable for the whole family.

Following, in alphabetical order, are capsule reviews of some biblically-themed productions, including their OSV News classifications. Unless otherwise noted, they have not been assigned a Motion Picture Association rating.

"Ben-Hur" (1959)

Director William Wyler's classic Hollywood epic follows the Jewish prince of the



Charlton Heston stars as Moses in a scene from the 1956 movie "The Ten Commandments." — OSV News photo/ABC

title (Charlton Heston) after he's betrayed by his boyhood Roman friend (Stephen Boyd) and subjected to much misery until finally achieving retribution for all his suffering. The narrative's conventional melodrama is transformed by the grand scale of its spectacle, especially the chariot race, and by the stirring performances of its principals who manage to overcome the story's cliches and stereotypes. The OSV News classification is A-I general patronage. The Motion

Picture Association rating is G — general audiences. All ages admitted.

"The Bible" (1966)

Six episodes from Genesis (Creation, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, the Tower of Babel and Abraham) are pictured as literally as they were written, largely leaving their interpretation to the viewer. John Huston directs, narrates and plays the part of Noah in this reverent but entertaining spectacular.

ABC Abraham takes acting honors among a cast that includes Ava Gardner, Richard Harris, Ulla Bergryd and Michael Parks. The OSV News classification is A-I — general patronage.

"Godspell" (1973)

Sparkling screen version of a musical based loosely on the Gospel according to Matthew, featuring an off-Broadway cast with Victor Garber as the Christ figure and David Haskell as both John the Baptist and Judas. What makes the movie so high-spirited is director David Greene's turning the entire city of New York into a giant stage which is used strikingly for presenting the parables in imaginative skits, many of which serve as springboards for irresistible tunes, such as "Day by Day" and "God Save the People!" The OSV News

Mustard Seed

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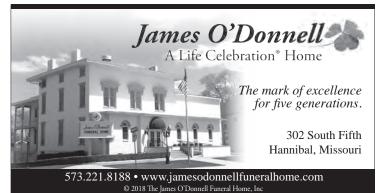
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Movie Ratings



The King of Kings (PG)



The Chosen: Last Supper - Part 1 (not rated)
The Last Supper (PG-13)
A Minecraft Movie (PG)
Snow White (PG)



Last Breath (PG-13) Drop (PG-13) The Woman in the Yard (PG-13)



Mickey 17 (R)



Death of a Unicorn (R) Novocaine (R) A Working Man (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

classification is A-I — general patronage. (G)

"The Gospel According to St. Matthew" (1966)

Straightforward Italian dramatization of the evangelist's account of the life of Jesus and his message of salvation succeeds exceptionally well in placing the viewer within the Gospel events, avoiding the artificiality of most biblical movie epics. Director Pier Paolo Pasolini is completely faithful to the text while employing the visual imagination necessary for his realistic interpretation. Subtitles. The OSV News classification is A-I — general patronage.

"The Greatest Story Ever Told" (1965)

While not the greatest movie ever made, director George Stevens' vision of the Gospel story presents a consistent, traditional view of Christ as God incarnate.

The movie, despite its epic

Hollywood scale, is well-acted, tastefully and realistically written, beautifully photographed and Max von Sydow's believable portrayal of Christ is the most essential element in its success. The OSV News classification is A-I — general patronage. (G)

"Jesus Christ Superstar" (1973)

Screen version of the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice musical adds a completely new dimension and drive to the music by virtue of a cinematography that enhances the original songs but also threatens to overwhelm them. Director Norman Jewison presents a visual recording, with optical embellishment, of a performance of the rock opera based on the last days of Christ's life on earth, ending in his cruci-

Entertaining as musical theater, it can also be seen as

See MOVIES, page 27

CHRISM MASS -

From page 5

•Monsignor Michael Flanagan of Columbia, a retired priest of the diocese, celebrating his 60th priestly anniversary this year; and

•Father Joseph Corel, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, and the bishop's liaison for prison ministry in the diocese, celebrating his 25th priestly anniversary this year.

"These jubilarians, and all the priests concelebrating this Mass today with their bishop, have different histories, personalities, gifts and talents," said Archbishop-designate McKnight.

"But what we have in common is the sacramental fraternity of the ministerial Priesthood received by a special gift of the Holy Spirit that configures us to Christ, Head and Shepherd of the Church."

Seminarians and candidates for the diaconate served in various liturgical roles at the Mass.

Lay representatives of each of the five deaneries carried banners in the opening procession and the recessional.

Mary Madelyn Mertes, assistant director of catechetical formation for the diocese, and Erin Vader Ed.D., diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools, proclaimed the readings.

The Diocesan Choir, conducted by Andrew Meagher Ph.D., director of music for Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, and accompanied by organist Annette Kehner, led the singing.



Monsignor Michael T. Flanagan, a retired priest of the diocese who is celebrating his 60th priestly anniversary this year, prays part of the Eucharistic Prayer at the Chrism Mass. — Photo by Annie Williams

Student volunteers from Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City served as ushers.

Many hands

Sr. Ruth Ann Klauser of the School Sisters of Notre Dame; Sister Guadalupe Ruiz of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word; and Sister Kathleen Wegman of the School Sisters of Notre Dame presented the bread and wine at the offertory.

In procession, four deacons presented the oils for blessing and consecration:

Deacon Mike Berendzen of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Taos, coordinator of Columbia Catholic Hospital Ministry and diocesan director of deacon life and ministry, presented the Oil of the Sick.

Deacon John Beaudoin of St. Martin Parish in St. Martins, presented the Oil of Catechumens.

Deacon Brad Jones of St. Martin Parish in St. Martins, who ministers in nursing homes, presented the oil for the Sacred Chrism.

Deacon Kenneth Wild-haber Jr. of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, who ministers in nursing homes, presented the balsam that would be mixed with the Sacred Chrism, giving it its sweet aroma.

Permanent deacons carried the bottles of blessed oil and consecrated Chrism downstairs to Cana Hall, where they were sorted in order to be sent to parishes in appropriate quantities with each pastor.

During the Eucharistic Prayer, the priests extended their hands and pronounced the words of consecration together, their voices rumbling through the sanctuary.

The closing hymn was "Pilgrims of Hope," the official hymn of the Jubilee Year of Hope.

After Mass, the priests and people gathered for a festive reception in Cana Hall.

Daily Readings

Sunday, Apr 20

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Ps. 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Col. 3:1-4 or 5:6b-8 Jn. 20:1-9 or Lk. 24:1-12 or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Lk. 24:13-35

Monday, Apr 21

Acts 2:14, 22-33 Ps. 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11 Mt. 28:8-15

Tuesday, Apr 22

Acts 2:36-41 Ps. 33:4-5, 18-20, 22 Jn. 20:11-18

Wednesday, Apr 23

Acts 3:1-10 Ps. 105:1-4, 6-9 Lk. 24:13-35

Thursday, Apr 24

Acts 3:11-26 Ps. 8:2ab, 5-9 Lk. 24:35-48

Friday, Apr 25

Acts 4:1-12 Ps. 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a Jn. 21:1-14

Saturday, Apr 26

Acts 4:13-21 Ps. 118:1, 14-21 Mk. 16:9-15

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for April:

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

Expert Care Close to Home

Sunday, Apr 27

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY) Acts 5:12-16 Ps. 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 Rv. 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 Jn. 20:19-31

Monday, Apr 28

St. Peter Chanel, priest and martyr; St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, priest Acts 4:23-31 Ps. 2:1-9 Jn. 3:1-8

Tuesday, Apr 29

St. Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor of the Church Acts 4:32-37 Ps. 93:1abcd-2, 5 Jn. 3:7b-15

Wednesday, Apr 30

St. Pius V, pope Acts 5:17-26 Ps. 34:2-9 Jn. 3:16-21

Thursday, May 1

St. Joseph the Worker Acts 5:27-33 Ps. 34:2, 9, 17-20 Jn. 3:31-36

Friday, May 2

St. Athanasius, bishop and doctor of the Church
Acts 5:34-42
Ps. 27:1, 4, 13-14
Jn. 6:1-15

Saturday, May 3

Ss. Philip and James, apostles 1 Cor. 15:1-8 Ps. 19:2-5 Jn. 14:6-14

MOVIES

From page 26

a sincere if naive effort to tell the story of Jesus in contemporary musical and ethical terms. Some scenes require a mature perspective. The OSV News classification is A-III — adults. (G)

"King of Kings" (1961)

Stolid screen spectacular presents the life of Christ within the historical context of Jewish resistance to Roman rule. Uncomfortably cast in the title role is Jeffrey Hunter, though more effective

are Siobhan McKenna as his mother, Robert Ryan as John the Baptist, Hurd Hatfield as Pilate, Rip Torn as Judas and Harry Guardino as Barabbas. Directed by Nicholas Ray, the script is preoccupied with the period's political unrest but treats the Gospel account reverentially, if with more dramatic license than some might find acceptable. The OSV News classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

"The Robe" (1953)

Reverent but plodding Gospel-era story from the Lloyd C. Douglas novel about a Roman tribune (Richard Burton) whose gambling wins Christ's robe at the crucifixion, but who then fears the garment's power to bewitch him until later becoming a Christian martyr in Rome. Directed by Henry Koster, the fictional tale is sincere but dramatically less than convincing in story line and performances ranging from wooden to scenery-chew-

ing, with the resulting inspiration more in the eye of the beholder than on the screen. Stylized violence and veiled sexual references. The OSV News classification is A-I — general patronage.

"The Ten Commandments" (1956)

Less an inspirational story based on biblical sources than a dramatic vehicle with a sense of history, director Cecil

B. DeMille's epic production offers some spectacular re-creations, excellent technical effects and good acting from a fine cast, including Charlton Heston as Moses, Yul Brynner, Anne Baxter, Edward G. Robinson and many other stars of the era. The OSV News classification is A-I — general patronage. (G)

SSMHealth

St. Mary's Hospital

John Mulderig is media reviewer for OSV News.

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