

## Take up your cross

A newly-initiated parishioner and fellow Christians carried a heavy cross at dawn each morning of Holy Week to remember Christ's sacrifice in unity.

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Future deacons. . . .Page 12

# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

May 2, 2025 • Vol. 68 No. 22

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## Pope Francis at rest after eventful papacy



A framed image of Pope Francis, draped in black, is displayed in the sanctuary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City, as Archbishop Shawn McKnight and more than 40 priests of the diocese offer a Memorial Mass for the pope, who died on April 21 at age 88.

— Photo by Jay Nies

## Conclave is opportunity to 'open ourselves to the Spirit,' Cardinal Pierre says

By Ines San Martin  
OSV News

Cardinal Christophe Pierre, papal nuncio to the United States, reflected on Pope Francis' legacy and the evangelizing mission of the Church in an interview that took place during the early meetings of the general congregations leading up to the conclave that will elect the next pope.

"It is very important for all of us to understand Pope Francis' background, and the fact that he is a priest, he is a Jesuit," Cardinal Pierre said, still referring to the late pontiff in the present tense. "He was born and educated in Argentina, even if — as many in Latin America — he has European roots. He grew up in South America, where the Second Vatican Council was a very big event. He became a priest with Vatican II,

Rome

as did I."

Cardinal Pierre emphasized that the formation he and Pope Francis received, having entered seminary in the early 1960s, was deeply rooted in the transformative spirit of the Second Vatican Council.

"The Church is not monolithic; it is the assembly of those who believe in Christ, and from time to time, they meet to examine how to respond to the challenges of our time," he said. "Evangelization cannot be done if not in context."

He described the evolution of evangelization in Latin America over the past 55 years, noting key moments like the bishops' meetings in Medellín, Colombia, 1968, Puebla de los Angeles, Mexico, 1979, Santo Domingo, Dominican Re-

See CONCLAVE, page 19

Masses offered for repose of his soul

Conclave to elect a successor  
to convene May 7

See related story, Page 8

By Jay Nies

Archbishop Shawn McKnight thought back to how Pope Francis, when first introduced to the world, asked people in St. Peter's Square to give him a blessing before he imparted his own upon them.

Some found that gesture somewhat unusual or surprising.

"But I believe that style of leadership is what will save people's belief in the Sacrament of Holy Orders," said Archbishop McKnight.

Specifically, Pope Francis set about upholding the unchanging and often difficult teachings of Jesus, while also remaining faithful to Jesus's pastoral model.

"Sitting down to dine with sinners and the tax-collectors and spending time with them, tending to their needs, healing them — sometimes miraculously — and having that one-on-one time with people," said Archbishop McKnight.

Francis's papal motto could easily have been "Make yourself at home."

"That's how I interpreted what the pope was doing when he was meeting privately with all sorts of people who would not normally be considered welcome in the Catholic Church," said Archbishop McKnight.

"He was doing what Jesus did," the archbishop stated. "There's a certain orthodoxy to that pastoral style, and we need to start paying more attention to not only being faithful to the teachings of Jesus, but also his example."

See POPE, page 16

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## Pray for deceased priests

May 6 — **Msgr. Charles H. Patterson**, St. Joseph Home, Jefferson City (2010)

May 11 — **Msgr. Francis E. Hagedorn**, St. Joseph, Pilot Grove (1981)

May 15 — **Fr. Norman J. Ahrens**, St. Joseph, Martinsburg (1990)

May 17 — **Fr. James J. Burns**, Immaculate Conception, Shackelford (1959)

## Memorial Day service in Clear Creek

**DATE: May 26**  
**TIME: 9:30 am**

The St. John's Cemetery Association in Clear Creek and the community of Pilot Grove will holds its 14th Annual Memorial Day Service on Mon-

day, May 26.

It will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the cemetery, located behind St. John the Baptist Chapel, 118740 Twenter Way Drive.

In case of rain, the service will be held in church.

Donuts and coffee will be

## Apb. McKnight Mass of Thanksgiving

**DATE: May 20**  
**TIME: 5:30 pm**

Knight prepares for his new assignment to lead the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, he invites all the faithful of the Jefferson City diocese

As Arch-  
b i s h o p  
Shawn Mc-

to a Mass of Thanksgiving on Tuesday, May 20, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

Mass will be at 5:30 p.m., followed by a light meal and reception.

All are invited, but seating is limited. Visit [diojeffcity.org/Thanksgiving-Mass](http://diojeffcity.org/Thanksgiving-Mass) to register.

## Starkenburg Spring Pilgrimage

**DATE: May 18**  
**TIME: 10 am-3 pm**

This year's Spring Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg will be held on Sunday, May 18.

The day will begin with Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 10 a.m., followed by a Rosary procession through the grounds and Stations of the Cross.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at

12:30 p.m., followed by Benediction at 1 p.m.

Mass will be celebrated at 2 p.m. at the outdoor altar, weather permitting.

Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in Valentine Hall. The cost for the lunch is \$15 for adults.

Religious articles will be available for purchase and will be blessed in the afternoon.

The Shrine is handicap-accessible.

The Shrine of Our Lady of

Sorrows is a designated pilgrimage site for the Jubilee Year of Hope.

It is located 197 Highway P in Starkenburg, 2 miles north of Highway 94.

The Shrine and St. Martin's Church Museum are open daily for visitors. For more information about the history and other events at the Shrine, visit [risensavior.diojeffcity.org](http://risensavior.diojeffcity.org).

The parish office can be reached at 573-236-4390.

## Outdoor Masses in Laurie at National Shrine

The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, in Laurie will move to its Summer Mass schedule over Memorial Day weekend.

Beginning May 24, Mass will be offered at the outdoor altar, surrounded by plentiful, shaded seating, at 8 p.m. each Saturday and at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday.

The National Shrine is located on the grounds of St. Patrick Church, 176 Marian Drive, off of Highway 5 in Laurie.

Outdoor Masses will be offered each weekend through Aug. 31.

The Mothers Shrine is designated as a pilgrim site for the Jubilee Year of Hope.

[mothersshrine.com](http://mothersshrine.com)

## Fifth Grade Teacher Needed - Westphalia



St. Joseph School in Westphalia, Mo., is looking for a fifth grade teacher for the coming school year. Teachers must have the ability to create a positive classroom environment as well as plan and implement engaging lessons. Good communication skills and the ability to communicate with colleagues and parents are expected. Applicants should hold the appropriate Missouri

teaching certification or its equivalent. If you are looking to join a positive educational team and make a difference in the lives of students, search no further and apply. All interested persons should complete the application at [tinyurl.com/diojeffcity](http://tinyurl.com/diojeffcity) and contact the Principal, Jeremy Horvath, [jhorvath@stjosephwestphalia.org](mailto:jhorvath@stjosephwestphalia.org).

## Matrimonial Tribunal Judge Needed



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 [hrrdir@diojeffcity.org](mailto:hrrdir@diojeffcity.org). Applications are also accepted on [Indeed.com](http://Indeed.com).

served before the service.

The hometown hero speaker will be Luke Fournier. He and his team were involved in Black Sunday (April 4, 2004), when their U.S. Military unit was ambushed in Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq.

A movie and book have been released about their "Long Road Home."

Mr. Fournier lives in Otterville with his wife and four children.

The association will also honor those that have been buried in the cemetery since last year's gathering. Among them are Pilot Grove Fire Department Deputy Chief Donald Kammerich, who served the community as a firefighter for 35 years.

#### The Catholic Missourian

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

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

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## Paraprofessional position opening



Mary Immaculate School in Kirksville, Mo., a 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](http://tinyurl.com/diojeffcity) and contact the Principal, James Hendler, at [james.hendler@miparishschool.org](mailto:james.hendler@miparishschool.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](http://tinyurl.com/diojeffcity) for the full job description and to complete an application.





# Archbishop McKnight: Easter is fullest expression of hope's light in the darkness

By Jay Nies

The light of hope kept getting brighter as it spread through the darkened Cathedral of St. Joseph.

Much like how life once returned to a tomb near a hill called Golgotha, altering all of human history.

"Tonight, we are brought from slavery-to-sin in the shadow of death, to walking in the light of hope and mercy with our brothers and sisters," proclaimed Archbishop Shawn McKnight at this year's Easter Vigil in the Cathedral.

The Mass, offered in each parish after dusk on Holy Saturday, is the Church's first celebration of Easter.

"Tonight is the holiest of all nights, the center of the Paschal Triduum — three holy days —and in fact, the apex of the entire liturgical year," Archbishop McKnight proclaimed from the ambo.

"The entire liturgical year centers on this celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," he stated.

"On this night, God the Father raised his only Son from the dead," the archbishop preached. "On this night, the light of hope shines brightly in

a world shadowed by sin and death."

The Easter Vigil is a liturgy overflowing with prayers and symbolism from the earliest days of Christianity, including the lighting of the Easter fire outside the Cathedral; the proclamation of readings and psalms encapsulating all of salvation history; the first singing of the Alleluia since the Sunday before Ash Wednesday; and the presider administering the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion on the parish's newest members.

The rest of the congregation joined in renewing their Baptismal promises.

Archbishop McKnight ignited and blessed the Easter fire and used it to light the Easter candle, the fire from which was passed to candles held by everyone in the congregation, dispelling the darkness in the vast Cathedral.

"Tonight is when all of this comes to fruition in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!" Archbishop McKnight proclaimed.



**LEFT:** Archbishop Shawn McKnight blesses the fire outside the Cathedral of St. Joseph at the start of the Easter Vigil after dusk on Holy Saturday, April 19. **RIGHT:** Archbishop McKnight baptizes a new member of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish during the Easter Vigil.



— Photos by Dan Bernskoetter

"The entire liturgical year centers on this celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," he stated. "All that has come before, beginning with Advent and Christmas, and all the flows afterward, with the Easter Season, the celebration of Pentecost, and the rest of Ordinary Time."

This was the last Easter Vigil Archbishop McKnight would celebrate as head of the Jefferson City diocese. He will be installed as archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas on May 27.

This year's celebration coincides with the Church-wide Jubilee Year of Hope.

In his Easter Vigil homily, Archbishop McKnight focused on a phrase from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans: "We were indeed buried with him through Baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we, too, might have in newness of life." (6:4)

The archbishop said Paul's turn of phrase here refers not only to resurrection from physical death, but to new life, "the resurrected life that we share with Christ and his Holy Spirit in the here and now."

"We are all baptized so that we may live in the light of hope in a world that is sometimes cold and dark, with too

much death, violence, greed and hatred," the archbishop noted.

He pointed to Paul's own radical conversion from being a zealous persecutor of Christians to becoming one of God's most effective preachers

ry spiritual wounds in need of healing, self-inflicted wounds that come from our sins of commission and omission," he stated.

Although the fullness of resurrected life will only come in the general resurrection of

the dead on the last day, "even now the light of God's hope is given to us through the preaching of Christ's Gospel and in the celebration of the Sacraments."

"Our lives are different because of the mercy we have experienced," the archbishop proclaimed.

"And living the resurrected life means living in Christ's peace with God and one another.

"This Easter, I pray that you and your families may share in this Easter newness of life!" he said.

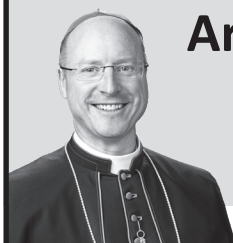


and eventually giving his own life for the faith.

"Our reception of the sacraments is our own moment of transformation," the archbishop noted.

"All of us here tonight car-

## Archbishop-designate McKnight's Calendar



### MAY

- May 2** Helias Catholic High School walk through, 11 am, Jefferson City; Annual St. John Society Dinner, Bishop's residence, 5:30 pm, Jefferson City
- May 3** Diocesan Youth Council Meeting, noon, Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish Office, Jefferson City; 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 Year of Hope Pilgrimage to Rome
- May 17** Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, 10 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish Office, Jefferson City
- May 18** Rededication Mass, 9:30 am, Holy Rosary Church, Monroe City; Confirmation Mass, 2 pm, Immaculate Conception Church, Brookfield
- May 20** Chancery Staff Appreciation Luncheon, noon, Cana Hall, Jefferson City; Mass of Thanksgiving, 5:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- May 27** Mass of Installation as the 5th Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas, 11 am, Church of the Nativity, Leawood, Kansas

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

For all vocations, and especially for those who will be ordained this year. That they may be strengthened by the grace of the Holy Spirit and remain faithful to the call of Christ. We pray to the Lord.

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

Por todas las vocaciones, especialmente por quienes serán ordenados este año. Que sean fortalecidos por la gracia del Espíritu Santo y permanezcan fieles al llamado de Cristo. Roguemos al Señor.

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



# Communities band together to clean up after tornado

By Jay Nies

Teams of neighbors with five-gallon buckets combed the fields in the morning sun, binding up wounds in the landscape and sowing gratitude.

"Cleanin' and a-haulin', that's what we're doing!" one participant proclaimed.

People brought trucks and heavy equipment to gather and pile up larger pieces of homes and outbuildings that had been shattered by an EF-2 tornado the morning of April 2.

There were no reported deaths or injuries from the tornado, which brought 125-mph wind gusts, but the area on Highway 135 between Pilot Grove and Martinsville had heavy damage.

"We counted close to 200 people from the nearby communities who showed up in support, to walk these fields and work the tree lines and get all this trash picked up," said Joni Schupp, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Pilot Grove.

"Which is phenomenal," she stated, "because you had acres and acres and acres of nothing but debris from the storm."

The volunteers then spread out into the woods and onto neighboring properties to gather up more of what had been scattered.

Others prepared lunch at the Pilot Grove High School kitchen and brought it to one of the work sites.

"God is making himself known in all the folks coming here and sharing the love and grace that they know they've received from God," said Fa-



**LEFT:** Barb Schupp, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Pilot Grove, and a friend gaze upon the massive pile of debris that more than 200 volunteers helped pick up the morning of April 12. Mrs. Schupp's home and outbuildings on her family farm were destroyed in a tornado on April 2. **RIGHT:** Volunteers retrieve a large piece of metal from a field on the Schupp farm during an April 12 community work day. More than 200 people wielding five-gallon buckets or heavy machinery helped the Schupps and their neighbors clean up after the April 2 tornado. — Photo by Jay Nies



ther Mark Smith, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Pilot Grove and Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Boonville.

Members of Barb Schupp's family sent out word that they'd be bringing equipment onto her ravaged property and could use help wherever needed.

Soon, a Saturday morning work day was planned for the affected fields and pastures, which were covered with debris during the prime of planting season.

The Cooper County health nurse administered tetanus shots at the Pilot Grove Fire Station.

People from neighboring Ss. Peter & Paul Parish had already scheduled that morning to be a work day on their parish grounds.

Fr. Smith and Joe Herzog, head of the parish's administration commission, deferred the scheduled projects and asked fellow parishioners to join them instead in Pilot Grove.

Many took them up on the

offer.

## None were lost

At the work site, a large contingent formed a united front with members of other nearby congregations.

Fr. Smith led the people in prayer, thanking him for the gift of great communities, interceding for all who had experienced losses in the storms, and pleading for the safety of all the volunteers.

Then the four-wheelers, pickup trucks, trailers, earth-moving equipment, dump trucks, skid loaders and scores of individuals hit the fields.

There's no place like home.

"Well ... there WAS," Barb Schupp stated, looking at the heavily damaged house that her late husband had grown up in and where they had spent their married years together.

"But it's okay," she said. "I'm so thankful for the community that I live in, that everyone was spared. These are awesome people, my friends and family. Things can be bought. People are irreplaceable."

"You're a blessing!" someone called out to her.

"The whole community is a blessing!" she replied.

Joni Schupp said the community had been giving thanks every night that no one was hurt in the storms.

"We feel that God was looking over everybody, protecting them, getting them to safety," she said.

"I think the response to that is what we're seeing here today: that everyone's coming togeth-

er, giving up their time and talent to help.

"All these heavy-equipment operators: they're here helping," she stated. "There's been very little 'ask' of anyone. It's all been 'what can we do to help?'"

Entire families pitched in to help.

**More photos from this event will be posted with the online version of this story at [cathmo.com](http://cathmo.com).**

"I got a picture of a dad and his two little kids up here. He's showing them how it's done," said Theresa Spaedy, who alternated between work gloves and her camera throughout the day.

She's grateful for the community she lives in and that everyone was spared.

"Things can be bought, but lives cannot," she said.

As it turns out, neither can camaraderie.

"It was so uplifting to see all these people, to see all this equipment, to see all these cars parked here this morning," said Mrs. Spaedy.

## Nick of time

Jenny Lorenz-Rudkin, who plays the organ at Mass every Sunday at St. Joseph Church, was in her garage when the tornado warning came across her cellphone.

She hurried into the reinforced safe room in her house and started pleading with God to spare her.

"I no more than got the door shut and could hear things rat-

ting, and then everything landed on top of that room I was in."

Their home was ravaged, but she came out unscathed.

"I've been living in gratitude ever since," said Mrs. Lorenz-Rudkin.

So has her husband, who was in New York on business and rushed home after he heard about the tornado.

"Seconds! Just seconds," he said, his voice trailing off. "I'm so thankful that she's still here. I can't make it without her!"

They both marveled at what people had accomplished on their property that morning, stacking debris into a massive pile.

"It's been amazing ... overwhelming," said Mrs. Lorenz-Rudkin. "People just showed up in full-force."

## Bits and pieces

Mona Brownfield and her sister-in-law, Rhonda Kusgen were intrigued to find jigsaw puzzle pieces scattered with the debris on the Schupp property.

"Little pieces of people's lives," said Mrs. Kusgen. "We were thinking, 'What would they find of ours if this happened to us?'"

They also rescued a blow-mold snowman and a donkey from someone's Christmas Nativity scene.

"For me, it was the small stuff, so much small stuff," said Mrs. Brownfield. "And the randomness of it. How did it hit so hard here but then skipped

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See CLEAN-UP, page 22



# New Catholic's Holy Week ritual was a sign of sacrifice, unity

By Jay Nies

Dr. Randy Miller DVM has stood at many crossroads along the road to closer communion with Christ.

None was ever quite like this.

Each morning of Holy Week this year, he and an interchurch group of early-risers carried a 90-pound wooden cross across the Long Branch Reservoir Dam in Macon County, taking turns bearing the load for the Lord.

"My goal was to help create some unity," said Dr. Miller, a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Macon, who with his two children were received into full communion with the Catholic Church this year at the Easter Vigil.

"I am taking a big step into Catholicism," he said. "But I don't want to neglect the people I have admired and love in my Protestant upbringing."

Dr. Miller, who operates several veterinary clinics from Columbia to Kirksville, was baptized into the Catholic Church as a baby, but his parents did not bring him up Catholic.

He's been a member of several Christian faith communities, meeting great friends and drawing closer to God.

But he never found the healing he was looking for.

"I thought faith was about a personal relationship between God and me, so church didn't seem all that necessary," he recalled.

His wife, Martina, was raised Catholic but had stopped participating.

Dr. Miller is grateful that they decided to enroll their children in Immaculate Con-

ception School in Macon.

"That got me going to Mass," he said. "And to be honest with you, it just clicked with me."

He was taken with the reverence of the Catholic Liturgy.

"It's what I think worship is supposed to look like," he said.

Also appealing to him was the principled, but pastoral way the Church engages with the rest of the world — maintaining dialogue, accompanying, offering mercy but upholding objective truth.

He came to appreciate the seriousness and sacredness of the Sacraments.

"I'm a believer in the Eucharist!" he said. "I really don't understand how the world went away from what communion

**More photos from this story will be posted in *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition, [cathmo.com](http://cathmo.com). Select "Photo Galleries" from the "Multimedia" tab on the menu bar.**

was obviously meant to be."

As soon as Mrs. Miller saw how her husband was being drawn to God through the Church, "she stepped right back into the faith like she'd never even left."

Dr. Miller had spent years searching for timeless truth and the spark that would set his soul aflame.

"And I found it!" he said. "And it was the place that I had spent a lot of my young adult-



**Fifty-seven people from in and around Macon join Dr. Randy Miller DVM in the carrying of a 90-pound cross over the Long Branch Reservoir Dam in Macon County at sunrise on Good Friday.**

hood frowning upon. Isn't that how it works?"

The Millers and their children were received into full communion with the Church this year at Easter.

## "The wrong enemy"

Dr. Miller knows a lot of people and isn't afraid to talk about his faith with anyone who wants to hear about it.

"And throughout this Catholic journey I've been on, I've had to explain a lot about the faith and even argue with some Christian friends," he said.

Many were raised with the same anti-Catholic biases he had once embraced.

"I'm afraid a lot of Christians in this country have picked the wrong enemy," Dr. Miller

stated. "It's the devil, not the Church down the road."

All of this was weighing heavily on him this Palm Sunday during the reading of the Lord's Passion at Mass.

He recalled having taken part in a stirring Stations of the Cross service during a Cursillo weekend.

"I had never really taken Christ's Passion and all that he

went through very seriously before that," he recalled.

Dr. Miller noted that the Lord did many wonderful and miraculous things when he was here in the flesh, "but a lot of what he did, we can't really relate to because we're not perfect like he is."

One experience all humans can relate to is pain.

"So, it's important for us to reflect on the suffering he went through for us, especially during Holy Week," he said.

## Weight of the wood

Dr. Miller talked to a friend who has a woodworking shop. They agreed to fashion a sufficiently sacrificial cross.

"We're gonna' make a big cross that's heavy!" said Dr. Miller.

He went to his father-in-law's farm and picked up some 6-by-6 posts and looked up

See CROSS, page 19

*"We still do weddings & picnics!"*

Laron & Donna Hilke  
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# St. Jude Thaddeus Parish's new crucifix blessed at Easter

**Closes up a 115-year circle in the history of the parish**

By Jay Nies

The newest and likely most memorable addition to St. Jude Thaddeus Church in Mokane has ties to artwork that's been there for over a century.

Father Alexander Gabriel blessed the large new, hand-carved crucifix in the church's sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

"This project was certainly a labor of love for our parish and both our donors and our parishioners were able to be hands-on and deeply involved every step of the way," a St. Jude Thaddeus parishioner stated.

Donated by parishioners following the extensive renovation of the church in 2023, the custom-designed crucifix was created in Italy by employees of the same Chicago company that made the statues of St. Jude Thaddeus and the Blessed Virgin in 1910.

The Church's rules for furnishings in church buildings strongly recommend placing a crucifix prominently above the

altar to remind the people that the sacrifice being made present at the altar and being offered back to the Father is the same sacrifice Christ offered through his passion and death.

There had been discussion about acquiring a new crucifix at the time of the church's renovation, since there is now so much more space on the sanctuary wall.

"However, due to the cost and the lead time required for the order, this was put on the back burner and became one of those 'maybe someday' kind of projects," a parishioner stated.

Following the rededication of the church in October 2023, several parishioners offered to donate the money for a larger crucifix.

With the pastor's blessing, the donors began working with a small group of parishioners to find reference images, make decisions about how large the new crucifix should be, and solicit bids for the final cost.

The parish got in touch with Daprato Rigali Studios in Chicago.

The church renovation



**The newly installed crucifix in St. Jude Thaddeus Church in Mokane completes the extensive renovation begun in November 2022.**

— Photos from the St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church-Mokane Facebook page

committee had worked with Daprato Rigali in 2022 to determine the age and condition of the statues the company had made for the church in 1910.

"They were just as thrilled as we were to connect and discuss their extraordinary craftsmanship and our careful preservation of these beautiful statues," a parishioner stated.

With input from the donors and guidance from Daprato Rigali, the parish placed an official order in April 2024 for a custom-designed and -created crucifix.

The cross, along with the corpus and the INRI inscription, were handcrafted in Italy by Daprato Rigali craftsmen.

The cross is a simple boxed wood cross stained to match all of the new furnishings in the church.

The corpus and inscription are hand-carved from linden wood and are painted to match.

The piece in its entirety was crafted entirely by hand from a design created by the donors and parishioners in conjunc-

tion with the artists at Daprato Rigali Studios.

"This piece is truly one of a kind and there is not another like it in the world," a parishioner stated.

The crucifix was shipped from Italy and received at St. Jude Thaddeus in February 2025.

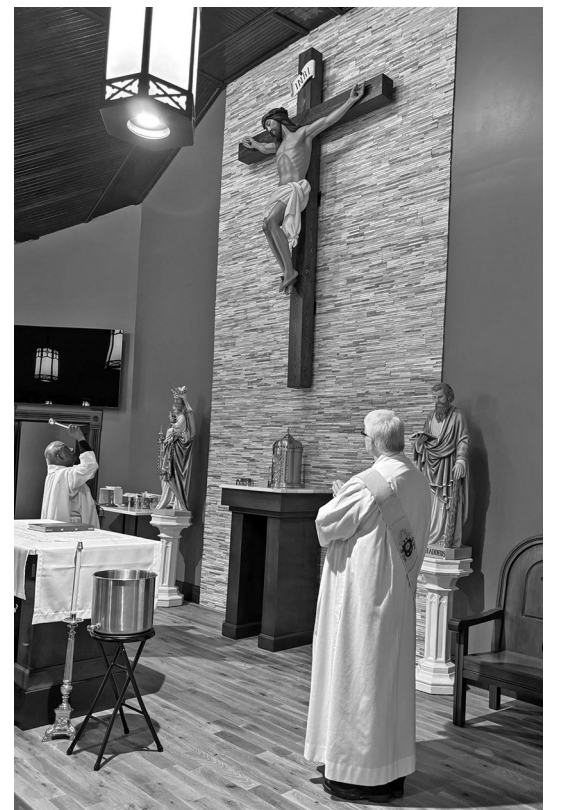
A St. Jude Thaddeus parishioner and his employer, Weaver Steel Construction in St. Peters, installed the crucifix.

The daylong installation work took place on April 14, the Monday of Holy Week — in time to surprise Easter Sunday communicants.

"It's safe to say that our donors are very, very pleased and the reactions from parishioners and visitors alike did not disappoint," the parishioner stated.

Father Alexander Gabriel, pastor of the Mokane parish and of St. Peter Parish in Fulton, blessed the crucifix during the Easter Sunday Mass.

"We are deeply grateful for their kindness and their support in helping us put the finishing, and most important,



**Father Alexander Gabriel blesses the new crucifix during Mass on Easter Sunday.**

touch on our newly renovated church," a parishioner stated.

Thanks also went out to Daprato Rigali Studios Inc. for their partnership and their guidance over the parish's 115-year existence.

## True faith is found in compassion, not just creed, cardinal says

By Justin McLellan  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

True discipleship is not measured by the creeds Christians recite or the theology they know, but by how deeply they love, a cardinal said at a memorial Mass for Pope Francis.

"It is not the profession of faith, the theological knowledge or the sacramental practice that guarantees participation in the joy of God," said Cardinal Mauro Gambetti, archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica, "but the qualitative and quantitative involvement in the human experience of the least of our brothers and sisters."

Celebrating Mass in the basilica April 29 for the fourth day of the "novendiali" — nine days of mourning for Pope Francis marked with Masses — the cardinal said that Christ's final judgment will not be based on knowledge or status, but on acts of mercy toward the hungry, the stranger, the sick and the imprisoned.

His message came as cardinals gathered in Rome said they are beginning to reflect on what qualities the next pope must embody. The cardinals are meeting daily in general congregation meetings ahead of the conclave, which is scheduled to begin May 7.

Reflecting on the Gospel's imagery of sheep and goats, Cardinal Gambetti explained that those who are welcomed into God's kingdom

are not those who sought independence and self-interest, but those who lived with gentleness, solidarity and compassion.

"At the personal and institutional level, we must ask ourselves: which of these two styles do we embody?" he said.

Pope Francis' humanity, tenderness and commitment to peace touched believers and nonbelievers alike, the cardinal said. Quoting Edith Bruck, a Holocaust survivor, poet and friend of Pope Francis, Cardinal Gambetti said the late pope was "a man who loved, who wept, who invoked peace, who embraced and spread warmth wherever he went."

True evangelization, the cardinal said, does not come through grand proclamations but through humble acts of solidarity that reveal God's love in tangible ways.

"Who touches humanity touches God; who honors humanity honors God; who scorns humanity scorns God," he said.

Recalling Pope Francis' conviction that "all, all, are called to live in the church," Cardinal Gambetti reflected on the episode from the Acts of the Apostles in which St. Peter meets Cornelius.

In that account, St. Peter enters the gentile's home despite Jewish custom forbidding him to do so, and, after preaching about Jesus, the Holy Spirit descends upon them both, and the apostle baptizes Cornelius.



# Jubilee pilgrims with Chicago bishop visit places of Fr. Tolton's Baptism, burial

By Jay Nies

Behind bishop, priests, candles and crucifix, the people processed to a shady corner of St. Peter Cemetery in Brush Creek.

Bishop Joseph N. Perry splashed holy water onto the new memorial to the people buried in formerly unmarked graves in the cemetery's slave section.

"O God, by whose mercy the faithful departed find rest, bless this monument with which we mark the unmarked graves of people who were enslaved," he prayed. "May they have everlasting life and rejoice in you with your saints forever."

Some at rest beneath that acre are likely relatives of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, a candidate for being declared a saint, who was baptized near where the current St. Peter Chapel in Brush Creek stands.

Bishop Perry, retired auxiliary bishop of Chicago and co-postulator of Fr. Tolton's sainthood cause, led a Holy Week/Jubilee Year of Hope pilgrimage on Monday, April 14, from rural Shelby County to Brush Creek and to Quincy, Illinois.

These are locales associated with the life, ministry and death of the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in this country.

"He's actually yours," Bishop Perry told the pilgrims. "He is your neighbor. He lived here. He served here. And we look forward to the day when you can claim him as your patron saint."

## A priest forever

About 150 people, including students from Fr. McCartan Memorial School in Marcelline, took part in all or portions of the pilgrimage.

It began at Camp Tolton Lodge and Retreat Center near Shelby, where Bishop Per-

ry addressed the pilgrims and showed them an intensive documentary film about Fr. Tolton.

The bishop spoke about how through 2,000 years of Catholic history, certain men and women have received the Gospel of the Lord and lived it with heroic seriousness.

"That's why they are named saints," Bishop Perry stated.



"These are the special people who modeled for us what the Christian life is all about."

He's convinced that northeastern Missouri was home to one such person "who lived a heroic life in some interesting and difficult times."

Fr. Tolton (1854-97), born into a family of enslaved people in rural Monroe County, was baptized Catholic in the old log church near where the stone St. Peter Chapel in Brush Creek now stands.

His father joined the Union Army at the beginning of the Civil War, and the rest of the family made a daring escape across the Mississippi River into Illinois, a free state, soon

thereafter.

They did so to avoid being sold off and separated from one another.

The children's mother, Martha Jane Tolton, continued to form them in the faith after her husband died in the war.

The teachers at St. Peter School in Quincy, Illinois, helped young "Gus" catch up on his studies in religion and secular subjects.

Over time, he recognized and relentlessly pursued his priestly calling, despite that no Catholic seminary in this country at that time would enroll a Black man.

With help from priests, religious sisters and brothers and other friends in Quincy, he was eventually accepted into the Pontifical Urbanum Seminary of the Vatican department of The Propagation of the Faith.

The Urbanum's mission is to help seminarians from all over the world prepare to serve in missionary outposts throughout the globe.

Fr. Tolton studied there for six years and was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome on Holy Saturday, 1886.

The cardinal prefect of the Propagation of the Faith sent the new priest back to Quincy to serve as a missionary in the place where he had grown up

and ministered as a lay catechist.

"He worked at the Mission of St. Joseph in Quincy for a while, until things turned difficult for him," said Bishop Perry. "He was rescued by an archbishop in Chicago, and that's where he lived the rest of his days."

Fr. Tolton was leading a growing parish of Black Catholics on Chicago's Southside when he died of heatstroke in July of 1897, at age 43.

Thousands attended his Funeral Masses in Chicago and back in Quincy, where he had stated he wanted to be buried.

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

Fr. Tolton's postulators spent more than five years preparing an exhaustive historical dossier about his life and ministry.

After Vatican officials meticulously reviewed the document, Pope Francis concluded that Fr. Tolton had exhibited heroic virtue throughout his life, and bestowed on him the title Venerable.

People continue to pray for favors and miracles that can be attributed to God through Fr. Tolton's intercession.

Such a miracle, upon being thoroughly investigated and verified, would allow Fr. Tolton to be declared Blessed.

Another would be needed for him to be declared a saint.

## Up-close and personal

Bishop Perry described how Fr. Tolton lived, ministered and

endured tremendous hardships during and after the Civil War — times of great division in this country.

"A subtext to that conflict was the whole question of whether White and Black people could live together or be together," said Bishop Perry, who himself is a Black descendant of enslaved people.

"Somehow, we did not solve that question very well," he stated. "And in the midst of that strange situation in our country emerged an individual, a young man who was born here in Brush Creek."

People of all races now look up to "Fr. Gus" for help and inspiration.

"I think most people who are attached to his story are inspired by seeing him not only as the first link in a long chain of the African-American Catholic experience, but a model of Christian life, a model of a Christian who lived some of the darker experiences of life and came out with his faith and his hope and his love intact," Bishop Perry stated.

Joining the visiting bishop at the altar for Mass in Brush Creek were Father Greg Oligschlaeger, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City and St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek; Father William Peckman, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Macon and St. Mary Parish in Shelby; and Monsignor Marion Makarewicz.

See PILGRIMAGE, page 20



**LEFT:** Participants in a Holy Week/Jubilee Year of Hope pilgrimage with retired Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry of Chicago watch a recently completed documentary film about Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, in the community room of Father Tolton Lodge and Retreat Center near Shelby April 14. **RIGHT:** Bishop Perry, co-postulator of Venerable Fr. Tolton's sainthood cause, elevates the Most Blessed Sacrament in St. Peter Chapel in Brush Creek, which stands near the place where Fr. Tolton was baptized. **BELOW:** Bishop Perry blesses the new permanent memorial near the previously unmarked graves in the slave section of St. Peter Cemetery in Brush Creek.

— Photos by Jay Nies



# Bp. Emeritus Gaydos: Pope Francis did what God sent him to do

By Jay Nies

When the former Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio rose to the papacy, Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos immediately saw the significance of the name the new pope had chosen.

He wouldn't be following, as some suggested, in the footsteps of fellow Jesuit St. Francis Xavier.

Rather, he'd be taking up the command Jesus himself had given to St. Francis of Assisi: "Rebuild my Church."

Pope Francis, like his namesake, knew that "his real mission was to work on repairing the many imperfections of the Church of his day, both in its leadership and in its people," Bishop Gaydos proclaimed in a statement on March 13, 2013, the afternoon Pope Francis was chosen.

"I believe the Holy Spirit has given us in Pope Francis a good and true shepherd for the New Evangelization," Bishop Gaydos surmised that day.

Now living in retirement in St. Louis, Bishop Gaydos, who led the Jefferson City diocese from 1997-2018, said in a recent interview that that prediction was based on his unyielding belief in the power of the Holy Spirit.

"We talk about the instrumentality of God — which, by the way, is very Ignatian," said



**Pope Francis appears for the first time on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican March 13, 2013, the evening he was elected the 266th Roman Catholic pontiff and the first of many occasions when he referred to himself as the bishop of Rome.**

— CNS photo/Paul Haring

Bishop Gaydos. "God uses each one of us as he created us, to carry out his will, which is that all people come to the truth.

"Whether you're the pope or the newest member of the Church, we all have the vocation to witness to the power of Jesus to save," he said.

This couldn't be any truer than for the 266-and-counting men — some of whom were very surprising — who served as successors to St. Peter.

"People don't realize, each one of those individuals came with a completely unique set of gifts and traits, along with the exact backgrounds, cultures

and family experiences of the places they were from," said Bishop Gaydos.

"Not only does that have a profound effect on them, it's how the Holy Spirit brings forth their gifts to the whole Church," he said.

In the case of Pope Francis, who died on April 21 after leading the Church for 12 years, that included a distinctly non-European background, a uniquely South American experience of the Church.

"While some folks may have gotten their feathers ruffled," Bishop Gaydos noted, "Pope Francis was telling us things we needed to hear and showing us things we needed to see."

Bishop Gaydos hopes everyone realizes what graced moments these are as God takes one shepherd of the Universal Church home, and the Holy Spirit helps choose another.

He suggested that in praying for Pope Francis's successor, people shouldn't put too much emphasis on any specific talents or shortcomings.

"Rather, whenever we pray for any individual, we need to be claiming for them that overwhelming divine love that they had even before they existed, and which abides within them," he said.

"Our prayers remind us and convince us of God's continued support in every moment of our lives," said Bishop Gaydos. "That's how he transforms the world."

And it could be what leads to another surprising successor to St. Peter, standing on the balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square, amid cheers of "Viva il Papa!" — "Long live the Pope!"

"The fact of the matter is, we have to be open," said Bishop Gaydos. "Because these are not political moves. They are the means by which the Holy Spirit will give us the man for this moment in history.

"*Ubi Petrus, ibi ecclesia*," he said, echoing the ancient saying, "Where Peter is, there is the Church."

"That has been the reality since Jesus chose Peter on the Sea of Galilee," said Bishop Gaydos. "And we thank God for this great grace of the Holy Spirit, who is everything in the Church."

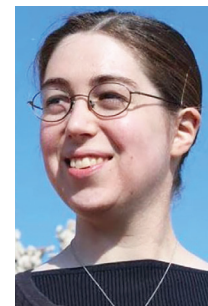
## QUESTION CORNER

### How do God's will and the Holy Spirit play a role in a conclave?

By Jenna Marie Cooper

OSV News

**Q: How do God's will and the Holy Spirit play a role in a conclave?**



A: I think ultimately, events in the life of the Church like conclaves bring us to the mysterious place where God's providential ordering of history intersects with human free will.

On one level, there is nothing miraculous about a conclave. That is, the assembled cardinals are human men who use their human powers of reason and prudential judgment to vote on a decision. In real life I think it's fair to assume that the vast majority of cardinals today are essentially good men who will undertake this responsibility with the care it deserves, but in theory there is nothing to stop the cardinals from making a careless or deliberately bad choice of a new pope.

And indeed, although in the past century we as a Church have been "spoiled" with a number of saintly popes, the Church's 2000-year history has unfortunately seen some popes who were cowardly, faltering or even notoriously immoral.

But at the same time, we also believe that God loves and continues to guide his Church. Jesus himself said that he would "be with [us] always, until the end of the age," (Mt. 28:20) and that "The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name — he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you" (Jn. 14:26).

We also believe that God's guidance of the Church is manifested in the concept of papal infallibility, meaning that in certain very specific circumstances, when a pope is teaching on faith and morals specifically in his role as pope, God will protect him from error (see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 892).

While papal infallibility as applied to the teaching of Catholic doctrine is different from the process of electing a pope in the first place, it still serves to underscore how God "will not leave us orphans" (Jn. 14:18).


There is also some scriptural suggestion that God would have a hand in choosing bishops at least. In the book of Acts, after Jesus' resurrection and ascension, the remaining 11 apostles gathered to choose a successor and replacement to Judas Iscariot, who had taken his own life after betraying Jesus. After determining two suitable candidates, the final decision was made by casting lots, with the idea that God would take advantage of that occasion of randomness and chance to put forth his own preferred candidate (Acts 1:15-26).

Even today, in our liturgy we can sometimes glean hints of the idea that God himself chooses bishops. For example, in the Good Friday passion liturgy, during the general intercessions we pray for the current Holy Father with the words: "Let us pray also for our most Holy Father Pope [Name], that our God and Lord, who chose him for the Order of Bishops..."

Yet, this sense that God calls and chooses bishops still co-exists today with a rather prosaic administrative process for determining candidates for the episcopate, involving such mundane things as recommendations and "short lists" of names. So here, too, it seems that the Church expects God to make his will known, but usually through very ordinary means rather than by extraordinary divine intervention.

This dynamic interplay between God's will in all its perfection and our fallible human capacities for discernment is one reason for the many special customs surrounding a conclave. For example, the cardinals pray explicitly to the Holy Spirit

See QUESTION, page 23



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# Worn out before God by the noisy, tiresome digital age

By Elizabeth Scalia  
OSV News



Like many writers, Flannery O'Connor once observed that she didn't really know what she thought about anything until she'd written about it, and I suspect that became true for many as we became a keyboarding, text-based digital society.

In retrospect, some of what we were thinking turned out to have been wrong-headed or plain stupid, but 20 years ago, as the century turned and blogs proliferated, it felt like we were all en-

gaged in the discovery of our own thinking — figuring out who we really were, based on our words, which were revealing us to ourselves.

How fascinating we were! How thrilling to post a thought and find engagement with others in the comments section! For a while we were even talking to each other in good faith — challenging but also listening, considering the other guy's opinions. I frequently likened it to an Irish Cyberpub, where one could meet up, engage in good-natured argumentation that (occasionally) could even change one's perspective, and go at it again next day with no hard feelings.

We should have known better, of course. Hadn't we already learned that bringing TV screens into every facet of

life meant losing a measure of control over who (and what) was being admitted into our homes, influencing our families and impacting our minds, our morals, our material values and our social make-up?

Eventually, especially with the advent of social media, the effect of more screens, more thoughts, more "world," (now held in our very hands) brought that black-mirrored effect into a toxic hyperdrive. The heyday of guileless digital discussion devolved, curdling into screaming distrust and lunatic malice that has brought us to a place where moral denunciations and cries of heresy (religious or political) become justifications for life-ruining events: a stupid joke must destroy a career; feeling disrespected war-

rants publishing home addresses for public harassment.

The Irish Cyberpub has disappeared, replaced with a noisy, agenda-agitated miasma of predictable pronouncements and pointlessness. With any headline, one knows exactly what a particular pundit (and we are all pundits, now) will say before looking, and so logging on is increasingly unnecessary.

As is posting, in fact. Perhaps we've all written so much we've confounded Flannery's rule, and know our thinking all too well, which means we've actually stopped thinking, period. Jane Eyre, wandering aimlessly in her institutional chamber, confides to the reader, "I tired of the rou-

See SCALIA, page 23

# Pope Francis and the persistent habit of 'maybe'

By Russell Shaw  
OSV News



The legacy of Pope Francis is large and complex, with plenty of high points. But part of it is ambiguity and verbal confusion on matters of Church doctrine, pointing to a need for clarification by whoever succeeds Pope Francis on the chair of Peter.

One powerful theme of the pontificate was the pope's insistence on the need to reach out to people in some way alienated from the Church. The subject came up repeatedly in Pope Francis' words and actions — for instance, his symbolic gesture in washing the feet of prisoners on Holy Thursday.

But there also were occasions when Pope Francis seemed to opt for pastoral outreach over doctrinal clarity. Yet clarity in teaching — even, or perhaps especially, on moral questions — is arguably the most helpful thing the Church offers people in a time of massive moral confusion. Surely pastoral sensitivity and doctrinal clarity should work together, not be set in opposition.

Consider Francis' views on LGBTQ+ matters. He made it abundantly clear that he was against recognizing same-sex unions as marriages. But when asked about homosexuality in general, he famously replied, "If someone is gay and he searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?" While it was far from clear what that meant — particularly as to particulars — some treated it as implying approval of the gay lifestyle, while others took it to be neither "yes" nor "no" but a ringing "maybe."

Another much discussed instance of ambiguity was his treatment of giving Holy Communion to divorced and re-

married Catholics whose previous marriages haven't been annulled. The famous passage is in *"Amoris Laetitia"* (The Joy of Love), an "apostolic exhortation" which Pope Francis issued in 2016 in response to a synod of bishops on marriage and family.

After speaking of the need for a pastoral response to objectively sinful situations that "may not be subjectively culpable [guilty], or fully such," the pope added this footnote (the quotes are from a document he'd published three years before):

"In certain cases, this can include the help of the sacraments. Hence, 'I want to remind priests that the confessional must not be a torture chamber, but rather an encounter with the Lord's mercy.' I would also point out that the Eucharist 'is not a prize for the perfect, but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.'"

The purpose of footnotes is usually to shed light on something. But questions flew thick and fast in response to footnote 351. Which "certain cases" did Pope Francis have in mind? If the issue was whether to give Holy Communion, who had the authority to decide — divorced and remarried persons themselves, individual priests, bishops, the Holy See? Some readers also objected that the warning against making confession a "torture chamber" was setting up a straw man and unfair to priests.

The pope's response was silence. Again, apparently, the answer to a question — Can some people in this situation receive Holy Communion? — was "maybe."

In mid-2023 Pope Francis named Archbishop Victor Manuel Fernandez as head of the Vatican's doctrinal office, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith. Along with promoting his sometime-ghostwriter to cardinal, the pope sent him a letter setting out his expectations.

The letter complained that "in other times" the office used "immoral" methods, pursuing "possible doctrinal er-

rors" rather than "promoting theological knowledge." Francis didn't say when the "other times" were, but some took this as a slap at the late Pope Benedict XVI,

an acclaimed theologian who headed the office in the pontificate of Pope St. John

See SHAW, page 23

## REFLECTION

## Here and hereafter

By Mark Saucier

Meandering through the museum, we found funerary art from ancient Egypt.

The wealthy deceased were mummified and often placed in a richly adorned wooden coffin. A stone sarcophagus would further protect the body for its journey.

There was artwork found in tombs — etchings, pictures and statues of the deceased, sometimes with family or servants.

There were ornate pitchers and plates for the food needed to nourish the ka, the vital force or life essence that would live on after death.

By the Middle Kingdom, some 4,000 years ago, access to the afterlife was available to everyone, though the ka of the deceased poor, apparently ate little better than they did in life.

Belief in an afterlife was nothing new. A burial site in Russia provided evidence that 30 millennia ago, bodies were being buried with grave goods, items meant to help the departed make his or her way beyond death.

Gradually, the idea of judgement became a part of the concept of the afterlife. No doubt, some felt, since there is so little justice in this life, there must be in the next.

The Greeks had their just rewards. Elysium was for the righteous who enjoyed an eternal spring day while the evil ones endured customized torture in Tartarus, the deepest realm of Hades.

By the time Jesus came along, Jews — at least the Pharisees — believed in the immortality of the soul, resurrection of the body and an individual judgement.

All this may beg the question, what difference does the resurrection of Jesus make?

For some, it may confirm the Pharisees' inclination, but with a new route — the Way, the Truth and the Life — through judgement to heaven.

But those post-resurrection appearances seem to focus on this life, not the next.

"Do not be afraid," he tells the wailing women who had gone to the tomb.

"Peace be with you," he tells his disciples huddled in a locked room.

Forgive one another, love one another, feed one another.

And, like the disciples on the Road to Emmaus, we will know him in the breaking of the bread, in a community not just of belief, but of care.

What the Risen One offers, after eons of death and funeral rites, is hope.

"And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."

It is not hope "for" or hope "in" anything specific.

It is simply living in the hope of Christ and trusting that all will be well.



# Encounter

## AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

### Making the mission: The vital role of volunteers



By Chelle Smith-Vandergriff

A natural part of human development is the innate desire to seek purpose — to find meaning in life.

For Catholics, the search for individual fulfillment is influenced by the universality of our shared values and guided by our biblical call to love through faith and works.

Acts of service and justice are an integral part of living our faith, allowing us to be models of Christ's love in action.

During the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis specifically invited us to be "Pilgrims of Hope," so that "Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it."

We have just ended the season of Lent, a 40-day journey of spiritual renewal. We celebrated spreading hope by serving those in need and recognize the vital role of our volunteers as "Pilgrims of Hope," who regularly serve as witnesses of faith and make the mission of Catholic Charities come alive.

As we celebrate this Easter season, let us continue the journey of spreading hope and serving those in need.

#### Almsgiving: an avenue of faith in action

The Catholic Church considers almsgiving "a witness to fraternal charity" and "a work of justice pleasing to God" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 2462).

While almsgiving is closely

associated with Lent, charitable giving is meant to be practiced year-round as an opportunity to practice justice toward neighbors and show solidarity with the poor.

When combined with the pillars of prayer and fasting, serving those in need helps us live our faith with authenticity and intentionality throughout the year.

As stated in James 2:14-17, "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ...faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

As the social services outreach arm of the Diocese of Jefferson City, it is the mission of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri to provide care and create hope for the lives of the vulnerable through compassionate social services that respect the dignity of each person and engage the local community in our mission.

Volunteers are fundamental to this mission, regularly incorporating practices of prayer and self-sacrifice into acts of service.

Sr. Susan Renner, SSND, who regularly serves in the Catholic Charities Food Pantry, shares, "Every time I volunteer, I pray before coming that I will have the grace to welcome each neighbor with a smile. I want to reflect Christ's love for them and to be open to recognizing Christ in each person. I want them to know they are valued and important."

From serving in the pantry to assisting with building maintenance and grounds keeping, every act of service provides an avenue to be a Pilgrim of Hope and witness of Catholic faith in action.

#### All are welcome

Individuals and groups of all ages are invited to care for our neighbors in need by engaging with the work of Catholic Charities.

There are many ways to volunteer — everyone is encouraged to find a role that matches their availability and interests.



Helias Catholic High School senior Cam Hillen volunteers with Catholic Charities.



Helias Catholic High School senior, Cam Hillen, began volunteering with Catholic Charities to fulfill flex class requirements.

Typically, students use the flex class to report to work; however, Cam's basketball schedule impacted his ability to work a traditional job during the winter sports season.

As an alternative, Cam has found a "good way to give back."

When asked about his experience, Cam shared, "[Catholic Charities] is easy to get to from school and staff make volunteering fun and rewarding."

He spends most of his time in the pantry, stocking shelves and breaking down boxes.

While these tasks may seem small, Cam recognizes the importance and impact of his time.

"It lightens the load on staff, making it easier for them to help serve the [neighbors]."

With a variety of volunteer opportunities (including evenings and weekends), we love finding ways for young people to support our work on their own or as part of a group.

Students aren't the only ones who enjoy variety and flexibility when serving.

Seasoned volunteer Paula Nordstrom is no stranger to

serving her community, volunteering with several local agencies (past and present) such as CASA, Big Brothers Big Sisters, The Salvation Army, Birthright, and St. Mary's Hospital, in addition to Catholic Charities.

When asked about her volunteer experience, she shared that she enjoys supporting Catholic Charities.

Whether she is greeting visitors, stocking shelves, or assisting staff with outreach and education, Paula is committed to caring for her neighbors in need.

"It's fun," she shared, "I like that there are always opportunities [to register] but I have the flexibility [to sign up when I'm available]. Especially in the pantry, staff are really good to work with. They provide careful, clear expectations and make sure that [volunteers and neighbors] have a positive experience."

#### Answering the call

Answering the call to serve not only helps those in need, but can be a truly transformational experience for the volunteer.

When asked to share what she has gained from serving, Sr. Susan stated, "I have made relationships with the neighbors that are mutually caring and built on respect. It has been a

great gift in my life, and I have learned so much from the folks I serve. It has deepened my faith."

This year alone, volunteers have contributed over 600 hours to Catholic Charities, each person playing a vital role in ensuring our neighbors receive the dignity and care they deserve and making the mission of Catholic Charities come alive.

We invite you to consider what contribution you are called to make as a Pilgrim of Hope.

"Serving at Catholic Charities is a wonderful opportunity to grow and come to know the gift that those who are vulnerable and marginalized in our midst are to us," explains Sr. Susan.

On behalf of Catholic Charities, we look forward to serving with you!

Ready to get started? Email [serve@cccnmo.org](mailto:serve@cccnmo.org) or visit [cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/volunteer/](http://cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/volunteer/) to learn more about volunteering with Catholic Charities.





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# On electing a pope: 10 frequently asked questions answered

OSV News

Thousands gather in St. Peter's Square, waiting for the sign that a new pope has been elected.

All watch as the dark wisps of smoke ascending from the Sistine Chapel turn to white, and a cheer arises that will encircle the globe. The new earthly leader of the Roman Catholic Church has been chosen.

That will soon be the scene, when the world's cardinals under the age of 80 gather to elect the successor of Pope Francis, who died April 21 from a stroke and heart failure. The conclave is scheduled to begin May 7.

Following are answers to some commonly asked questions.

## 1. Who can become pope?

One of the cardinals from the College of Cardinals usually is elevated to the office of pope, but any male in good standing with the Church could be elected.

If he is not a bishop, he must first be ordained. A layman could be chosen. The election of a heretic or a schismatic, however, is forbidden.

## 2. Who chooses the pope?

The college of electors of the supreme pontiff is composed of the cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church, excluding those 80 or older.

At the time of the pope's death, 135 of the Church's 252 cardinals were eligible to vote.

At least one cardinal has declined to attend, citing health issues.

During the time of a papal election, active campaigning is forbidden and debate is frowned on. The cardinals are to rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

## 3. How soon after a pope's death or resignation is the new pope elected?

At least 15 days after the death of the pope and not more than 20, the cardinals meet in the morning to celebrate the Eucharist.

They proceed that afternoon to the Sistine Chapel, where deliberation and voting take place.

The cardinals have selected May 7 as the date for the next conclave to begin.

## 4. Who governs the Church

## until a pope is elected?

During the vacancy of the Apostolic See, the chief figure is the cardinal *camerlengo* (the Chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church), currently Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, an Irish-born American and former bishop of Dallas.

The *camerlengo* works with the College of Cardinals in taking care of ordinary Church business and emergency matters, but his priority is the election of a new pope.

Until then, no one person is the ruling authority for the Church.

Upon the death of a pope, the cardinals and archbishops who head departments of the Roman Curia cease to exercise their offices.

A handful of officials, in particular the *camerlengo*, continue their functions, submitting to the College of Cardinals matters that would have been referred to the supreme pontiff.

## 5. What is the conclave?

The conclave, from the Latin words for "with" and "key," refers to the enclosed meeting of cardinals to elect the pope.

Pope Gregory X initiated the practice of locking the doors in 1274 both to prevent outside influences and to hasten the process.

The conclave is traditionally held in the Sistine Chapel.

While the electors used to stay in makeshift sleeping quarters around the chapel, they now stay at the Domus Sanctae Marthae (St. Martha's House), a guest facility for dignitaries and others visiting in the Vatican State, and the place where Pope Francis made his permanent residence.

One of the best-known traditions is the burning of ballots. If the smoke that rises from the Sistine Chapel is black (made

## Counting the Cardinals



**252** Total number in the College of Cardinals

**135** Total number of cardinal electors

**117** Total number of non-electors

Living Cardinals according to the pontificate of their creation:

**St. John Paul II**

36 Non-electors

5 electors

**Benedict XVI**

40 Non-electors

22 electors

**Francis**

41 Non-electors

108 electors

Countries that the cardinal electors represent **72**



**USA 10 cardinal electors**



**Italy 16 cardinal electors**

Number of countries with one cardinal elector **55**

The continents of Asia and Europe both have **18** countries represented in the conclave, Africa will have **17**.

Countries that the College of Cardinals represents **95**

The oldest member of the college of cardinals is Cardinal Angelo Acerbi who will turn **100** on Sept. 23rd.

The youngest member of the college of cardinals is Cardinal Mykola Bychok, C.S.s.R., Eparchial Bishop of Saints Peter and Paul of Melbourne of the Ukrainians who was born in **Feb. 1980**.

The College of Cardinals has 252 members, but only 135 of them — those who were under 80 when Pope Francis died April 21 — are eligible to enter the conclave May 7, 2025, to elect a new pope. The country count may differ based on whether one considers where the cardinal was born or where he exercises his ministry.

— CNS graphic/Jerome Podojil, USCCB

so by the addition of chemicals and, in earlier days, damp straw), no pope has been chosen. When the smoke is white, the Church rejoices for its new pontiff.

## 6. How is the pope chosen?

The pope is chosen by secret ballot.

During the election, the cardinals are forbidden to communicate with the outside world "whether by writing, by telephone or by any other means of communication."

Before beginning, the cardinals take a solemn oath of secrecy. Then the Master of Papal Liturgical Celebrations orders all those not taking part in the conclave to leave the Sistine Chapel.

## 7. What does the voting process look like?

Before the voting begins, several cardinals are chosen by lot to gather the ballots of the sick who cannot attend the regular voting session; others are chosen to "scrutinize" the counting of the ballots.

Voting begins with one ballot on the first day. In the following days, if needed, two ballots are held in the morning and two in the afternoon.

The rectangular ballot paper

has the words "*Eligo in Summum Pontificem*" ("I Elect As Supreme Pontiff") on the upper half and space to write the name of the candidate on the lower half. Cardinals are asked to write the name of the person they choose, then fold the ballot twice.

The cardinals carry their ballots to the altar and say aloud: "I call as my witness Christ the Lord who will be my judge, that my vote is given to the one who before God I think should be elected."

They then place the ballot into the receptacle, bow and return to their place.

After all the ballots have been placed in the ballot box, they are immediately counted.

Each ballot is pierced with a needle through the word "*Eligo*" and placed on a thread. After the names have been read out loud, the ends of the thread are tied in a knot. If someone has obtained two-thirds of the votes, the canonically valid election of the Roman pontiff has taken place.

Twice a day, after the ballots have been checked, and before the cardinal electors leave the Sistine Chapel, all the ballots are to be burned, along with any notes a cardinal may have written.

If no pope has been elected

by a two-thirds majority after three days, voting is suspended for one day of prayer, discussion and spiritual exhortation.

After a series of seven further ballots, the process may again be halted for reflection, until finally only the two cardinals who received the most votes in the last ballot are eligible in a runoff election.

The two candidates, however, do not themselves have the right to vote.

## 8. Can someone "campaign" to become pope?

No. Although

there is always speculation as to who might become pope, the choice is often a surprise. In 1958, for instance, few expected someone as old as Pope St. John XXIII, age 77, to be elevated. (Pope Francis, elected in 2013, was 76.)

## 9. Can a man refuse to accept the office of the papacy?

Yes, although it is unlikely.

Rumor has it that some individuals have declined the office, but because the events of the conclave are secret, no one knows for certain if this has occurred.

## 10. When does the new pope assume office?

Upon acceptance of the office, the new pope states the name by which he will be known, and the cardinals pledge their allegiance to him.

Tradition holds that the pope then greets the faithful by appearing in his new robes of office.

Three sets of vestments — in small, medium and large — are prepared ahead of time to accommodate the dimensions of the new pope.

From the moment of his election, the pope assumes responsibility for governing the Church.



# Future deacons reflect on hope as they move toward ordination

By Jay Nies

Archbishop McKnight has summoned 14 men to the diaconate — 13 of them for the permanent diaconate and one seminarian for the transitional diaconate.

He plans to ordain them 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 second in a series of articles profiling the candidates:

## How Jesus never fails

Dwayne M. “Bubby” Goodwin OFS has spent his entire adult life caring for the physical wellbeing of others.



Dwayne and Rebecca Goodwin

“I hope to be able to play a larger role in caring for them spiritually as well,” he said.

A lifelong parishioner of St. Joseph Parish in Palmyra, Mr. Goodwin has been a respiratory therapist for 34 years — the first 30 at Blessing Hospital in

Quincy, Illinois, and for the past three years at the Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy.

He and his wife, Rebecca, were united in marriage in 1997.

Mr. Goodwin made his Solemn Profession in the Secular Franciscan Order on May 18, 2014 — a distinction that is dear to him and helped him discover his diaconal calling.

“I want to follow Jesus in the footsteps of my seraphic father, St. Francis of Assisi, who was himself a deacon, by humbly giving of my time and talent to leading others to a closer relationship and greater love for and devotion to the Eucharistic Jesus,” Mr. Goodwin stated.

He assisted Father Patrick Dolan for nearly 10 years in ministering to Hispanic Catholics in northern Missouri.

As a deacon, “I would like to continue to assist my Hispanic brothers and sisters in any way I can to deepen their love for Jesus and strengthen their prayer

life,” said Mr. Goodwin.

He believes people in the world today are hungry for someone that they can believe in and know that they can depend on to help them through these challenging times.

“I want to tell them about

Jesus and how he will never fail us,” he said. “I want to show them to the best of my ability how much Jesus loves them and how he can impact every aspect of their lives in such a positive way.”

Mr. Goodwin is an avid fan of the St. Louis Cardinals and Blues along with the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame.

“I enjoy serving others, being with my family and friends, reading, writing short stories, and being there for anyone who needs me,” he stated.

He’s excited about becoming a deacon during the Church-wide Jubilee Year of Hope.

“Hope is the perfect theme for this Jubilee Year because there seems to be so little of it in our world,” he stated.

He wants to demonstrate to everyone that hope springs eternal and that hope’s name is Jesus Christ.

“My ‘hope’ is that this Jubilee Year of Hope will give birth to a powerful sense of hope in the Church and in the world, and that it will spread and inspire every soul in this and future generations until the return of Christ,” said Mr. Goodwin.

He asked for prayers inspired by 1 Kings 4:29 — “May God give this man wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore.”

## “Live the Jubilee”

As Charles F. “Charlie” Ochoa and his classmates have studied the theology of the Rite of Ordination to the Diaconate, he’s been struck with how profoundly beautiful it all is.

“The ordination rite brings together past formation with future service in the present moment of the sacrament, with the hand of the Holy Spirit guiding all,” said Mr. Ochoa, a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia.

He and his fellow deacon

candidates have learned in their formation and directly from Archbishop McKnight that a man is ordained to the ministry of deacon, empowered to serve the people of God in



Charles and Louise Ochoa

the ministries of Liturgy, Word and Charity (love).

“We further have learned that God does not call the qualified, he qualifies the called,” said Mr. Ochoa. “With that in mind, I hope to serve the people of God with faithfulness to my formation and the ministry.”

Mr. Ochoa grew up in Prescott, Arizona.

He and his wife, Louise, met at a youth retreat while they were in high school.

The couple both attended Arizona State University. They have been married 44 years and have three daughters.

Mr. Ochoa recently retired from Gates Corporation, after a long career in research and development. Mrs. Ochoa is partially retired from Columbia College.

Mr. Ochoa had been discerning a call to service for several years and had been responding by serving in various roles in the Church.

“Over time and through prayer and discussions with Louise and friends in faith, I felt God calling me to the permanent diaconate,” he said.

There have been several starts and stops, proving that God is in control of the timeline, and helping Mr. Ochoa to trust in him.

“When our deacon asked me about joining diaconate formation and I ended up in this *particular* program with this *particular* group, I knew this was God’s plan for me,” Mr. Ochoa stated.

Throughout his professional career, Mr. Ochoa has found that organizational alignment and focus on process and mission produce the most success.

“Translated to the ministry of deacon, I would say that as long as I am aligned with the bishop and my pastor, with compassion for the needs of people, then we should be on the right vector toward Christ,” he said.

Beginning with this Jubilee Year of Hope, he looks

forward to seizing opportunities to promote the virtue of hope in our Church and community.

“Our communities in the local and global world can be rough, and scary,” he stated. “If we can translate the hope we experience in the proclamation of the Gospel into hope shared in the world outside the walls of our Church, then we can live the Jubilee, not just talk about it,” he said.

He requested prayers for him and his fellow candidates to “keep the mission of the Church before us in all we do so that we can increase the virtues of hope, charity and faith.”

## Ultimate hope

A decade ago, Mark L. Oligschlaeger never would have believed that he one day would be preparing to be ordained a deacon.

“I would have laughed in disbelief,” he stated. “It was not part of my plans then. But God had other plans for me.”

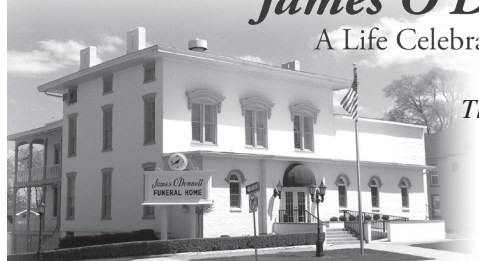
He suddenly got a strong feeling several years ago that he could and should do more to serve God and his people within the Church.

“Thanks largely to the example that Deacon Mark Aulbur and other deacons at my parish had set, I believed that the diaconate would likely be the most appropriate way for me to be of service,” he stated.

Mr. Oligschlaeger grew up in Jefferson City and has been

See DEACON, page 13

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## DEACON

From page 12

a member of Immaculate Conception Parish for most of his life.



Mark and Linda Oligschlaeger

He and his wife, Linda, have been married for 35 years. They have four children and 10 grandchildren.

He graduated from what is now Rockhurst University in Kansas City in 1981 with a degree in accounting.

He retired after working for over 40 years as an auditor for the Missouri Public Service Commission.

He said he's eager to serve God by serving other people.

"I hope to be a kind and helpful presence while I represent a face of the Church in various ways," he stated.

Mr. Oligschlaeger and his wife are involved in nursing home and hospital ministry.

"I'm open to many things, but we would like to continue this in some fashion," he stated.

"Whatever I may be assigned to do as a deacon, I believe that connecting with those I minister to with kindness and compassion is the

most important thing I can do as a model for Christ and the Church," he said.

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, he noted that "the ultimate hope any Christian has is for God's mercy to lead us to eternal salvation."

"As a deacon, if I can truly demonstrate by my words, actions and demeanor a belief in Jesus Christ

and all that He taught, then by my example, others may see the hope that motivates us as Christians," he stated.

Mr. Oligschlaeger asked for patience as he continues striving to grow into being an effective ambassador for Christ in his role as deacon.

"I also ask for prayers for me to have the persistence to overcome the inevitable roadblocks and obstacles to fully being a servant of Christ; and most of all that I will always be open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in my work as a deacon," he said.

### "Giddy up!"

Louie R. Delk is looking forward to putting his gifts for welcoming and encouraging to best use as a deacon.

"With these qualities, along with my enthusiasm for our beautiful faith, I think that I can make a difference in people's lives," said Mr. Delk, a

member of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City.

Mr. Delk said he wants to do the work and service that's necessary to help people spend their eternity with God.

"Ultimately, I want to help God get more people to heaven," Mr. Delk stated. "Me. My family. The people in my parish. And, the people of my community."

Mr. Delk grew up in Northeast Columbia, South Carolina.

Having started out in another Christian faith tradition, he and his parents, pastors, and much of their faith community were received into the Catholic Church in the early 1980s.

Mr. Delk and his wife, Lisa, got married in St. Louis. They have three children — one in the U.S. Army and two in college.

The couple moved to Jefferson City and joined the Cathedral parish in 2007.

Mr. Delk holds a degree in business with an emphasis in marketing from the University of South Carolina. He started working at a credit union while in college and has continued to work with credit unions throughout his professional career.

Mrs. Delk has a degree in physical therapy and continues to work part-time as a physical therapist.

Mr. Delk entered diaconal formation because he felt called to a greater commitment to the Church, the diocese and the people of his community.

"I believe that ordination as a deacon better positions me to

offer both practical and spiritual support to a variety of ministries — such as serving at Mass, witnessing weddings, baptisms, funerals, proclaiming the Gospel, preaching, charitable services, etc.," he said.

He's excited about being able to serve the diocese, parish and community more fully as a deacon.

"I look forward to support-

bring people closer to Christ," he said.

He believes that he'll be able to promote the ideals of this Jubilee Year of Hope by remaining positive and remaining calm through difficult situations.

"As I am able to demonstrate these qualities while working through tough times both in my secular life and my faith

community, I believe that I can strengthen and promote the virtue of hope during this Jubilee Year," he said.

He's grateful for God's abundant blessings.

"I feel like I am in such a great place in the life of my faith and my family," he stated.



Louie and Lisa Delk

ing my bishop, my pastor and my parish community," he said. "I am really good at following directions, and, I cannot wait for the opportunity to serve the charitable needs of our community as an ordained member of the clergy."

Mr. Delk is filled with enthusiasm and love for God and the Catholic faith.

"I feel like I will be really good at sharing that enthusiasm, and thereby helping to

ed. "But, I can always use more patience. Please pray for me to become more patient in all the things that I do."

He said he's completely open to the direction the bishop will give him in finding his particular ministry within the diaconate.

"The Holy Spirit will make sure I am doing the work I am supposed to do," said Mr. Delk. "So, let's giddy up! We'll see what's coming next."

## Study: Personal encouragement, Eucharistic adoration key to 2025 priestly vocations

OSV News

Vatican City

Personal encouragement to consider priesthood, along with regular Eucharistic adoration, continue to be key factors for young men seeking to become priests, according to a new report.

"Encourage a young man to consider the priesthood or to attend Eucharistic adoration; he could be your future pastor," said Bishop Earl Boyea of Lansing, Michigan.

The bishop, who chairs the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB's) Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, shared

his thoughts in an April 24 statement announcing the release of the 2025 "Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood."

Since 2006, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University has overseen the report, which is made directly to the USCCB.

CARA's report found that 78% of the survey participants had participated in regular Eucharistic adoration before entering the seminary, with 89% encouraged to consider priesthood by someone: either a parish priest (60%), friend (52%) or fellow parishioner (42%).

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# American Catholics Join Forces To Launch A Major Humanitarian Effort in Africa

Cross Catholic Outreach, one of the nation's leading Catholic ministries involved in international relief and development programs, has launched a major humanitarian effort it fittingly calls "Water for Life," and thousands of U.S. Catholics have become involved. The goal is to bless villages in various African countries with safe water, ending local families' reliance on the contaminated sources they have been forced to use for decades. This work of mercy — led by local bishops, priests, sisters and lay ministry workers — will also include important health projects and spiritual outreaches.

"This is one of the largest and most comprehensive humanitarian initiatives Cross Catholic Outreach has ever undertaken, and we're thrilled so many U.S. Catholics are supporting it with their prayers and contributions," said Michele Sagarino, the ministry's president. "In the years since the Vatican recognized us as an official Catholic ministry, we have taken on larger and larger outreaches, and each has become a success story for the glory of God. We really feel the Lord has called us to take on this newest mission too."

With the help of Catholics in America, the Water for Life campaign will build 145 community water systems specifically tailored to local needs, ranging from low-maintenance hand-pump wells to solar-powered systems with elephant-resistant elevated storage tanks. Families will also be trained in sanitation and hygiene practices, and water committees will be created to protect and maintain the water systems. Health improvements — which should be significant once families no longer become ill from contaminated water — will be maintained through additional outreaches

too. For example, efforts in Malawi will be strengthened by the construction of a new rural health center, along with mobile medical clinics in remote villages.

"As you can see, this is a major water and health outreach, so many families will see it as an answer to prayer. In addition, our Church partners will be provided with Bibles and catechism books to support their prayer meetings and Bible study workshops," Sagarino said. "For families living in the six countries we are focused on — Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi,



Zambia and Eswatini — Water for Life will end years of suffering and provide health benefits that will carry over to future generations."

Because safe water is at the heart of this mission, local professional crews will drill each well to the proper depth to ensure clean water flows even during the hottest, driest months. Additionally, local community members will be trained to maintain wells, and committees will collect a small fee from families if larger repairs are ever needed.



*Ester (left) and Patricia (above) have no choice but to collect and drink water from unsafe sources in Malawi. The water is often contaminated with animal waste, bacteria and parasites — but local families have no other options, so they continue to use those sources and have for decades.*

"It is important to do the job to a high professional standard and to provide sturdy pumps at each location because our goal is to have these water systems serve local families for decades to come," Sagarino explained.

While the donors who help Cross Catholic Outreach fund these water projects appreciate the care the ministry takes with its work, it is the impact of providing water to poor families that appeals to them most.

"Many of our U.S. supporters are aware of the terrible fatalities caused by waterborne diseases, especially among children," Sagarino said. "They value life, and they want to make sure the vulnerable are protected. We are one Church family, so we should help each other overcome the hardships of life."

Bishop Martin Anwel Mtumbuka of the Diocese of Karonga in Malawi agrees

and shared his own desire to see Catholics come together to help the world's poorest families overcome challenges.

"We need divine intervention and to allow God to work through us," he said. "Surrendering to God means accepting it is his will for us to become instruments to solve the problems facing our brothers and sisters."

**Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach's water projects and its other outreaches to the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC05069, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner.**

## Cross Catholic Outreach Introduces Catalog of Merciful Gifts To Provide Families With Unique Easter Blessings

The long-held tradition of almsgiving during the weeks leading up to Easter has always been a spiritual blessing for Catholics. But there have been times when families longed to extend their compassion to international communities where the ravages of poverty are often more extreme. We know those needs exist. The challenge lies in finding a way to connect U.S. Catholics with families and communities in dire need.

This year, the respected relief and development ministry Cross Catholic

Outreach has offered a solution: its Easter Catalog of international mercy projects in need of funding. Through the catalog, individuals, families and parishes can build homes, provide meals to combat malnutrition, sponsor educational scholarships for poor children, address urgent medical needs and undertake many other acts of compassion, all under the supervision of respected Catholic leaders in the countries being served.

The opportunities listed in the catalog truly span the globe, including missions

of mercy in the Caribbean, Central and South America, Africa, and beyond.

"And because the projects listed in the catalog are very specific, those who donate will know exactly how their alms are being used," explained Michele Sagarino, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. "That creates some wonderful opportunities for parents with young children being taught the importance of almsgiving. Imagine the excitement of your son or daughter knowing their contribution at Lent built a home for a struggling family or ensured a

child would finally be able to attend school. These are not just symbolic charitable efforts. The projects being accomplished are life-transforming."

This unique Easter Catalog is easy to access. Readers will find a link for it at the ministry's website ([CrossCatholic.org](http://CrossCatholic.org)) or they can reach it directly by entering the web address [CrossCatholic.org/Easter](http://CrossCatholic.org/Easter).

"Lenten almsgiving is always a blessing, but its impact is even more significant when it blesses those with the greatest needs," Sagarino said.



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# Families in Africa Celebrate the Gift of Clean Water — But More Help Is Needed

Catholics in the U.S. are changing the world — and the many families being helped by them are celebrating that blessing.

“We were on the ground thanking God when we heard that we would be receiving a freshwater well,” said Agnes, a struggling mother living in an impoverished community in Malawi’s Diocese of Karonga. “We couldn’t believe it was coming during our lifetime. What a blessing!”

Regina from Kenya agreed, saying, “This water has transformed the community. All of us. It has empowered us. We can have veggies and a garden to support ourselves, thanks to this new well.”

Veronica from Zambia expressed her joy in prayer.

“God Almighty Father, we thank you



Veronica (shown at left) is one of the many women who have seen their family’s health improve because of the new water systems Cross Catholic Outreach has installed in rural communities. The simple truth is this: Safe water saves lives.

Catholics are compassionate and generous people. They’re eager to help. They just want to know that their contributions will have a specific and significant impact when they give.”

One of the current projects American Catholics have been asked to support will address water scarcity in several African nations.

“You’ve heard how important access to safe water has been to Agnes, Regina and Veronica. They benefited from our earlier water projects,” Sagarino said. “Our focus now is on providing those same blessings to other communities that are still in need, including remote areas in Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi and Zambia.” (See related story on opposite page.)

As with virtually all of Cross Catholic Outreach’s efforts, the water projects it will be undertaking in Africa will be implemented by its network of in-country partners — a group of bishops, priests, religious sisters and Catholic lay leaders already in place and working among the poor.

“These dedicated Catholic leaders have always had a deep desire to serve the families in their dioceses, but they’ve lacked the funding to achieve their goals,” Sagarino said. “But when U.S. Catholics unite, we can provide them with the grants and resources they need. In this case, that will involve funding the drilling of wells

to supply safe, clean water in areas where families have had to rely on streams, ponds or other contaminated sources to quench their thirst.”

This tainted water often makes people sick and can create even greater medical issues for the elderly, children and pregnant moms. In communities where Cross Catholic Outreach has had professional wells installed, these problems are solved. The impact this has on health is obvious, but providing clean water also has other benefits, according to Sagarino. Because these wells reduce illnesses, children attend school more consistently and their focus on classwork improves. Men and women who once lost

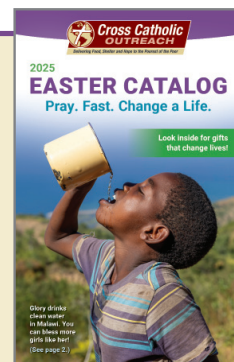
productive hours to waterborne diseases can reclaim that time for work, attending Mass and taking part in other important spiritual or family activities.

“For all of these reasons and more, I encourage U.S. Catholics to become involved in our current relief work in Africa,” Sagarino said. “There’s so much we can do as a Church if we work together. Supplying safe water is a critical first step in transforming lives and communities. Once clean water flows, we can do even more to bless these precious families. People often say they want their lives to make a difference. They want to change the world. This is their opportunity to do exactly that.”

## Change a Life!

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help those in need this season, use the Easter catalog inserted in this newspaper, or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC05069, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. You can also scan the code with your phone to purchase your gifts online. The catalog also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify an aid project, 100% of the donation will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than is needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.



for the donors who have made it possible to have clean water,” she said. “We also want to ask that you bless them with more days so that they continue helping people like us. We ask the Holy Spirit to be with them always and bless them abundantly.”

Michele Sagarino, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, said these expressions of relief, happiness and gratitude testify to the incredible work Catholic missions are accomplishing overseas — thanks to the support they receive from American Catholics.

“At Cross Catholic Outreach, we do everything we can to involve parishioners in the exciting work our Church is accomplishing across five continents. Wherever people are hurting, the Church is there,” Sagarino said. “Catholic ministries are doing amazing things all over the world. More people need to know about those outreaches and how they are transforming lives and communities. Once they understand the importance of the Church’s international ministries, they’re excited to get involved. American



# POPE

From page 1

## Into Paradise

Pope Francis, 88, the 266th successor to St. Peter, who led the Church since March 2013, died at 7:35 a.m. Rome time on Easter Monday, April 21, during the Jubilee Year of Hope.

He had recently returned to the Vatican after spending several weeks in a Rome hospital being treated for a respiratory infection.

Church bells throughout the Jefferson City diocese tolled 88 times, once for each year the former Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio spent on this earth.

Schoolchildren in Catholic schools throughout the diocese joined adult parishioners in praying communal Rosaries for the repose of Pope Francis's soul.

Over three days during Easter Week, hundreds of thousands of people filed past his open coffin to pay their respects.

Archbishop McKnight offered a Memorial Mass for Pope Francis on April 25 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City, with more than 40 priests of the diocese concelebrating and several hundred people attending.

A small group gathered in Cana Hall at the Cathedral at 3 a.m. local time the following morning to watch the livestream of Pope Francis's Funeral Mass in St. Peter's Square.

Additional Masses for the repose of Pope Francis's soul were to be offered this week in several deaneries of this diocese.

Burial was in a simple tomb in St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome, where Pope Francis had offered prayers of thanksgiving many times during his papacy.

A conclave of the College Cardinals will convene on May 7 to begin the work of electing a new pope.

## Element of surprise

Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky often heard people refer to Pope Francis as "the pope of surprises."

"I think we were all surprised to hear of his death the morning of Easter Monday," said Msgr. Kurwicky, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, whom Archbishop McK-

night appointed vicar general for this diocese in 2018.

"More the suddenness of it than anything," the priest stated. "Everyone could see that he was fading, but he seemed just a day before to be making great progress in his recovery."

Not even the abruptness of the late pope's passing could match his surprisingly disarming accessibility and welcoming manner.

Msgr. Kurwicky traveled to the Vatican five years ago with Archbishop McKnight for an *ad limina* visit with the Pope.

"When you arrived to meet Francis, he wasn't at a formal spot in the center of the ornate room," Msgr. Kurwicky recalled. "He was at the door of the Apostolic Library to greet you — a sign of informality and also hospitality."

"He made everyone feel at ease," he said.

After personally welcoming everyone present, the pope asked the entire group to pray for him.

"That's one thing I'll always remember," Msgr. Kurwicky said.

An enthusiastic student of Church history, Msgr. Kurwicky can't think of a previous pontiff to liken Pope Francis to.

"He was the first Jesuit to become pope, and the first from the global South," the priest noted. "He was truly unique."

Msgr. Kurwicky believes people will long remember Pope Francis's emphasis on mercy and charity.

"I've heard it said that our past three popes were kind of a triptych," the priest stated. "This is what we believe' from Pope John Paul II; 'Here's why we believe it' from Benedict XVI; and 'Here's how we practice it in everyday life' from Pope Francis."

"People get hung up on nonconsequential things, but Francis would not have been 'Francis' without John Paul and Benedict going before him," Msgr. Kurwicky asserted.

He noted that every papacy is complex, molded by the times in which the pope lives and ministers.



**Pope Francis appears on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to deliver his Easter blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world) at the Vatican April 20, 2025. Pope Francis, formerly Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, died April 21 at age 88.**  
— CNS photo/Vatican Media

"Francis was formed by his Argentinian background and by being a Jesuit in the years following the Second Vatican Council," said Msgr. Kurwicky.

In many ways, "the way he viewed the world was through that background," he said.

## Loud and clear

Helen Osman, who grew up in Meta and now serves as a communications consultant to the diocese, believes Pope Francis's papacy was marked by a revolutionary communication style that transformed the relationship between the Catholic Church and the world.

He opted for direct, accessible and frequently colloquial language, breaking down centuries-old communication barriers.

"It was so authentic and so unique, and such a gift to us at a time when we're reducing our understanding to memes and soundbites," said Mrs. Osman.

He prioritized direct encounters — "embracing the sick, dialoguing with prisoners, and reaching out to geographical and existential peripheries, communicating with actions more than words," she stated.

She said effective communication depends less on sophisticated resources than on authenticity, cohesiveness and a focus on the relationship with the person receiving the message.

The pope from Argentina grew up in a country with a developing economy, and in a

region of the world where the Church has often been persecuted for hundreds of years.

"Because immediately, the missionaries sided with the poor and the indigenous in ensuring that they heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and understood what that meant in their lives," said Mrs. Osman.

"So, we can sit in our places of privilege and say we have a preferential option for the poor," she stated. "But to have a pope who LIVED that option, I think that changed everything for us."

Mrs. Osman is president of SIGNIS, the only association of lay media professionals officially recognized by the Holy See, and is serving a five-year appointment as a consultant to the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication.

She believes Pope Francis's Jesuit formation — which included a heavy focus on using all the tools of the heart and the intellect to discern the will of the Holy Spirit — served him and the Church well.

She pointed to his love for literature and poetry, music, sports and other touchstones of human culture.

All of that expanded his avenues for connecting with people.

"He used language that was audially interesting: 'field hospital,' 'who am I to judge?' 'smell like the sheep,'" said Mrs. Osman. "Very memorable phrases that had you walking away saying, 'wow!'"

She did not have conversations with him, but she did

get to meet him several times in her various roles with the Church.

"He was a very warm person," she recalled. "He would look you in the eye. You'd be at a meeting in an audience hall full of people. But he took the time with every person, held your hand, smiled at you, engaged with you."

She also got to hear personal stories from members of his staff.

"His warmth and humility and authenticity came through with every story they told," she stated.

She hopes people feel honored and blessed to have lived in the Church during his papacy, "because I think history will look back and say this was a significant moment in the life of the Church."

"Under his leadership, we really did go deeper into trying to understand what the Holy Spirit is calling us to be as today's Church in today's world," she said.

## The day or the hour

Jefferson City native Benedictine Father Patrick Carter noted that Easter Monday is a national holiday in Italy — one that this year coincided with the anniversary of the founding of Rome.

Most people were off work, and many were enjoying a day of leisure in the city.

"I think he caught everyone off guard," said Fr. Patrick, who's ministering in Rome as secretary of the Curia and procurator general of the Benedictine Confederation.

"Pope Francis had started attending public events, and people were thinking, 'Maybe he's going to pull through,'" said Fr. Patrick.

Then suddenly, the pope is no longer mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer, because the see is vacant.

"And in Rome, we're not praying for the bishop, either, because the pope also the bishop of Rome," Fr. Patrick noted.

Fr. Patrick observed that through the ages, there grew an overemphasis in the Church on the supernatural role of the



## FRANCIS

From page 16

pope as an authority figure, especially since the First Vatican Council in the 1870s.

"And because of what we might call a more personal style on the part of Pope Francis, the Church has been pushed to move beyond what we might call too absolute or supernatural of a mindset of the role of the pope and the papacy," the priest stated.

### Human nature

Archbishop McKnight believes Pope Francis will be long remembered for his influential writings, including "The Joy of the Gospel," "Fratelli Tutti," "Laudato Si" and others.

"But I would also say, just as poignantly and perhaps even more powerfully, his prophetic gestures," said Archbishop McKnight. "We all remember his embrace of the sick, the washing of the feet of people who are imprisoned, of celebrating Mass all alone in the rain in St. Peter's Square during COVID."

"Very, very powerful ways of connecting," the archbishop stated. "He had such a good instinct as a pastor. He knew how to attend to our human needs as a Church."

Those gestures were effective enough to change the Church.

"Change for the better," said Archbishop McKnight. "Change in the sense of conversion that we all still need. We're never perfect. We're always a pilgrim Church on the move with the people."

Pope Francis's pastoral mindset led him to reinvigorate the ancient practice of synodality in the Church.

"He led all of us who are in authority to understand that we need to exercise our power and authority as successors of the Apostles, in a human way that people can accept," said Archbishop McKnight.

"If people have to live under the decisions that we make, they'll take it a lot better if they really feel as though they were part of the decision-making process," he stated.

Archbishop McKnight pointed to how "Lumen Gentium," the Second Vatican Council's dogmatic constitution on the Church, emphasized how

the social structures of the Church serve as an instrument of the Holy Spirit.

"The Second Vatican Council teaches us that it is primarily the realm of the laity to influence the world in terms of our faith," the archbishop noted. "And it's primarily the role of the bishops and their coworkers — the priests and the deacons — to teach and to instill those values in the people who have the responsibility of helping to transform the world into the Kingdom of Christ."

### A time to build

Archbishop McKnight is convinced that God sends the Church the pope that is most needed at that particular time.

In the case of Pope Francis, that meant someone who could effectively articulate the need for Catholics to turn

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

their attention outward, taking on a missionary mindset while welcoming and ministering to people on the peripheries and in need of the Good News of God's mercy.

"Interestingly enough, Pope Francis worked at rebuilding and renewing the Church by actually tearing down impediments and walls and barriers that kept us from inviting or being more welcoming and that kept others on the outside from feeling like they were welcome to be among us," the archbishop stated.

Pope Francis repeatedly said he wasn't interested in changing the Church's timeless doctrine.

"He wanted and he still wants us all to be faithful to the Lord in how we function as his Church," Archbishop McKnight noted. "And he's gonna want us to be loyal sons and daughters of the next pope!"

### "Sic transit"

Fr. Patrick said the death of a pope is a reminder that no



**A single white rose lies on the tomb of Pope Francis in Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major on April 27, 2025.**  
— CNS photo/Vatican Media

matter how much one man is loved, he is not the Church.

"What we have is not a personal devotion to a personal ruler," Fr. Patrick noted. "It's a devotion to someone who has a divinely instituted office that will inevitably be passed on to someone else."

He pointed to a phrase Italian Catholics have been using for centuries, which may seem jarring to people who don't live there:

*"Se muore il papa, se ne fa un altro."*

That is, "If a pope dies, you make another one."

"There is this understanding that the Church as an institution is much, much more than that of an individual person," said Fr. Patrick.

"Here in the city, they have this sense that this is an institution that we've been passing from one generation to another for the past 2,000 years, and there's nothing really shocking about it," he said.

### Person to person

Archbishop McKnight joyfully anticipates leading a pilgrimage to Rome during the upcoming conclave this month and possibly being among the throngs in St. Peter's Square when the new pope is introduced to the world.

He will return to the Vatican on June 29 to receive with all the other new metropolitan archbishops of the world the pallium, a vestment that symbolizes their special role in governing the Church.

He said Pope Francis will always have a special place in his heart, "because he's the one

bishop — their very persons — embody our communion as the Church."

Connection to the bishop and to the pope is what makes someone Catholic.

"That's how personal everything is," said Archbishop McKnight. "It's not just ethereal. It's not just ephemeral. It's not a thing of the mind. It's a real network of relationships that Jesus started, and it continues to this day."

### Strong currents

Fr. Patrick recommended praying for the cardinals of the world, who will meet in conclave to elect a new pope.

"The Church has a human and divine aspect," he noted. "So, there will be give and take, discussions from different sides on who should be pope."

"We pray for them as they're talking, discerning and coming to a consensus," he said. "Pray that their work toward electing a new pope goes well."

"We also need to be praying for the next pope and the challenges and opportunities he will face," said Fr. Patrick.

He suggested that it would be particularly appropriate to take up the Rosary and seek the Blessed Mother's intercession in this time between popes.

"We recall how on that first Holy Saturday, Our Lady and her faith sustained the whole Church in its moment of loss, in its moment of sadness," said Fr. Patrick.

"We should be standing with Our Lady, who is the great sustainer of the work and looking to her for assistance and intercession at this time," he stated.

## BUILDING RENOVATION?

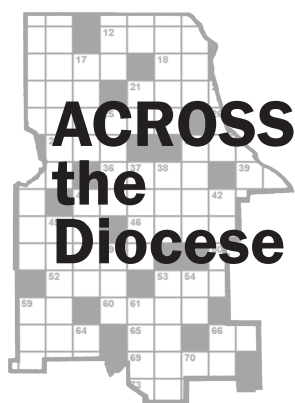


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By Father Donald Antweiler

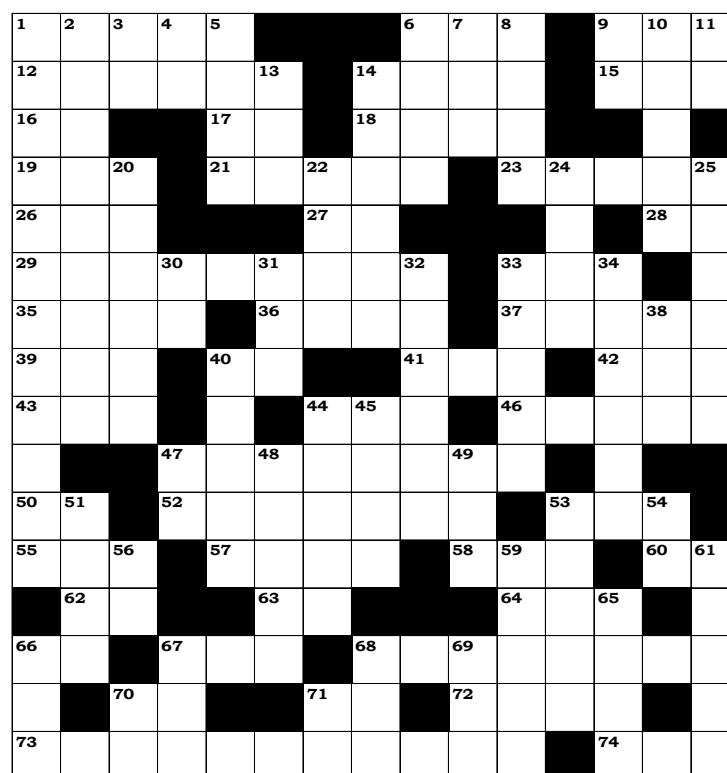
## ACROSS

1. "Way down yonder in the pawpaw patch," goes the song. Thanks to the lobbying efforts of a \_\_\_\_ of fourth-graders studying Mo. gov't. at St. Louis New City School, the pawpaw became Mo.'s official state fruit tree in 2019.
6. Pawpaw fruit is described as irresistibly sweet and fleshy, the flavor described as a \_\_\_\_ of banana, mango and pineapple; nicknamed "custard apple" because of its tasty creamy texture.
9. Dinah Shore sang the catchy jingle "See the \_\_\_\_ in your Chevrolet" in Chevrolet commercials in 1951.
12. The Grim \_\_\_\_; a skeletal figure in a black robe wielding a scythe, a common personification of death.
14. "Blessed are the \_\_\_\_ in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," (Matthew 5:3).
15. "The Catholic Church is much too universal to be called international, for \_\_\_\_ is older than all the nations," —*The Secret of the Cure of Ars*, by Henri Gheon.
16. El-\_\_\_\_; Israeli airline.
17. Original 12-step program.
18. \_\_\_\_ Major is one of the two great Bear constellations in the night sky.
19. "The dead man \_\_\_\_ up and began to speak..." (Luke 7:15).
21. "Then the angel...raised his hand to heaven and \_\_\_\_ by the one who lives forever and ever..." (Revelation 10:5-6).
23. A triangle-shaped street sign, yellow or white with a red border, indicating the other traffic has the right of way.
26. Abbr. for Station; or letters for St. Thomas Aquinas, one of the most influential philosophers & theologians

- of the West; Dominican priest, and most of all, a great saint.
27. Your Internet Protocol (\_\_\_\_) address is your network computer address so the internet knows where to send your emails and data.
28. Santa \_\_\_\_, New Mexico, the name means "holy faith," is the oldest U. S. state capital, founded in 1610.
29. Nicknames for this unusual fruit include Missouri banana, banago and \_\_\_\_ mango.
33. Because of its custardy texture and sweetness, the pawpaw is most often used in smoothies, \_\_\_\_ cream, cream and chiffon pies; also, in breads, cookies, muffins and pancakes; even as a seasonal flavoring for beer and wine.
35. The Mo. Photo Workshop maintains the world's longest continuous photographic archive of rural America: images taken in 51 Mo. small towns \_\_\_\_ a span of 75 years.
36. "But \_\_\_\_ four men unfettered and unhurt, walking in the fire..." —Daniel 3:92 (2 wds.).
37. "If anyone speaks in a tongue, let it be two or at most \_\_\_\_, and each in turn, and one should interpret," (1 Corinthians 14:27).
39. "You will continue writing — and may God guide your \_\_\_\_!" —*The Clowns of God*, by Morris West.
40. 101 in ancient Rome.
41. The pawpaw is \_\_\_\_ in fat and calories with more overall nutrients than a banana, peach or bunch of grapes.
42. "But Peter got up and \_\_\_\_ to the tomb..." (Luke 24:12).
43. Letters for Pacific Standard Time (i.e., non-daylight savings time) in Los Angeles.
44. "If the slave declares, 'I am devoted to my master and my wife and children; I will not go free,' his master shall bring him to God and...he shall pierce his ear with an \_\_\_\_, thus keeping him as his slave," (Exodus 21:5-6).
46. "I was talking \_\_\_\_ to myself. A habit of the old: they choose the wisest person present to speak to," —J.R.R. Tolkien, Catholic,

author of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

47. A warning note: competition for pawpaws may be fierce: \_\_\_\_, opossums and squirrels LOVE this fruit.
50. B & O or Reading on a Monopoly board.
52. The Shrine of Our Lady of \_\_\_\_ and historic St. Martin Church at Starkenburg near Hermann, Mo. is often used for pilgrimages and retreats.
53. Letters on the side of an American ship.
55. "Eve is not alone when she commits the first \_\_\_\_\_. Adam & Eve fall together. Neither acts in isolation," —*Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary*, by Brant Pitre.
57. "...if you have faith the size of a mustard \_\_\_\_, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move," (Matthew 17:20).
58. Cleopatra killer.
60. This border state of Mo. is the only one with its entire eastern and also western boundaries defined by rivers (abbr.).
62. Letters for Post Office; or, a major river in northeastern Italy.
63. \_\_\_\_PN stands for Entertainment and Sports Programming Network, the TV network's full name when launched in 1979. It legally shortened it to its familiar four letters in 1985.
64. Gov't. agency tasked with protecting the environment and health risks for or from the environment (abbr.).
66. Dir. from St. Mary parish in Milan to St. Mary parish in Shelby.
67. It is probably wise for every parish building to have a first-\_\_\_\_ kit available for emergencies.
68. "When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to \_\_\_\_ a whirlwind..." —2 Kings 2:1 (2 wds.).
70. \_\_\_\_\_. Clean or Green Jeans.
71. 'Rebels and Unionists though they indeed had been, in the end the Todd sisters proved to \_\_\_\_, above all other loyalties, sisters,' —*Mrs. Lincoln's Sisters: A Novel*, by Jennifer Chiaverini.
72. Capital of Switzerland.
73. The \_\_\_\_ and Resurrection are the primary redemptive acts of Jesus.



74. Daniel Boone enjoyed pawpaws; both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson \_\_\_\_, grew and shared them; in 1806 the Lewis & Clark expedition survived on them: "Our party out of provisions. Subsisting on poppaws."

## DOWN

1. "...the Anakim were a race of giants; we felt like mere \_\_\_\_, and so we must have seemed to them," (Numbers 13:33).
2. Mo.'s state fruit is a worthy designation for what is essentially a tropical fruit which, with no near evolutionary \_\_\_\_, adapted to frozen winters growing in Mo. and other eastern and midwestern states.
3. Letters for Osteoarthritis, the most common arthritis, esp. among older people where cartilage breaks down and wears away.
4. "I entered the confessional and knelt down. I was so little my head was below the arm rest. Fr. told me to stand \_\_\_\_\_. I stood and faced him and made my confession like a big girl," —*Story of a Soul*, autobiography of St. Thérèse of Lisieux.
5. "John Jameson had not a little of the same overbearing nature, which is why he probably found his sister-in-law so intolerable. They were two \_\_\_\_ in a pod," —*The March*, by E.L. Doctorow.
6. "Between 1687-1711, Fr. Kino made \_\_\_\_ than 50

journeys inland, varying from 100-1,000 miles in length. All made on horseback," —*The Padre on Horseback*, by Herbert E. Bolton.

7. iPhone Operating System (\_\_\_\_) is Apple's mobile operating system for iPhones and iPads.
8. Medical scan for bone fractures, abnormal masses, dental problems, etc.
9. "Beastly slow business, all this legal stuff, what? But it gives \_\_\_\_ time, an' that's all to the good," —*Clouds of Witness*, by Dorothy Sayers.
10. Though more people are growing them, pawpaw trees are not grown commercially or found in most stores because they have a short \_\_\_\_ life, can't be picked green and bruise easily.
11. Letters for Arts & Entertainment (\_\_\_\_&\_\_\_\_) TV network; most popular shows: "The First 48," "Duck Dynasty," "Storage Wars," "Intervention" and "Live PD."
13. Another oddity of pawpaw trees: they are pollinated by flies. Some gardeners hang \_\_\_\_ meat in the branches to attract its usually unwanted pollinators.
14. The pawpaw's bell-shaped flower is an unusual leathery, dark \_\_\_\_ color and its fruit is shaped like a banana.
20. "...so out of fear I went off and buried your \_\_\_\_ in the ground. Here it is back," (Matthew 25:25).

CLUES continued on page 19



## CLUES

From page 18

22. The two \_\_\_\_\_ used in the Sacrament of Baptism are of Catechumens and immediately after the Baptism, sacred Christ.
24. "Megan had searched every \_\_\_\_\_ of Ruby's clothing and bag looking for drugs. She found nothing. It was an invasion of privacy, but with addicts the rules are different," —*The Street Lawyer*, by John Grisham.
25. "Your strength is not in numbers, nor does your power \_\_\_\_\_ upon stalwart men," (Judith 9:11).
30. Letters for Lawrence, a synthetic, highly radioactive solid metal at room temperature.
31. Pope John XX \_\_\_\_\_ called for the Second Vatican Council on Jan. 25, 1959, less than 3 months into his pontificate.
32. Pawpaw trees are lovely, unusual trees with large, oblong leaves (which turn golden \_\_\_\_\_ in the fall), growing 15-30 feet high. They thrive in the shade, though some sun helps produce more fruit. They grow in colonies (or groves or "patches").
33. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as \_\_\_\_\_ in the beginning... (2 wds.).
34. "While sloppy and easily avoidable, his \_\_\_\_\_ were usually minor and harmless and had never risen to the level of outright defamation," —*Sycamore Row*, by John Grisham.
38. Water in Paris.
40. Utter confusion and disorder. "He was a man in love with old and simple things. They were the more precious, because they would soon be lost in the doomsday \_\_\_\_\_," —*The Clowns of God*, by Morris West.
44. The St. Louis World's Fair in 1904 covered 1,200 \_\_\_\_\_.
45. "Behold, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world," — the chant of the priest bearing the cross on Good Friday.
47. In gov't., letters for Revised Statutes (i.e., updated versions of laws or regulations).
48. Nicene or Apostle's.
49. Code breaking U.S. Federal Intelligence agency.
51. The pawpaw is said to be "unforgettable when \_\_\_\_\_ and ready (Sept.-Oct.), and can even be used in salsa," —Lisa Brunette; *The Missouri Conservationist* magazine.
53. "He will show you a large

- \_\_\_\_\_ room that is furnished. Make the preparations there," (Luke 22:12).
54. Yes in the Yucatan.
56. "It takes a room full of really smart people at NASA to work out how to get to Venus. And you (space algae) do it as a single-celled organism with \_\_\_\_\_ brain," —*Project Hail Mary*, by Andy Weir.
59. "Now there were \_\_\_\_\_ brothers. The first married a woman and died, leaving no descendants," (Mark 12:20).
61. Little Orphan \_\_\_\_\_; popular comic strip (1924-2010), based on an 1885 poem by James Whitcomb Riley; spawned a Broadway play and multiple films; iconic symbol of hope and optimism despite adversity.
65. NT prophetess (Luke 2:36).
66. Mizzou's football Conference.
67. St. Joan of \_\_\_\_\_; a patroness of France.
68. Curse or spell, cast by a witch or sorceress or such.
69. The four blood types are: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and AB (3 ltrs.).
70. Mizzou.
71. Prefix for centennial or partisan.

See ANSWERS, page 23

## CROSS

From page 5

how large Jesus's cross was.

"About an hour later, we had a cross that looked battered, but we smoothed up the edges so no one would get a splinter," he said.

Ten feet long, six feet wide and very heavy.

Cross completed, Dr. Miller sent messages to people all over town, inviting them to help him carry it over the dam the following morning.

"I wrote on Facebook that this cross is heavy, but Christ's cross and sacrifice was much larger," he said.

There'd be plenty of time to make the mile-and-a-half walk and still be on time to work or school.

"I think we had 15 people there the first day, and then it kept building to 30, then 45, then 60 and about 65 on Holy Saturday," said Dr. Miller.

He and other participants led prayers, read Scripture passages and gave a short meditation each day before taking up the cross.

"We had people — grown people — with tears in their eyes over it," said Dr. Miller.

The sunrise over the water was spectacular as adults and children from many faith communities clung to that new rugged cross.

There were no divisions.

"Just Christian people getting together and reflecting on Christ's passion," said Dr. Miller. "The cross is our symbol, and if there are people out there who would see a bunch of adults and children carrying a cross, what does it mean to them?"

### Sunrise service

Newly confirmed and nourished with the Holy Eucharist, Dr. Miller said he's on fire for the faith.

"I've got this yearning to bring people together in unity, to keep the Easter fire burning and find ways for all of us to help people in need, together," he said.

"It doesn't have to be a Catholic fix," he stated. "But it does need to be a Christ fix."

He's confident that the Holy Week carrying of the cross will become an annual event.

He doesn't expect one event to cure all the negative feelings among separated Christians, "but I think this was a step for some people."

"The differences we have are important, but not as important as understanding the evangelical tasks that we've all been given," he said.

"I think we could all do better."

## CONCLAVE

From page 1

public, 1992, and Aparecida, Brazil, 2007.

"Medellin happened within a context of scandal, because of the injustice, the difference between the rich and the poor in a Catholic continent," Cardinal Pierre said. "That's when the bishops made a preferential option for the poor, and this hasn't changed."

The 1968 conference in Medellin was the second regional meeting of Latin America's bishops, with the primary objective of interpreting Vatican II for the Latin American context.

The conference's documents denounced the region's economic, political, and cultural dependency on northern and European powers, emphasizing a theme of liberation against oppressive structures and paving the way for an Argentine pontiff elected decades later.

The French-born cardinal recalled how Pope Francis, while rooted in the Latin American Church, avoided the Marxist influences that had seeped into some forms of Liberation Theology.

"Bergoglio, even as a South American, never embraced this Marxist version of liberation theology, embracing instead the theology of the people," he said. "The dimension of evangelization from the people is very important."

Cardinal Pierre credited the 2007 Aparecida meeting with shaping Pope Francis' papal mission.

"This man, through the intervention of God, divine providence, became pope. I say, 'Pope Francis was born in Aparecida,'" Cardinal Pierre said, much like St. John Paul II "became pope in Puebla," a second meeting of the Latin American bishops attended by the Polish pontiff roughly three months into his election in October 1978.

In 2007, then-cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was tasked with drafting the final document of Aparecida.

"*Evangelii Gaudium*," Pope Francis' first encyclical, is rooted in Aparecida, and the rest are continuations," the cardinal told OSV News.

Looking ahead to the next conclave, Cardinal Pierre emphasized the importance of

continuity.

"Today, as a Church, we need to provide the people the possibility of an encounter with Christ and, as a result of that encounter, we need to become missionaries," he said. "The conclave is a moment of the (Holy) Spirit. It will be a time to remember the legacy of Pope Francis, and to open ourselves to the Spirit to decide how we continue, and continue is the right word, because we cannot repeat, we cannot clone Pope Francis."

Asked about any flaws he might have seen in Pope Francis, Cardinal Pierre said, "Honestly, I don't see any flaw in Pope Francis. Yes, he was a human being, and the truth is, the attraction to the person comes from his flaws. But I never put myself as a judge. I liked him a lot. At times, maybe he trusted too much in some people, but this is not a problem."

He praised Pope Francis' consistency and coherence. "His determination, his analysis, his answer to the challenges never changed," Cardinal Pierre said. "This is the Church I believe in. I was touched by that. I have no objections to him."

As the Church enters into a period of transition, Cardinal Pierre offered a message to the people of God, urging them to embrace missionary discipleship.

"The invitation to become missionaries is essential. But missionaries in the sense that we will go out and share the good news," he said. "But we cannot announce it if we haven't first converted ourselves. It is not a business announcement, but a witness."

Reflecting on his own experience in missionary countries, Cardinal Pierre highlighted the impact of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

"When I was in Uganda, thanks to TPMS, I was distributing 4 million dollars," he said. "And we need to continue to be able to do this."

As the cardinals gather, Cardinal Pierre said he looked forward to the conversations ahead.

The cardinals "are there for a purpose," he said. "I think it's true that there is a reason why Pope Francis went to the far ends of the world to find (some of the) cardinals."



## PILGRIMAGE

From page 7

Bishop Perry, in his homily, encouraged everyone to observe Holy Week by following Jesus into Jerusalem and remaining with him through his passion and death.

"These Holy Week ceremonies bring Jesus up close to us," the bishop said, "where we can feel his breath, feel his touch, examine the wounds he received on our behalf and hopefully experience the exuberance of his resurrection that we hope to share with him one day."

What followed Jesus's resurrection was "an excitement and fervor that was unleashed on the world, that has come down to you and me to this day and makes a difference in how we live and how we choose and how we work and how we play and how we work out our salvation, because of who he is and what he did for us," Bishop Perry stated.

### Signs and wonders

The pilgrims, including seventh- and eighth-graders from Holy Rosary School in Monroe City, filled the pews and choir loft of the 1862-vintage Brush Creek church, one of five designated pilgrimage destinations in this diocese for the Jubilee Year of Hope.

Together, they prayed the prayer for Fr. Tolton's canonization, written by Bishop Perry.

The bishop encouraged the people to pray for a miracle through Fr. Tolton's intercession — "to ask God to grant us this gift, this statement that Fr.



Participants in a Holy Week/Jubilee Year of Hope pilgrimage with retired Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry of Chicago gather at the burial place of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton in St. Peter Cemetery in Quincy, Illinois, during a Holy Week/Jubilee Year of Hope pilgrimage on April 14.

— Photos by Jay Nies

Tolton is in heaven, that God approves of this.

"Such that Tolton's name can be pronounced at the altar

icine cannot explain, that medicine has nothing to do with."

"By inexplicable, we mean the doctors here and the doctors in Rome have to look at the facts of a person's sudden turnaround in health, and they have to admit that we cannot explain it," he said.

### "Known only to God"

At the end of Mass, Bishop Perry led the people out to bless the new memorial in the slave section of the cemetery.

The inscription on the monument, paid for by a bequest from a family with long associations to the former St. Peter Parish, reads:

"Here lie human remains of

souls known only to God. Enslaved in life, now free in life eternal."

"It's beautiful," said Bishop Perry. "It's lovely."

The people then spent about an hour enjoying lunch, praying in church and exploring the chapel grounds and cemetery.

Three priests heard Confessions under large trees, the wind carrying the prayers of contrition to God's ears.

Back in the chapel, the pilgrims heard a presentation about Servant of God Julia Greeley, another African-American candidate for sainthood who grew up about 10 miles from where Fr. Tolton was born.

Now buried in a marble tomb in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Denver, "Beloved Julia Greeley," who died in 1919, is remembered as Denver's Angel of Charity.

The pilgrims traveled by caravan to Fr. Tolton's burial place in St. Peter Cemetery in Quincy, where people silently prayed and received a blessing from Bishop Perry.

They then made a visit to St. Francis Solanus Church in Quincy, where Franciscan brothers many decades ago helped Fr. Tolton prepare to enter the seminary.

A specially commissioned painting of Fr. Tolton was recently added to the church's impressive collection of artwork.

Refreshments and fellowship convened in the parish hall until the pilgrims gradually parted company.

Amanda Durbin, a member of St. Mary Parish in Shelbyville, who with her husband Dale developed Camp Tolton to bolster Catholic life for families and children, organized the pilgrimage.

They and Dean and Zanna Durbin purchased and refurbished the Camp Tolton Lodge in March 2024. Construction and improvements are ongoing.

She contacted Bishop Perry, who said he'd be happy to visit during Holy Week.

"I really feel in my heart that Fr. Tolton wanted today to happen," said Mrs. Durbin. "And I think a miracle might come out of somebody in this crowd today."

**More photos from this event will be posted in *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition, [cathmo.com](http://cathmo.com). Select "Photo Galleries" from the "Multimedia" tab on the menu bar.**

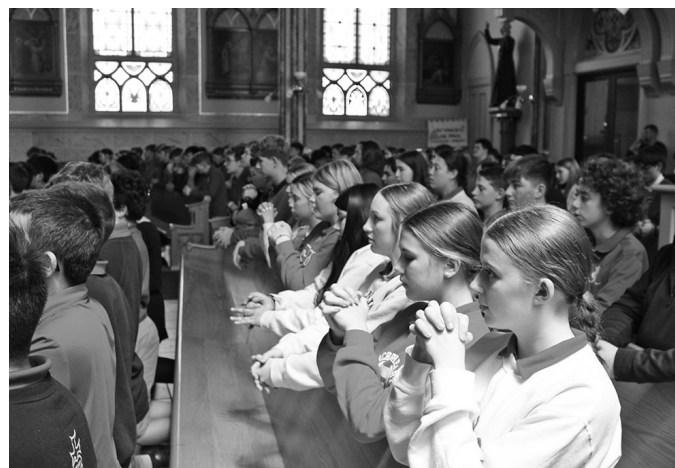
and etched on our calendars, and Mass can be celebrated in his honor," the bishop said.

By miracle, Bishop Perry specifically meant "an inexplicable turnaround in health that med-

## Grade-school children pray the Rosary for Pope Francis's repose



— Photo from the Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School (Mary's Home) Facebook page



— Photo from the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Parish (Sedalia) Facebook Page



— Photo from the St. Peter Church (Jefferson City) Facebook page



# PROMISE TO PROTECT



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Your local Victim Assistance Coordinator is available to help you or anyone who has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church. We will listen to your needs and support you. We will help you make a formal complaint and arrange a personal meeting with the bishop, or his delegate, if desired. We encourage you to come forward and speak out.

To report abuse, call the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline:

**1-800-392-3738 or 1-844-CAN-TELL**

Missouri Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 1-800-392-0210

Any known or suspected abuse or neglect of children or adults should be immediately reported to the appropriate legal authorities.

**To report concerns or suspected abuse by diocesan personnel, also contact:**

**Jacqueline Baldwin, Victim Assistance Coordinator**

**[reportabuse@diojeffcity.org](mailto:reportabuse@diojeffcity.org) | 573-694-3199**



**DIOCESE OF  
Jefferson City**





## Fundraisers & Social Events

May 4

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

May 5

**Jefferson City**, "Music Through the Decades," Helias Catholic High School choral concert, 7-8 pm, Miller Performing Arts Center

May 10

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

May 11

**California**, K of C Mother's Day country breakfast, 8 am-noon, Annunciation Parish Hall

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](http://vitae.foundation.org/events)

May 30

**Freeburg**, Freeburg Cruise-In Car Show and Holy Family Parish/School BBQ, 5-11 pm

## Meetings & Conferences

Every Tuesday

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

Every Wednesday & Saturday

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

May 3

**Columbia**, Cursillo School of Leaders, 9:15-11 am, Sacred Heart activities building, for info email [beth4j@outlook.com](mailto:beth4j@outlook.com)

May 7

**VIRTUAL**, Natural Family Planning Introductory Session, 8-9:15 pm, for info visit [diojeffcity.org/natural-family-planning](http://diojeffcity.org/natural-family-planning)

May 16-18

**St. Louis**, 26th Annual St. Louis Marian Conference, Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel, for info or to register visit [stlmc.org](http://stlmc.org)

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](http://vitae.foundation.org/events)

May 31

**Columbia**, Life in the Spirit seminar, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish multipurpose room, for info visit [comonewman.org](http://comonewman.org)

## Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

2-4 mayo

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

30 mayo

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

## Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Every Tuesday

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

## Liturgical

May 12

**Jefferson City**, Monthly community prayer hour for support of our diocesan priests, 5:30-6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

May 13

**Jefferson City**, Monthly community prayer hour and Mass for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, the Priesthood and Religious Life, with Adoration at 4:30 pm, Rosary at 5 pm and Mass at 5:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Church; **Starkenburg**, Second Tuesday Mass, with the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 11 am, Rosary 11:40 am, Angelus and Mass at noon, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, followed by luncheon in Valentine Hall

May 18

**Hermann**, Polka Mass, 10:30 am, St. George Church

## Youth & Young Adults

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

Jun. 8-12

**Union, MO**, Camp Lolek Session 1 for junior high boys, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry](http://diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry)

Jun. 15-19

**Union, MO**, Camp Lolek Session 2 for junior high girls, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry](http://diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry)

Jul. 13-18

**Camdenton**, Camp Macca-bee Session 1 for high school boys, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry](http://diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry); **Shelbina**, Camp Siena Session 1 for high school girls, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry](http://diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry)

Jul. 20-25

**Camdenton**, Camp Macca-bee Session 2 for high school boys, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry](http://diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry); **Shelbina**, Camp Siena Session 2 for high school girls, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry](http://diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry)

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

10 mayo

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

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

Every Friday

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

May 5

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

May 16-18

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

May 18

**Starkenburg**, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows Spring Pilgrimage, with Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Rosary procession, Stations of the Cross, Reconciliation, Benediction and Mass, 10 am-3 pm, with lunch 11 am-1 pm, for info visit [risensavior.diojeffcity.org](http://risensavior.diojeffcity.org)

May 18-20

**Boonville**, "Spring Into Your Faith," parish mission led by Fr. Ron Hoyer, 6:30 pm each evening

May 23-25

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

May 30-Jun. 1

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

## CLEAN-UP

From page 4

there? There was no rhyme or reason to it.

"The pictures didn't do it justice," she added. "You didn't really get an idea of the destruction until you walked out in that field."

Terri Schupp said the clean-up brigade felt kind of like a big reunion.

"It's good to visit," said Mrs. Schupp. "Tragedies bring communities together. And it's just good. It's good."

The best part, Mrs. Brownfield stated, is that no one got hurt.

"Life is so important," Mrs. Kusgen said in agreement. "Here, they obviously had a huge loss. Physical, material things.

"But the people — all of our friends, our families, people I've known my whole life — were safe and came through this together," she said.

"No one even had to go to the doctor," she



**Barb Schupp, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Pilot Grove, and Father Mark Smith, pastor of St. Joseph Parish and of Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Boonville, stand outside Mrs. Schupp's tornado-damaged home during an April 12 community clean-up day that drew many participants from both parishes.**

— Photo by Jay Nies

stated. "Lives were spared, and honestly, that was through God's intervention and grace that occurred here."

That grace seemed to multiply as the work day progressed.

"You know, it's kind of a joyful time now that everyone's here together," said Mrs. Brownfield.

### Never alone

Throughout the week leading up to Palm Sunday, Fr. Smith encouraged people at Mass and in Confession to pray for all who were affected by the tornado, "that they never feel abandoned or that God doesn't love them."

Standing by the ruins of her home, Mrs. Lorenz-Rudkin seemed to understand.

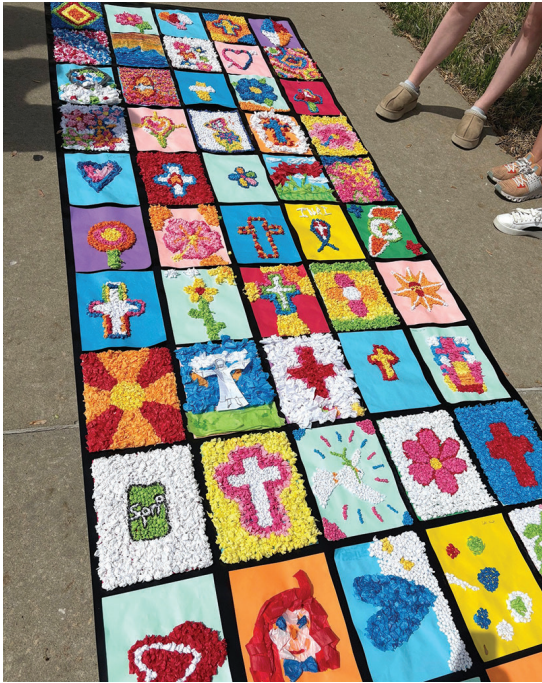
"He never promised that we wouldn't have trials," she stated. "But he most certainly is helping us through this one."







## Brightening up the way



The Spanish 1 and 2 classes at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia create *alfombras* (carpets) for *Semana Santa* (Holy Week). *Alfombras* are made in Latin American countries, typically out of colored sawdust or other natural elements, to honor Jesus's path to the cross. The time it takes to make *alfombras* is a form of offering to show love, honor, respect and devotion.

— Photos from the Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Facebook page

## Vibrant colors



Students of St. Joseph School in Salisbury play a game as part of a lesson about the different food groups during a weekly visit from Tennille Manson from the Chariton County MU Extension Office. Ms. Manson teaches about nutrition through books, games and taste-testing. The students especially enjoyed tasting mango, blueberries and pomegranate.

— Photo from the St. Joseph School-Salisbury Facebook page

## Take up your cross



Seminarian Shane Kliethermes explains to kindergartners at St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City about the relic of the True Cross, which is incorporated into the Jubilee Cross of Reconciliation in the sanctuary of the Cathedral. Each student got to see the relic up close and say a prayer. Parishioner and grandparent Christy Trimble organized this at the conclusion of the students' lesson on the Stations of the Cross.

— Photos from the St. Joseph Cathedral School Facebook page



## In the making of the bread



Darlene Aubuchon returned to St. George School in Hermann as she does every year to help the second-graders make bread. This is a years old tradition that is part of the second-graders preparing for their First Holy Communion.

— Photo by Amy Schebaum, principal



**Guardian Angel Prayer**  
Angel of God, my guardian dear,  
to whom God's love commits me here,  
ever this day be at my side,  
to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.



## Bible Accent

Before Matthias was chosen as Judas' successor, the apostles talked to Jesus one last time before he returned to heaven.

In Acts 1:1-12, we read that Jesus told the apostles to stay in Jerusalem to await God's promise of the Holy Spirit.

The apostles had a question for Jesus.

"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" they asked.

"It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority," Jesus replied. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he spoke, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of sight.

As the apostles strained to see where Jesus had gone, two men dressed in white suddenly appeared beside them.

"Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven," they said.

## St. Rita of Cascia



St. Rita was born in 1381 in Italy. She wanted to be a nun, but she listened to her parents and married instead. For nearly 20 years, she suffered her husband's mistreatment. After he died, Rita wanted to enter an Augustinian convent in Cascia, Italy. After three refusals, she was admitted. She spent 40 years at the convent and was devoted to caring for the nuns who were ill. She was remembered for having a deep wound on her forehead for 15 years, which she said was caused by a thorn from the crown of thorns Jesus wore on the cross. Rita died in 1457, and we honor her on May 22.

## Peter quotes Scripture and calls for Judas to be replaced

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic Courier

After the apostles had watched Jesus ascend to his Father in heaven, they returned to Jerusalem.

They went back to the upper room where they had been staying, and they prayed with the new community of believers in Jesus.

One day, Peter stood up in front of about 120 of these new Christians.

"My brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David, concerning Judas, who was the guide for those who arrested Jesus. Judas was numbered among us and was allotted a share in this ministry," he said.

Peter went on to explain that Judas had taken money and agreed to betray Jesus, which led to Jesus' death on the cross.

Judas took the money he had received for betraying Jesus, Peter said, and used it to buy some land. Judas wound up falling when he was on that property, and he died.

"This became known to everyone who lived in Jerusalem, so that the parcel of land was called in their language 'Akeldama,' that is, Field of Blood," Peter said. "For it is written in the Book of Psalms: 'Let his encampment become desolate, and may no one dwell in it.' And: 'May another take his office.'"

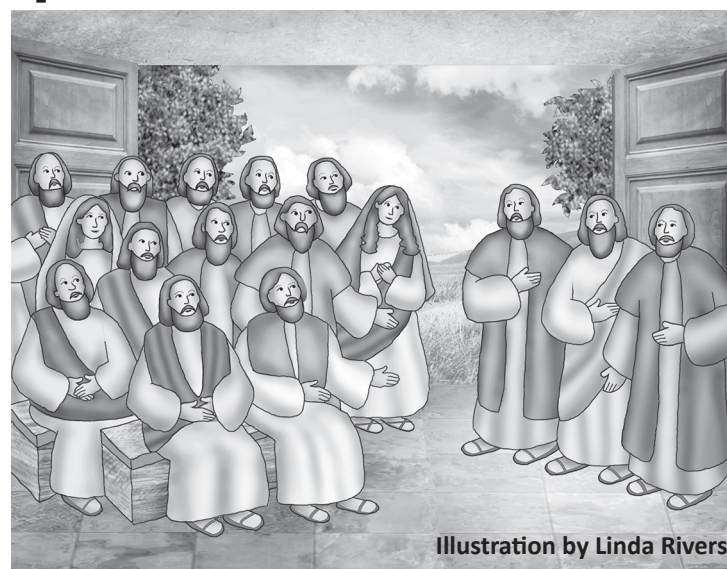


Illustration by Linda Rivers

In light of the Scripture that he had quoted, Peter said there was something important the followers of Jesus had to do.

"Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us, become with us a witness to his resurrection," he said.

So the believers suggested two men, Barsabbas and Matthias, and prayed for help in making a decision.

"You, Lord, who know the

hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place," they prayed.

Then they gave lots to the two men, and the lot fell upon Matthias. From that day on, Matthias was counted with the other 11 apostles of Jesus.

### Read more about it... Acts 1

1. Who suggested that Judas needed to be replaced?
2. Who were the two men the believers chose from?

## Essay

Reading for  
May 14, 2025:  
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

**What question would you have asked Jesus before he ascended to heaven?**

## Puzzle

Using the hints provided from Acts 2 about the coming of the Holy Spirit, write T next to the sentences that are true and F next to the ones that are false.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit came silently. (verse 2)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit appeared like a dove. (verse 3)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ A large crowd gathered around when they heard the Holy Spirit come. (verse 6)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit allowed the apostles to speak other languages. (verse 4)

Answers: 1. F; 2. F; 3. T; 4. T.

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## Pope Francis on film

By John Mulderig  
OSV News

From the moment of his election in early 2013, Pope Francis naturally became one of the world's most newsworthy individuals.

But it was especially in the latter half of his pontificate that he proved an intriguing figure for moviemakers.

Both documentarians and the creators of feature films were drawn to him over that time.

As the first pontiff from the Americas, the first Jesuit successor of St. Peter and as an innovator in other respects, he seems to have struck many in the world of visual media as a breath of fresh air.

Add to that his informality and his often lively turns of phrase and it's understandable that those behind the camera were avid to focus on him.

Celebrated German director Wim Wenders was just one example. In 2018, he mostly allowed the pontiff to speak for himself in the well-received profile "Pope Francis: A Man of His Word."



**Jonathan Pryce portrays Pope Francis and Anthony Hopkins portrays retired Pope Benedict XVI in a scene from the movie "The Two Popes."**

— OSV News photo/Peter Mountain, courtesy NETFLIX

As a result of this strategy, audiences were not only treated to Francis' views on a wide range of subjects — including problems often neglected by other world leaders — but witnessed his interaction with those seeking his guidance and care.

Francis's global travels, the significance of his choice of a

papal name and his vision for the future of the Church were also highlighted.

Eighteen months after the release of Wenders' more-or-less straightforward documentary came Netflix's tangled drama "The Two Popes."

Exaggerating a tendency that was already discernible, to a lesser extent, in the earlier film, screenwriter Anthony McCarten and director Fernando Meirelles attempted to laud Pope Francis by deprecating his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI.

Yet it was not all clear sailing for Pope Francis himself. Instead, the movie's creators reenacted what they imagined to be then-Father Bergoglio's insufficiently courageous interaction with the military regime that ruled his homeland of Argentina from 1976 to 1983.

They thereby rashly asserted a certainty about the nature of the future pontiff's actions that has eluded more serious students of the topic.

Such distortions were only rendered more convincing — and, therefore, pernicious — by the redoubtable acting ability of the movie's two leads, Jonathan Pryce (Pope Francis) and Anthony Hopkins (Pope Benedict).

The upmarket production does close on a warm and amusing note. Yet, overall, it remains a highly conjectural and rather jaundiced chronicle, requiring caution and careful discernment.

In 2021 came award-winning documentarian Evgeny

## Movie Ratings



General  
Patronage

The King of Kings (PG)



Adults and  
Adolescents

The Chosen: Last Supper - Part 1 (not rated)  
The Last Supper (PG-13)  
A Minecraft Movie (PG)  
Snow White (PG)



Adults

Last Breath (PG-13)  
Drop (PG-13)  
The Woman in the Yard (PG-13)



Limited Adult  
Audience

Mickey 17 (R)



Morally  
Offensive

Death of a Unicorn (R)  
Novocaine (R)  
A Working Man (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

Afineevsky's film "Francesco."

While providing some biographical background, the movie served primarily as a vehicle for showcasing Pope Francis' stance on a variety of contemporary issues. Along with other questions, it dealt with migration, the environment and the need to break down self-imposed social divisions in favor of human solidarity.

Afineevsky grabbed headlines but also caused widespread confusion by his treatment of Pope Francis' views on homosexuality. Yet his analysis of the pope's outlook on other subjects — including the role of women in the governance of the Church — is generally accurate and therefore helpful to viewers.

As its title suggests, 2023's "In Viaggio: The Travels of Pope Francis" was intended to highlight only a single aspect of the pontificate just passed, albeit a significant one.

In surveying the 37 journeys to 53 different countries Francis undertook during the first

nine years of his reign, filmmaker Gianfranco Rosi struck a careful balance between challenging material and an even-keeled tone.

Thus, his production did not shy away from the grave global difficulties Pope Francis confronted on his varied voyages. Yet, by emphasizing the pontiff's encouraging attitude in the face of such problems — as typified by his exhortation, "Do not be afraid to dream" — Rosi's movie came across as a calm narrative of distressing events.

While the treatment of the late pontiff on film varied from the well-grounded to the tendentious, both his outlook and his activities proved unusually compelling to some who might otherwise have ignored the Vatican altogether.

How the visual media will depict Pope Francis's legacy going forward, of course, remains an open question.

*John Mulderig is media reviewer for OSV News.*



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## Kirksville, Novinger women attend Welcome Retreat

The women of Mary Immaculate Parish in Kirksville and the Mission of St. Rose of Lima in Novinger hosted a Welcome Retreat March 29-30, at the Newman Center in Kirksville.

It was an incredible weekend filled with faith, fellowship and renewal.

"There is something truly powerful about bringing women together in unity through prayer, creating a space where hearts are open and faith is deepened," said Father Joseph Luzindana, temporary parochial administrator.

Throughout the retreat, attendees were blessed with powerful testimonies from women who shared their life experiences and the profound ways God has worked in their lives. These stories of faith, perseverance and transformation left a lasting impact on everyone present.

There were moments of tears, deep reflection and heal-



The women who attended a Welcome Retreat gather with a photo with Father Joseph Luzindana their temporary parochial administrator at the Kirksville Newman Center.

ing, as women felt truly heard, seen and supported by one another in a way that only faith-filled community can provide.

In addition to heartfelt testimonies, the retreat was also filled with joy, laughter and meaningful group activities designed for bonding and spiritual growth. Through prayer, discussion and shared experiences, connections were formed and faith was strengthened.

Fr. Luzindana was present

throughout the weekend, offering his support and spiritual guidance, adding to the richness of the experience.

It was truly a weekend of renewal — one that united everyone in a special way.

The impact of this retreat will continue to resonate, serving as a reminder of God's presence, the power of community in faith and the beauty of women lifting each other up in prayer and sisterhood.

## Papal elections: Curiosities about age, nationality, firsts and lasts

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

### Vatican City

Pope Francis made history with his election in 2013 as the first Latin American as well as the first Jesuit ever elected.

He was elected at the age of 76, which seemed counterintuitive after what Pope Benedict XVI had said when announcing his resignation just 30 days prior.

The 85-year-old German pope had said that "both strength of mind and body are necessary" to carry out the papal ministry in the modern world.

Pope Benedict was elected in

2005, just after his 78th birthday. Of the 103 popes whose exact age at election is known, Pope Benedict and Pope Francis were two of 18 Churchmen elected bishop of Rome while between the ages of 71 and 80.

Ambrogio Piazzoni, then-vice prefect of the Vatican Library and author of a book on the history of papal elections, distributed a sheet of "some curiosities" about the elections to reporters in 2013, after Pope Benedict announced his resignation and before Pope Francis was elected.

On the topic of the age of the pope at election, he said:

- Three popes were under the age of 25. The last was Pope Gregory V, who was 24 when elected in 996.

- Seven were between 25 and 40 years old. The last was Pope Leo X, who was 37 in 1513.

- Eleven were between 41 and 50. The last was Pope Clement VII, who was elected in 1523 at the age of 44.

- 24 popes were in their 50s. The most recent was St. John Paul II, who was 58 years old when he began his papal ministry in 1978.

- 37 were between 61 and 70 years old. The last was Pope John Paul I, who was 65 when he began his 33-day papacy in 1978.

- Only three popes were over 80 when elected. The last, chosen by cardinals in 1406, was Pope Gregory XII. He was 81.

### Famous lasts

Piazzoni also provided a list of "lasts":

- The last pope who was not a cardinal yet when elected was

Pope Urban VI in 1378.

- The last who was not even a priest yet was Pope Leo X.

- The last born in Rome was Pope Pius XII, elected in 1939. He was also the last serving Vatican secretary of state elected.

- The last African was Pope Gelasius, elected in 492.

- The last native of Dalmatia, an ancient Roman province, was Pope John IV in 640.

- The last Frenchman elected was Pope Gregory XI, in 1370.

- The last Greek was Pope Zachary in 741.

- The last Englishman was Pope Adrian IV in 1154.

- The last Italian was Pope

### Sunday, May 4

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41

Ps. 30:2, 4-6, 11-13

Rv. 5:11-14

Jn. 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

### Sunday, May 11

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 13:14, 43-52

Ps. 100:1-3, 5

Rv. 7:9, 14b-17

Jn. 10:27-30

### Monday, May 5

Acts 6:8-15

Ps. 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30

Jn. 6:22-29

### Monday, May 12

*Ss. Nereus and Achilleus, martyrs;*

*St. Pancras, martyr*

Acts 11:1-18

Ps. 42:2-3; 43:3-4

Jn. 10:1-10

### Tuesday, May 6

Acts 7:51-8:1a

Ps. 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab

Jn. 6:30-35

### Tuesday, May 13

*Our Lady of Fatima*

Acts 11:19-26

Ps. 87:1b-3-7

Jn. 10:22-30

### Wednesday, May 7

Acts 8:1b-8

Ps. 66:1-3a, 4-7a

Jn. 6:35-40

### Wednesday, May 14

St. Matthias, Apostle

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

Ps. 113:1-8

Jn. 15:9-17

### Thursday, May 8

Acts 8:26-40

Ps. 66:8-9, 16-17, 20

Jn. 6:44-51

### Thursday, May 15

USA: St. Isidore

Acts 13:13-25

Ps. 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27

Jn. 13:16-20

### Friday, May 9

Acts 9:1-20

Ps. 117:1bc, 2

Jn. 6:52-59

### Saturday, May 10

*St. John of Avila, priest and doctor of the Church; USA: St. Damien de Veuster, priest*

Acts 9:31-42

Ps. 116:12-17

Jn. 6:60-69

### Friday, May 16

Acts 13:26-33

Ps. 2:6-11ab

Jn. 14:1-6

### Saturday, May 17

Acts 13:44-52

Ps. 98:1-4

Jn. 14:7-14

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# Conclave prayer campaign seeks to put 'faith into action'

By Gina Christian  
OSV News

Ahead of the May 7 start of the papal conclave, the Pontifical Missions Societies USA is inviting faithful to pray — not only for the assembly as a whole, but for a specific cardinal elector who will help to choose the next successor of St. Peter, following Pope Francis's death April 21 at the age of 88.

"As Catholics, we believe in the transformative power of prayer, and now is the moment to put that faith into action," said Monsignor Roger Landry, the societies' national director, in an April 28 statement announcing the launch of the campaign, which will continue until the election of the new pope.

Participants can enroll by visiting the societies' website at [pontificalmissions.org](http://pontificalmissions.org) and entering their email address to learn which cardinal

they've been assigned to pray for. On the submission confir-

mation page, an image of a given cardinal appears, with his name, birthday and birthplace displayed, along with the short prayer:

*"Heavenly Father, guide the cardinals in wisdom and love as they may lead your Church. May your will be their compass. Amen."*

The conclave will see 135 cardinal electors — those eligible to vote for the next pontiff — begin their deliberations May 7 with a "Mass

for the Election of the Roman Pontiff" in St. Peter's Basilica.

That evening, the group will process into the Sistine Chapel, where they will begin voting under strict seclusion.

The progress of the conclave will be publicly indicated by the burning of the ballots, with white smoke indicating a new pope has been selected, and black smoke signaling the need for another vote.

In his statement, Msgr.

of St. Peter the Apostle trains the next generation of missionary clergy and consecrated religious; and the Missionary Union focuses on forming clergy, religious and pastoral leaders more deeply in their role as evangelizers.

For more information, visit [pontificalmissions.org/pray-for-the-next-pope](http://pontificalmissions.org/pray-for-the-next-pope).

Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News.

## Inside the Conclave

The world watches with interest as cardinals gather in conclave - literally under lock and key - to elect the next pope. The rarity of the event, the ceremony and secrecy add to the intrigue.

### Sistine Chapel

The centuries-old chapel adorned with Michaelangelo's frescoes has been the site of every papal election since 1878.

Its Marble floor is covered with wood. The windows and doors are shut as the Master of Papal Liturgical Ceremonies exclaims, "Extra omnes!" ("Everybody else, out!")

A sweep is performed for electronic devices, even on the electors.

### Cardinal Electors

Placing a hand on the Gospels, each one swears to uphold the rules and secrecy of the conclave. Any communication with people outside is forbidden. They may not receive messages or news.

Cardinals under the age of 80 when the see became vacant may vote in the conclave. There are 135 eligible cardinals at this time.

### Ballots and Voting

Votes are handwritten and cast individually into special urns. The top of the ballot reads "Eligo in Summun Pontificem" ("I elect as the Supreme Pontiff").

Ballots are counted by three "scrutineers." The work is checked by three "revisers." The ballot counters and verifiers are chosen by lot at the start of the conclave.

One round of voting is expected the first day. Each day after, two votes are taken in the morning and two votes in the afternoon until a successful vote. Should the conclave extend longer than 4 days, the electors will spend additional time in prayer and discussion before voting resumes.

A two-thirds majority is required to elect the new pope.



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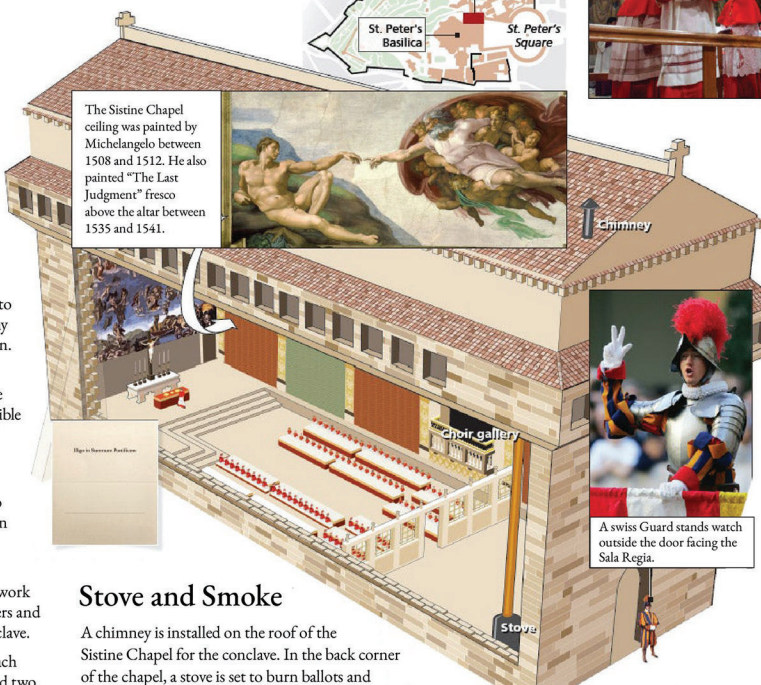
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### Stove and Smoke

A chimney is installed on the roof of the Sistine Chapel for the conclave. In the back corner of the chapel, a stove is set to burn ballots and related papers, including notes taken by the electors, each morning and afternoon.

If balloting is not successful, the smoke burns black with the help of an added chemical.

If balloting is successful, a chemical is added to produce the celebratory white smoke - the signal that the Church has a new pope.



During the conclave, cardinals stay in the Domus Sanctae Marthae, a guesthouse on the edge of Vatican City. They take short bus rides or walk to their sessions.

### How Long Will It Last?

The last seven conclaves lasted only a few days.

Pope	Days	Ballots
Francis	2	5
Benedict XVI	2	4
John Paul II	2	8
John Paul I	1	4
Paul VI	2	6
John XXIII	3	11
Pius XII	1	3

### "Habemus Papam"

The one who is elected is asked if he accepts the election as pope. If he accepts, he chooses the name he will take. From the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, the senior cardinal deacon proclaims, "Habemus papam!" ("We have a pope!"), and announces his name. The new pontiff appears on the balcony and imparts his first papal blessing.



The world watches with interest as cardinals gather May 7, in conclave — literally under lock and key — to elect the next pope. The rarity of the event, the ceremony and secrecy add to the intrigue.

— CNS graphic/Jerome Podojil, USCCB

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