

The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

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IN THIS ISSUE

Women's Fall Retreat Page 3

Diocesan Youth Rally Page 6

Alive in the Holy Spirit Page 7

"Heaven Comes Down" Page 8

Priests and Amendment 3 . Page 11

Columbarium in Columbia . Page 12

"Put us to work!" Page 17

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Lake Ozark women share the joy of iconography



By Jay Nies

The women carefully applied layer upon layer of color to the canvases before them.

Their pigments, purified with holy water, brought dimension, depth, tint and tone to the faces of Mary and her beloved Son.

"There's something to be said for putting yourself internally in a place for God to use you as a means of grace," said Lusia Hankins, a member of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark. "To just sit here and look at a blank canvas and say, 'God, I don't really know how to do this, but I'm in a community of people who want to support me and see me succeed.'"

Mrs. Hankins and 16 other women spent five days together, writing icons.

Yes, writing ... but with brush strokes rather than words.

An icon is a sacred artwork that depicts Jesus, the Blessed Mother or a saint according to an established artistic order that developed and flourished in the early centuries of the Church.

Created in a deliberately prayerful and meditative state, icons are tools for contemplation with God and the Communion of Saints.

"One of the things you see differently with in icon is the perspective," said Beverly Layton, a professional iconographer

Women of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark apply numerous layers of acrylic paint to the eyes of the Blessed Mother while praying and listening to sacred music. The women came together Sept. 28-Oct. 2 for a five-day workshop on writing icons, which are painted images of Jesus, the Blessed Mother or saints. Blessed after being completed, icons are windows to the divine and are powerful tools for meditation and spiritual contemplation.

— Photo by Jay Nies

See ICONS, page 14

Mother counters claims that Amendment 3 would deny lifesaving healthcare to women

Was treated 'without hesitation' for ectopic pregnancy during Missouri's near-ban on elective abortion

By Jay Nies

Destiny Rehagen Schulte was furious when she saw the campaign commercial again.

It was the same flawed message that had helped convince people to vote for an abortion-friendly amendment to the Missouri Constitution in 2024.

Mrs. Schulte knew better.

"Once again, I was shocked and appalled at the outright and blatant lies being portrayed to the public," she stated in an Oct. 14 Facebook post.

In the commercial, a paid actress talks about being denied lifesaving healthcare under a near-ban on elective abortion.

"I simply cannot allow these lies to go unchecked," Mrs. Schulte stated online. "In fact, I am shocked that propagating such a lie can even be legal."

She and her husband, Clinton Schulte, are members of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City.

Their third child was 5 months old in August 2024 when Mrs. Schulte started feeling lightheaded and nauseated.

"These are common symptoms of pregnancy," she noted in hindsight. "They're also common symptoms of

See MOTHER, page 18

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

NEW ADDRESS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

NEW PARISH _____

OLD PARISH _____

10/30/26

Pray for deceased priests

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

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

Nov. 11 — **Fr. Leo P. Holdener**, St. Stephen, Indian Creek (1972)

Basi Family Concert in Columbia

DATE: November 8
TIME: 2 pm

“How long does it take to pray the Rosary? Decades!”

“What kind of containers does the Pope use to store his vegetables? Vat-i-cans!”

If you think these “Dad jokes” are bad but you’re still laughing, then join the Basi Family for their annual Family Concert at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 8, in St. John Henry Newman Church, 602 Turner Ave. on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia.

Enjoy classical and popular music with enough jokes to

keep you smiling until the end.

Admission is free, but a free-will donation will be collected to support a pantry for those with significant food or basic necessity needs.

The pantry is being built as an Eagle Scout project by Nicholas Basi, one of the performers in the concert.

African Thanksgiving Mass in CoMo

DATE: November 22
TIME: 3 pm

This year’s African Catholic Thanksgiving Mass will be

St. Cecilia Mass and Blessing of parish musicians

DATE: November 14
TIME: 9:30 am

The National Association of Catholic Church Musicians (formerly the National Association of Pastoral Musicians) will host this year’s St. Cecilia Mass and Blessing of Parish Musicians on Saturday, Nov. 14, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St. in Jefferson City.

Bishop Ralph B. O’Donnell will preside at the Mass and preach the homily.

All parish musicians in the diocese will be

The Jefferson City diocese and

honored and will receive a blessing for their ministry.

Music directors, parish music leaders, choir members, cantors, organists, instrumentalists (adults, young adults, teenagers) — Catholic school musicians, whether volunteer or paid are encouraged to gather with other parish musicians to celebrate their patron saint and the ministry God has entrusted to them.

A musical prelude will begin at 9:30 a.m., with Mass at 10 a.m.

A meet-and-greet will follow Mass.

40 Days for Life Closing Rally, dinner

DATE: November 7
TIME: 6 pm

The Closing Rally and Dinner for the 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7, in Veit Hall at St. Andrew Church, 400 St. Andrew Drive, off Center Street in Holts Summit.

All who joined in prayer from home or on the sidewalk are especially encouraged to attend.

Father Joseph S. Corel, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia, will be the featured speaker. Guest speaker Kristina will speak on “how Jesus healed me from the sidewalk.”

Doors will open at 6 p.m., with fried chicken and all the trimmings served at 7 p.m.

The event will include a silent auction.

Free-will donations will be accepted.

To register, call 573-821-5130 or email kathythebo@hotmail.com.

J.C. St. Peter Veterans Day Mass

DATE: November 11
TIME: 9:30-10:30 am

St. Peter Parish Holy Name Society’s Veterans Day Mass

will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov 11, in the Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter, 216 Broadway St. in Jefferson City.

Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, pastor, will preside.

The annual Mass is offered for those men and women who have served our country in war or peace. The annual Veterans Service will follow.

All are invited and encouraged to attend.

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

The Mass will be live-streamed on the St. Peter Church Facebook page ([facebook.com/saintpeterchurch](https://www.facebook.com/saintpeterchurch)).

Find us online at
@diojeffcity

Children’s Choir Director

The Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City, Mo., is seeking a Children’s Choir Director. The position is classified as part-time, non-exempt and reports to the Cathedral’s Director of Music. Pay is \$50/hour, averaging 10 hours/month from September to May. All interested candidates are encouraged to submit an application on [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) or send your resume directly to Dr. Andrew Meagher, Director of Music at Andrew.m@cathedraljc.org.

Office Assistant

St. John Henry Newman Parish in Columbia, Mo., is seeking a full-time Office Assistant. The ideal candidate will have strong organizational ability, self-discipline and be a self-starter. Also should have a strong grasp of technology, including the ability to learn and manage the parish database. Human Resources experience is desirable. Compensation is commensurate with experience and education, and includes full benefits. Minimum high school diploma equivalency required. All interested candidates are encouraged to submit an application on [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) or send your resume directly to the Pastor, Fr. Dan Merz, frdan@comonewman.org.

WE'RE HIRING!

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

- ▶ **IT Support Coordinator**
- ▶ **Facilities & Operations Manager**
- ▶ **Associate Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry**

Scan the QR code for job descriptions and application

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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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Prolific Catholic author, speaker to present on 'Living Joy' at Women's Ministry fall events

DATE: Nov. 20-21

By Jay Nies

Meg Hunter-Kilmer is relieved not to have to follow anybody else's model of what it means to be a Catholic woman.

"Each of us gets to be who God made us to be," said Ms. Hunter-Kilmer, keynote presenter for the diocese's fourth annual Ladies Night Out on Friday, Nov. 20, and Fall Retreat on Saturday, Nov. 21, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St. in Jefferson City.

Both events will include inspiring talks, prayer, fellowship, food, and fun.

The theme will be "Living Joy: A Life Rooted in Christ."

"Whoever you are and wherever you are, you can bring your whole self to God," said Ms. Hunter-Kilmer. "No matter who you are, there is a space for you in the Church, just like in the heart of God."

The Ladies Night Out, including dinner, will be from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Nov. 20 in Cana Hall at the Cathedral.

The doors will open at 6 p.m.

The \$25-per-person cost includes dinner.

A variety of women in the diocese will offer a concert of praise and worship music.

The Fall Retreat will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 21 in the Cathedral.

The doors will open at 9:30 a.m.

The \$15-per-person fee includes lunch.

Ms. Hunter-Kilmer is an author, speaker, and University of Notre Dame campus minister, who travels the world telling people about the fierce and tender love of God.

She has written seven books about Scripture and the Saints, which combined have sold over 85,000 copies.

She has given keynote presentations at the National Catholic Youth Conference, the National Eucharistic Congress, and the Columbus Catholic Women's Conference, among many others.

"We're going to be talking about the wild, fierce and ten-

der love of God," she stated.

"We'll be rooting ourselves again and again in the God who loves us as we are, the God who may be calling us out of some situation or pattern in our lives, but who continues to love us through all of that," she said.

Source of identity

Ms. Hunter-Kilmer said she understands that this is a busy time of year, and it's hard for most women to get away for a day.

"Do it anyway," she advised.

She pointed to St. Bernard of Clairvaux's dictum that "we need to be not channels of God's grace but RESERVOIRS of God's grace."

"The only way we can continue pouring out the way we are is by being filled up," she stated. "You need to take some time to sit back and find your identity in God, so you're not looking for that identity in what you do and achieve and accomplish."

"Even the service you are providing is not your identity," she said. "You need to understand that you are good because of who you are and not what you're doing."

der love of God," she stated. "We'll be rooting ourselves again and again in the God who loves us as we are, the God who may be calling us out of some situation or pattern in our lives, but who continues to love us through all of that," she said.

She advised those who attend either or both events to bring their Bible, "because we're going to be cracking it open and really looking at who Jesus is."

Knowing Jesus and knowing oneself changes everything. "There's a deep anxiety and desperation that comes with living a life where your value is based on external things, what people think of you, your job, your status, the value of your house or 401(k) or whatever," she said.

"But if you're able to root yourself instead in who God

is, then if you ever become disabled or suffer a tragic loss or lose your job or go through a divorce — all these things that are so destabilizing — you find yourself standing on the Rock who says you are good as you are," she said.

"That helps you survive when everything else is out of control, being held by the one who hung the stars in the heavens."

Spirit of surrender

Ms. Hunter-Kilmer hopes everyone who attends either or both events will spend some

time ahead of time "asking the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart in a particular way that you need him to speak to you now."

She noted that God's invitation to be in a new relationship of peace and joy with him, "based on us trusting and making ourselves vulnerable to him," can be scary.

"You have to let go of some of the things that may really matter to you," she noted. "So, pray for a spirit of surrender and for God to be sovereign on the day of this conference."

Ms. Hunter-Kilmer emphasized the importance for Christian women to spend time surrounded by other women who are seeking to live in alignment with God's will.

"I think it's also important to get out and see the some of the diversity of the Church," she said. "Different ages, different personalities, different ways of dressing, different liturgical preferences."

"This helps us understand that there's a place for us all, and we all belong," she said.

For more information, or to register, visit:

diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry-upcoming-events

Pope Leo's doctors confirm his Nov. 16-17 visit to Latin America two weeks after lung surgery

By Paulina Guzik
OSV News

Two weeks after Pope Leo XIV's surgery for lung cancer, his doctor confirmed he can fly to South America according to the previously released schedule, with Uruguay, Argentina and Peru planned as stops for his Nov. 6-17 trip, the longest trip of the pontificate so far.

"Based on his current clinical status, as well as the instrumental and laboratory tests performed, there are no contraindications that would prevent him from undertaking his upcoming apostolic journey to Latin America as planned," Dr. Luigi Carbone, the papal doctor said in a statement released by the Holy See Press Office Oct. 26.

The pope "is following medical recommendations with great care and diligence, and with a deep determination to continue serving the Church," the statement read, confirming that the apostolic trip to South America "will proceed according to the program previously published."

"The Holy Father looks forward with great joy and enthusiasm to this journey," it added, highlighting that the trip — to the continent where Pope Leo served as a missionary and where he was a bishop — will offer "opportunities to strengthen the bonds of communion with the local Churches, encourage the faithful in their mission, and bring a message of faith, hope, and peace."

"I am looking forward to returning to the continent where I've experienced so many moments of my life," Pope Leo said, according to the statement. "May this journey be an occasion for us to open our hearts to one another, strengthen our communion as brothers and sisters, and renew our commitment to proclaiming the Gospel with joy."

Advance team lands in Peru for final preparatory visit

Monsignor Guillermo Inca Pereda, coordinator of Pope Leo XIV's visit to Peru,

confirmed to Peruvian TV station TVPE Noticias that the news about Pope Leo's surgery never interrupted preparations for the trip and that the third advance team mission from the Vatican arrived in Peru Oct. 26.

The media speculated that parts of the schedule could be altered, especially the high altitude trip to Cusco, which is located 11,150 feet above sea level, and it is recommended that even a healthy person adjust before planning intense activities.

Msgr. Guillermo confirmed, however, that Cusco — on the papal itinerary for Nov. 15 — was not excluded from the papal visit to Peru.

"Nothing is ruled out. Everything remains as the Holy Father envisioned it. He always wanted to go to Cusco because it holds an important significance: the encounter with the popular faith and religiosity of the region," he told the Peruvian

As Hunger Rises, African Dioceses Turn to US Catholics for Vitafood Meals

"I was feeling weak," said Reuben, a boy in a remote Malawian village. "And when I went to the hospital, I learned I had a low blood count. I couldn't play with friends, couldn't play soccer."

Reuben, like many of his peers, was malnourished — a growing problem on the African continent, where the World Health Organization says hunger is rising.

In 2025, 309 million Africans — nearly 1 in 5 people — experienced hunger, according to WHO's report, "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World."

But today, Reuben is no longer among the hungry. That's because a Florida-based charity called Cross Catholic Outreach partnered with Malawian Catholics in the Diocese of Karonga to meet the widespread need.

The ministry intervened with a simple but effective plan: shipping Vitafood.

Vitafood is a fortified rice-or potato-based product specifically designed to fight the effects of child malnutrition, and it can be packed in large shipping containers and cost-effectively sent to Catholic schools, orphanages and other international partners serving the poorest of the poor. A single container can keep crucial feeding programs running or provide immediate relief when disasters strike.

For Reuben, these meals mean a new lease on life.

"I could see my body change. I had more energy. I put on weight, and I got sick less often," Reuben said.

During its 2025 fiscal year, Cross Catholic Outreach shipped nearly 4.1 million Vitafood meals to African partners in the countries of Malawi, Zambia, Liberia, Eswatini and Burkina Faso. It anticipates sending millions more during the current fiscal year, so long as donors respond to the need.

"The generosity of our Catholic brothers and sisters in supporting this critical feeding program is such a beautiful testimony to God's love for the poor and vulnerable," said Cross Catholic Outreach president Michele Sagarino. "Vitafood meals give hope to struggling families, and in some cases, even save lives."

According to Sagarino, Vitafood is an extremely flexible resource. It comes in several different varieties and can be prepared with additional spices and ingredients to suit local tastes. Vitafood provides the optimal balance of vitamins, minerals, protein, fiber and carbohydrates that a child's hungry body needs. These meals are also important to the health and physical well-being of children and adults who are healthy but at risk of becoming malnourished.

What's more, because Vitafood meals are donated by respected faith-based organizations, Cross Catholic Outreach only needs to cover the cost to ship the meals to hungry families. For every dollar donated, 14 nutritious meals can be sent to a community in need.

"When you send Vitafood, a child's whole world can begin to change," Sagarino said. "She gets sick less often, she thrives in school,



Monica, who lives in a rural Malawian village, receives Vitafood. Cross Catholic Outreach and its U.S. benefactors play a critical role in making this and other feeding programs around the world possible by shipping millions of meals.

and she has the strength to pursue her dreams."

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach food programs and 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. AC06224, P.O. 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.

Unique Christmas Catalog Created To Honor Christ and the World's Poor

Many readers may remember, as children, browsing through catalogs and circling the presents they wanted for Christmas.

This Advent and Christmas season, Cross Catholic Outreach is offering a catalog too — but theirs is a very different one with a very different purpose. It is designed to bless both givers and receivers by using the holiday gift-giving tradition to help the world's poorest families.

Rather than displaying toys, neckties and jewelry, the Cross Catholic Outreach Christmas Catalog

offers food for hungry families, clean water and educational scholarships. It gives Catholics an opportunity to share the blessings in their lives with impoverished families by sponsoring practical and urgently needed items. Of course, it also offers blessings for children, like Box of Joy® gifts that provide toys, school supplies and rosaries to boys and girls who would otherwise receive nothing for Christmas.

"Like most Christmas catalogs, ours offers lots of items so donors can choose something specific that

resonates with them. In addition, they can make a general gift to address the poor's greatest needs," explained Michele Sagarino, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. "When donors choose to support urgent needs around the world, they provide us and our Catholic ministry partners the ability to help where it is needed most. The priests and religious sisters we support really appreciate that flexibility. It's an excellent way to empower their work among the poor."

This unique Christmas catalog is

easy to find. Readers can link to it at the ministry's website (CrossCatholic.org) or they can reach it directly by entering the following web address: CrossCatholic.org/Christmas. "Our hope is that everyone will be blessed by the experience," Sagarino said. "It's a fitting way for us to celebrate the birth of our merciful Lord!"

Scan this code to visit
Cross Catholic Outreach's
Christmas Catalog webpage.



Box of Joy is a registered trademark
of Cross Catholic Outreach.

Catholics in the Dominican Republic Fight Poverty and Hunger Among Haitian Immigrants

While Haiti's civil unrest has displaced 1.5 million people, Catholics in the neighboring Dominican Republic are answering God's call to serve Haitian communities.

In this mission, the Dominican Church is joined by Cross Catholic Outreach, which is seeking the help of U.S. donors to send hundreds of thousands of meals.

"Many people only know the Dominican Republic as a tourist destination," said Cross Catholic Outreach president Michele Sagarino. "What they are often completely unaware of is the heartbreaking rural poverty, especially in immigrant communities."

Cross Catholic Outreach is a Florida-based, Vatican-endorsed nonprofit whose board of directors includes three U.S. bishops and five archbishops. Its Dominican partners include, among others, the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana, the New Joy Foundation and the Hundredfold Foundation.

"Rather than impose our own programs from afar, we believe in empowering the local Church and local aid workers to serve their neighbors and communities in the way they know best," Sagarino said. "We're doing the Corporal Works of Mercy in a way that honors the Catholic principle of subsidiarity."

How this strategy plays out on the ground depends on the partner.

In the rural town of Villa Altagracia outside Santo Domingo, Cross Catholic Outreach's support enabled the Hundredfold Foundation to build new roofs for families living in deteriorating homes. One beneficiary, Adalena, told the ministry's director, Father Abraham Apolinario, that a number of local Haitian families desperately needed food.

Since then, Fr. Abraham has been distributing Vitafood meals to 10 Villa Altagracia households, including that of a Haitian woman named Juana.

Abandoned by her husband long ago, the elderly Juana lives with her sister, who has mental and physical disabilities, and one adult daughter.

Juana's face lights up as she sings the praises of her daughter, who sacrificed better job opportunities



Boxes of Vitafood from Cross Catholic Outreach are distributed to families in one of the Dominican Republic's impoverished batey communities. These prepackaged meals can be supplemented with meat and vegetables from local sources.

to stay in Villa Altagracia and take care of her mother and aunt. Juana says her daughter's income as a housekeeper is very little, but God gives them the strength to endure life's challenges. When the daughter isn't at work, she spends her free time doing what she enjoys — growing sweet potatoes, bananas, beans and yuca in the family's garden to further supplement their diet.

"It's such an inspiration to see the peace on the faces of these beautiful women, who have so little yet feel blessed beyond measure," Sagarino said.

Cross Catholic Outreach has also been responding to the needs in the bateyes, isolated and deeply impoverished settlements of Haitian migrant workers and their descendants.

Built to supply cheap labor to the sugar cane farms, the bateyes often lack basic amenities such as latrines, clean water and electricity.

"My heart aches for the precious

little boys and girls growing up in these harsh environments, with seemingly no hope of escaping the cycle of poverty," Sagarino said. "But then you see what our partners can accomplish when U.S. Catholics answer the call to love the marginalized as Christ loves them.

"You've got the Vitafood meals that relieve their hunger pangs. But that's just the start. We're bringing doctors and medicine into these communities. We're repairing homes damaged by a hurricane. We're

giving youth the chance to dream and achieve a better life beyond the bateyes."

Sagarino believes even more can be done if Catholics in the United States remain committed to the cause and generously support the Church's efforts.

"We have access right now to meals and medicine ready to bless lives in the Dominican Republic and other nations around the world," she said. "We just need donors' help to send them."

How To Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach's effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper, scan the QR code or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC06224, P.O. Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The brochure 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 needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.



'Boldly Chosen: Chosen to Be Bold' will be theme for Diocesan Youth Rally

DATE: November 22
TIME: 10am-4:15pm

By Jay Nies

You're not alone.

Not in the things you struggle with.

Not in your desire to follow the Lord.

Not in being Catholic.

That's something the organizers of this year's Diocesan Youth Rally (diojeffcity.org/diocesan-youth-rally) want every teen who attends to take home with them.

"If you come with friends, it will help you connect with them and forge deeper friendships," said Abby Emmett, a member of the Youth Rally organizing committee.

"But you'll also meet new people and see that our Church is a huge community, and we're all connected through faith," said Miss Emmett, a student at the Missouri University of Science & Technology and a member of St. Patrick Parish, both in Rolla.

The rally will be from 10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 22, at Helias Catholic High School, 1305 Swifts Highway in Jefferson City.

Catholic teens in seventh through 12th grade are encouraged to attend.

It will include two keynote presentations from nationally acclaimed Catholic speaker Meg Hunter-Kilmer, a concert with Catholic performers the Scally Brothers, peer testimonies, an unusual gameshow, Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, a chance to go to Confession, and Mass with

Bishop Ralph B. O'Donnell.

The \$10-per-person cost includes lunch.

"God encounters every single person very intentionally," said Connor Souders, a member of the group that's helping to organize the event.

"It's great to know that you're not alone in wanting to be active in your faith," said Mr. Souders, a Lake Ozark native and a senior studying computer science at the University of Missouri. "It's neat to go to something like this and get an idea of how many other people are in the same boat you're in."

The theme for the rally is "Boldly Chosen: Chosen to Be Bold."

"You're going to leave this event feeling like air," said Deklon Knipp, a member of the organizing committee.

"You're going to feel peace, and no matter what you've been juggling or struggling with, this is going to help you," said Mr. Knipp, a junior at Tipton High School and a member of St. Andrew Parish in Tipton.

"There's something for everybody," noted organizing committee member Nora Seedorf. "It's meant to be a faith journey, but it's also going to be a lot of fun."

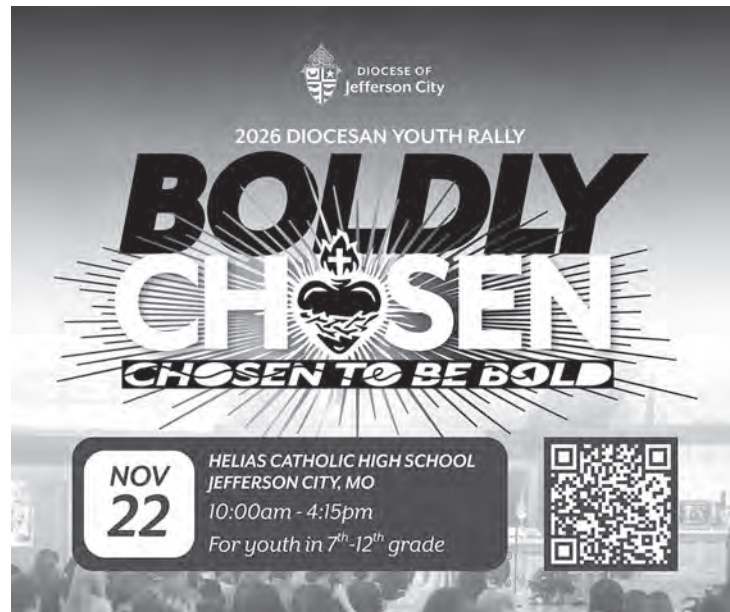
"It's designed to calm your mind and soul, to take you out of the busyness and craziness of the world so you can focus your whole heart and mind on Jesus," said Miss Seedorf, a member of Mary Immaculate Parish in Kirksville and a student at Kirksville High School.

Love and laughter

Keynote presenter Ms. Hunter-Kilmer is an author, speaker, and University of Notre Dame campus minister, who travels the world telling people about the fierce and tender love of God.

She has given keynote presentations at the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), the National Eucharistic Congress, and many other events.

"You're going to be loved here, and we're going to be telling you about how that love comes from God himself," said Ms. Hunter-Kilmer.



"We'll also make you laugh," she said. "You're going to have a good time, and the Lord is going to work with you. Step out in faith and trust in that."

She said people tend to believe a lot of lies about what gives them value.

"We're going to talk about how deeply, fiercely, tenderly God loves you, exactly as you are," she said. "There's nothing you can bring to this rally that disqualifies you or keeps God from seeing you in your fullness and delighting in you."

Ms. Hunter-Kilmer loves sharing stories about little-known saints.

"Their lives help reveal the diversity of ways we can follow the Lord," she said.

There are saints from every background and temperament who have endured every kind of setback.

And saints are still being made.

"God didn't mess up when he made you," Ms. Hunter-Kilmer asserted. "So, let's figure out what kind of saint you're being called to be!"

The Scally Brothers are a high-energy Christian pop duo from Toledo, Ohio, made up of brothers Jake and Zach Scally.

Their music connects deeply with listeners navigating real life — celebrating faith in the highs and holding onto it in the lows.

Blending modern pop production with powerful harmonies and electronic textures, The Scally Brothers create songs that speak to hope, per-

severance, and God's unshakable goodness.

Reasons to go

Ms. Hunter-Kilmer pointed out that God cannot be outdone in generosity.

"If you give him a day, he will give exceedingly back to you in ways you can't even imagine," she said.

Miss Emmett believes there's no better time to attend a Youth Rally.

This is a busy time of year, as if young people weren't always busy.

"This Youth Rally will be a chance to take a step back and look at where you are and see your life from a different perspective," she said.

Mr. Knipp believes the format will be familiar to people who have ever attended NCYC.

"There were a lot of fun things, but the Mass was the best part of that entire trip for me," he said.

He believes the fun and reverent fellowship at the Youth Rally will leave people wanting more.

"If you want true rest and to be truly at peace, then go to this rally," he said. "You're going to get what you probably don't even realize you need."

Miss Seedorf said spending an entire day with Jesus and friends old and new will be worth the time.

"When you go back home, you'll be mentally and spiritually rested," she said.

More importantly, it will be a springboard to a more active,

fulfilling faith life.

"Whenever you go to an event like this, you go home with all this peace and love for Jesus," said Miss Seedorf. "It's a really amazing feeling."

That "Jesus high" is supposed to start habits, not end them, she said.

"Your faith can always be deeper and holier," she stated. "As soon as your emotions settle down, it's about building habits, and consistency is key."

The goal of that fire and consistency is to stay actively rooted in Christ, continue growing in holiness, help invigorate their parishes and spread the joy to everyone they encounter.

"That's what's going to fuel your faith journey, if you're really participating and letting it soak in," she said.

Mr. Souders recalled how going to NCYC helped motivate him to get more active in his parish at home and to get involved in the Catholic Newman Center in college.

He's confident that this Youth Rally will have a similar effect on the people who go to it.

"Everything will work itself out if you're taking care of your relationship with the Lord," said he said.

In God's hands

As the Youth Rally approaches, Mr. Knipp asked for prayers for everyone who will attend and participate.

"Lord, please open their hearts, minds and souls to hear what you're guiding toward and what you're asking of them," he prayed.

Mr. Souders requested asking God to encounter very intentionally every person who attends the rally.

"I think a big part of this event is showing that young people wanting to practice their faith aren't alone," he said. "We should pray for God to help them realize that, and have that move their faith forward."

Miss Emmett recommended praying for all the good that comes from this rally to spill over into the participants' lives

See YOUTH RALLY, page 13



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Hispanic Charismatic Conference immerses local Catholics in life in the Holy Spirit

By Jay Nies

There is a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.

About 200 Catholics from all over the diocese found time for all of these things during this year's Hispanic Catholic Charismatic Conference, held Oct. 3 in Sedalia.

"It was two gatherings in one, to evangelize families at a single event," said Jose Palacios of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County.

The daylong conference brought people of all ages to Sacred Heart School to worship God with their whole being and to welcome the Holy Spirit more fully into every aspect of their existence.

The theme was "Called to Holiness" — referring to Jesus's instruction to "be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect," (Matthew 5:48).

There was heavy emphasis on opening oneself to the power of the Holy Spirit, which is a foundational aspect of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Thoroughly rooted in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and in worshipping Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Charismatic Renewal has a vigorous presence in parts of Central and Northeastern Missouri, especially in parishes with large Hispanic populations.

"In love with the Lord"

This was the first time the annual conference's organizers included a separate Youth Congress for ages 12 to 17.

Jose Almazán, a member of St. Peter Parish in Marshall, led the meditations and activities for the young people.

Altar servers from the Marshall parish, including Carlos Fuentes, Paola Pacheco, Xavi Pacheco, Alisson Contreras and Bryan Orozco and organized by Ilsi Benitez, led the singing for the youth.

Mr. Almazán believes drawing young people into the Charismatic Renewal is essential.

"It's about our life with Jesus Christ," he said. "And our best moment in life is when we give our life to him."

Turing to God in youth sets



LEFT: Members of La Misión San Pedro Music Ensemble from St. Peter Parish in Marshall lead the singing during the Hispanic Catholic Charismatic Conference on Oct. 3 in Sedalia. **RIGHT:** Participants at the Hispanic Catholic Charismatic Conference raise their hands in praise near the end of a Holy Hour of Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

— Photos by Jay Nies

people on an early path to holiness.

"If we learn to love him when we're young, we're going to make a lot fewer mistakes in life," Mr. Almazán asserted. "That's why I think it's so important for us to work with our youth."

He emphasized that the Church needs young people, and young people need the Church.

"We need for them to be in love with the Lord," he said.

The messages for the Youth Congress were similar to what the adults heard, but focused more through the lens of adolescent energy and preparing to make important life decisions.

"When you're young, you see things differently," Mr. Almazán noted. "Your reality is different from adults. You need to have things explained to you in a different way, so you can understand them and bring them to your reality."

He believes God made his presence abundantly known throughout the Youth Congress.

"You could especially see that when we had Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, with the young people kneeling in unity around Jesus," he said.

Some of the young people came forward to be nearer to Christ.

"You could tell, they knew he was here and just wanted to be closer to him," said Mr. Almazán.

The organizers' goal was for everybody to become more aware of God's presence in

their everyday lives and to celebrate that presence with their families and peers.

"Showing that they know Jesus through their lives at school, telling others about Jesus, letting them know that the Holy Spirit is real," Mr. Almazán elaborated.

Everyone is called to holiness, he noted, with the destination being heaven.

"¡Ven, Espíritu Santo!"

Both sides of the Charismatic Conference included powerful experiences of adoring Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

"This afternoon, present yourself to God!" Father Julio Padilla, a priest of the Diocese of Nashville, Tennessee, implored in Spanish. "Open your heart to his holiness and peace and let him forgive your sins and give you the strength to continue on your journey with him."

"We know that whatever we cannot do, he CAN do," the priest said.

Fr. Padilla and the people knelt and stretched out their hands to accept the grace, peace and love that was filling their hearts.

Some rejoiced out loud, filling the air with spontaneous prayers. Others simply wept.

"We adore you!" the priest called out to Christ. "You are with us in our sadness and joy."

La Misión San Pedro Music Ensemble from the Marshall parish led hymns and worship anthems for the adults, while Fr. Padilla repeatedly urged ev-



eryone to welcome God more deeply into their hearts.

"Receive him!" the priest called out in Spanish. "Receive his Son. Receive his grace to heal you. Receive his peace. Don't lose out on this opportunity to be transformed, to accept him into your heart."

All the while, the Holy Spirit, who knows "how to pray as we ought" (see Romans 8:26-27), went about expressing himself in new and ancient ways.

The priest pleaded with the Lord to come and fill his people with peace and joy, to free them to worship him in word, service and delighted acceptance.

"We rejoice in your presence, the light of your pres-

ence!" Fr. Padilla prayed to Jesus fully present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. "Please, unite yourself with our hearts!"

Deacon Pedro Almazán, who assists the pastor of the Marshall parish and St. Joseph Parish in Slater and works in Hispanic Ministry, carried the Most Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance through the assembly.

He stopped frequently to call a blessing upon families and individuals.

On their knees, each person spontaneously worshiped — some in languages and melodies of their ancestors, some in the language in which those before them confessed Christ

See CHARISMATIC, page 21



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Papal Audience

October 28, 2026

Brothers and sisters,

The Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, reflecting on the Church in the modern world, also addresses the topic of culture. In promoting culture in all its forms, the Church has always combined the proclamation of the Gospel with the establishment of schools, seeking to foster human and spiritual formation, encouraging believers to give an account of their faith (cf. 1 Peter 3:15-17) and preparing all peoples to receive the Gospel.

The authentic relationship between faith and culture is rooted in the Incarnation. Faith, therefore, enriches and brings to fulfillment every culture it encounters, and is itself called to become a culture that is shaped by Christ. In this way, *Gaudium et Spes* affirms the need to cultivate a fruitful integration of knowledge, expressed in a way of living the faith marked by a positive outlook on the world and history.

I extend a warm welcome to all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's audience, especially those from England, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Ghana, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Pakistan, the Philippines, Canada and the United States of America. In particular, I greet the members of the Youth Group from the Diocese of Samoa-Pago Pago on their pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. Upon each of you and your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you all!



Heaven Comes Down

By Anita Frey

I recently listened to a popular Christian song on the radio.

The lyrics were really good; however, one part made me stop and reflect on how thankful I am to be a Catholic Christian.

I understood everything the music artist was singing about in the lyrics and his questioning of things in this world; however, the lyrics that caught my attention were these:

"... Hey, I'm a child of God. It's dark down here, but I'm holding on. Hey, when is Heaven coming down? Oh-oh. Someone tell me how much longer now. ..."

Contemplating these words, I think I know what the music artist is wondering. He is ques-

tioning where God is in all this mess of the world we live in.

When will God help us? When is Heaven coming down?

I found myself full of emotion. I was happy and wanted to shout out, "I know exactly when Heaven is coming down!"

As Catholic Christians, we believe Heaven comes down at every celebration of the Mass.

Christ is the true Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, and as members of the Catholic Church, we know that Heaven descends to Earth, uniting Heaven and Earth spiritually during the celebration of every Mass.

See HEAVEN, page 22

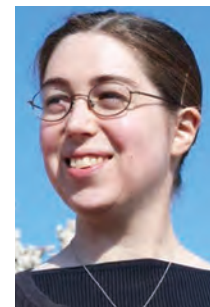
QUESTION CORNER

Appropriate to hold hands or lift hands up during Our Father?

By Jenna Marie Cooper

OSV News

Q: The priest of my parish says it's not appropriate to hold hands or lift your hands up during the Our Father at Mass. Is this true? And if so, why do so many people continue to do it?



A: While in my opinion holding hands during the Our Father at Mass is hardly the worst of liturgical abuses, your parish priest is correct. That is, holding hands or lifting up hands is not something that the Church actually envisions for the assembled lay faithful during the Mass.

As some important background, it's helpful to recall the nature of liturgical prayers, like the Mass, in the life of the Church.

Of course, prayer in general is a broad category that legitimately encompasses a variety of different practices. For example, all Christians are encouraged to engage in personal prayer where they privately talk to God in their own voice, and the Church welcomes the variety of popular devotional prayers that have sprung up as the result of popular piety over the ages.

However, liturgical prayer is special, because it is the official prayer of the Church herself. When we engage in liturgical prayer, we are specifically praying in the name of the Church. Or as the Vatican II document "*Sacrosanctum Concilium*" puts it: "Liturgical services are not private functions, but are celebrations of the Church, which is the 'sacrament of unity,' namely, the holy people united and ordered under their bishops."

Because of this "official" character, the Church generally spells out in detail how different liturgical functions are to be celebrated. With respect to the Mass, we have a document called the "General Instruction of the Roman Missal" (GIRM) as our guidebook.

The "General Instruction" does provide direction of the various bodily gestures that are to be made during the Mass. Most of these prescribed gestures do pertain to the celebrating clergy, but the "General Instruction" also in several places describes the physical gestures that the laity in the congregation make as well.

For example, GIRM 43 discusses at which points in the Mass the faithful are to kneel, and GIRM 160 tells us that: "When receiving Holy Communion, the communicant bows his or her head before the Sacrament as a gesture of reverence."

However, GIRM 81, the section which discusses praying the "Our Father" at Mass, tells us among other things that "The priest pronounces the invitation to the prayer, and all the faithful say the prayer with him." Yet at the same time, it makes no mention whatsoever of any gestures that the assembled lay faithful in the congregation should be making.

Going back to "*Sacrosanctum Concilium*," we read that, because the liturgy is not the private spiritual property of any individual person or local community, "Therefore no other person (i.e., besides the Holy Father in Rome), even if he be a priest, may add, remove, or change anything in the liturgy on his own authority."

So, in light of this, I don't think it would be appropriate for any parish priest or parish community to decide to add in a new gesture like hand-holding during a certain prayer at Mass.

As for the second part of your question, regarding why hand-holding during the "Our Father" became a fairly widespread practice in the first place, I did some research but I'm still honestly not sure! Some of my canon lawyer colleagues think it may have been a practice in some Protestant communities that neighboring Catholic parishes picked up.

As to why people continue to do this, I think a big part of it

See QUESTION, page 23

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Beneath our division lies a crisis of dehumanization

By Vicente Del Real
OSV News



In a previous column, I reflected on the loneliness epidemic and suggested that perhaps beneath our loneliness is a crisis of friendship. We have more ways to connect than ever before, yet many of us struggle to build relationships capable of carrying the weight of life.

But there may be another layer to our loneliness that we need to confront: our growing inability to remain in relationship with people who disappoint us, disagree with us or hurt us. The crisis of

division can also become a crisis of dehumanization. We live in a moment when it is remarkably easy to separate ourselves from one another.

Political differences divide families. Different perspectives end friendships. We organize ourselves into silos where most people think, vote and see the world as we do. Without realizing it, we can begin to treat disagreement as a question of dignity. But people do not lose their dignity because they think differently than we do. They do not lose their dignity because they make mistakes. They do not even lose their dignity when they sin.

This is one of the great challenges of Christianity: learning to see another person as God sees them. I often think about the parable of the prodigal son. We know

the younger son's story well. He leaves his father, wastes his inheritance and eventually returns home broken. And yet, when the son returns, the father runs toward him. He knows exactly what his son has done. Yet he refuses to make his son's failure his permanent identity. He embraces him, restores him and celebrates his return.

It is easy to miss, but we are called to become like that father. In the inability to love past our differences, many of us have become like the elder son. The elder son stayed home. He worked. He followed the rules. He could clearly identify everything his brother had done wrong. But when his brother came home, he could not rejoice.

There is something painfully human

about his reaction. When someone has hurt us, do we actually want that person to change? When someone admits, "I was wrong," can we allow that person to become more than their mistake? When someone we have judged begins to change, repent or return to God, can we rejoice? Or have we become so attached to their guilt that we no longer know what to do with their conversion? Our culture often encourages the latter.

Social media makes it possible for someone's worst moment to become their permanent identity. Our political divisions encourage us to categorize people quickly: good or bad, compassionate or hateful, with us or against us. Two thou-

See DEL REAL, page 23

Why OCIA is not a class: And why that matters for Catholic education

By Dr. R. Jared Staudt



What does it take to make someone a Catholic? The waters of Baptism bring new birth, yet when we look around, we find many baptized pagans in the world today. In response, it's easy to say that it'd be different if only they were better educated. In the late 1960s, catechesis collapsed by focusing more on subjective experiences than on doctrine. With the release of the new Catechism in 1992, a wave of more theologically sound textbooks was produced, yet the crisis of attrition continued apace. It's time to recognize that something else has been missing.

The sociologist Christian Smith offered a sobering assessment of the state of Catholic formation in his co-authored book, *Young Catholic America: Emerging Adults In, Out of, and Gone from the Church*: "We cannot report that Catholic schooling and youth group participation have robust effects on emerging adult faith and practice" (232). These words confirm the experience of the last half century: what we've been doing has not generally succeeded at handing on the faith. Smith, however, also discovered a pathway of formation that worked remarkably well in handing on the faith, with these three necessary factors listed in order of importance:

First, Catholic youth who have strong relational bonds with highly religious parents, other adults, and friends are more likely to maintain or increase their religious faith. ... Second, developing an internalized belief system involving a faith that is personally important ... helps teens to sustain religious faith. ... Finally, Catholic teenagers who live out their faith through certain religious practices, especially reading the Bible and frequently at-

tending Sunday school, are more likely to become highly religious emerging adults (178).

We could summarize this effective combination as emphasizing 1) forming personal relationships, 2) internalizing instruction, and 3) forming habits, especially of prayer.

What does this have to do with OCIA (the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults), the Church's process of forming converts? Smith's contemporary findings confirm the ancient wisdom of the Church, developed within her own distinct method of imparting the faith. In the ancient world, when prospective converts came to the Church to ask for Baptism, they were accompanied by a sponsor, someone who would mentor them through the process of formation. The period of formation would last as long as was necessary to ensure that change was actually taking root in converts' lives, often for multiple years. And before Baptism, the catechumens would face scrutiny to ensure that they had formed habits consistent with the Christian life. This rigorous formation was necessary to sustain the Christian life within a hostile culture that persecuted the Church.

When I hear the announcement, "OCIA class meets Wednesday night," I squirm in the pew, knowing that classroom experiences are not sufficient to make converts. This ancient process of formation, known as the Baptismal Catechumenate, and which provides the inspiration for OCIA, could not be reduced to a class, although it certainly included instruction. Whether it was Roman citizens or today's converts, can we reasonably expect someone to maintain the practice of the faith without learning how to pray, building community and living out what they are learning? Though learning the faith is an essential part of formation, it remains only one component. Learning the doctrine of the Incarnation must be

complemented by relating to Christ in prayer and daily actions that express communion with him.

OCIA is a process of formation that,

when followed properly, can truly lead to lasting transformation. It is essentially

See STAUDT, page 23

REFLECTION

Seeing and believing

By Mark Saucier

We were in Mexico, distributing free eyeglasses in poor Mayan villages in the state of Yucatan.

Vision care is a critical need for the indigenous people there, especially those who live in communities with little access to public health.

Of course, many of these couldn't afford glasses even if they were available.

While both the men and women experience a deterioration of vision as they age, this is especially hard on the women. They are the seamstresses, making and repairing clothes.

They do intricate, traditional embroidery, which they sell to supplement the meager family income. Difficult when you can't see the needle and thread.

We collect used eyeglasses and give them to those who are in need. No doubt, there are some who come through our lines who could buy themselves a pair of glasses, but it is easier to offer them to all, no questions asked.

There are some, especially young people, who really don't need any kind of vision enhancement, but think they will look more stylish in glasses. We'll give them a pair of low-power readers because a little self-esteem goes a long way in their hard world.

An older woman in an immaculate white Mayan dress came up to me. She had long, straggly gray hair bunched in the back. Her face was leathery and lined. She was missing two teeth.

She wore an old pair of black, horn-rimmed glasses and told me that she was having a hard time seeing through them, to the point that she could no longer sew.

It took a while, trying on glasses with increasing powers of correction.

We finally found a pair of bifocals that brightened her eyes when she looked off into the distance and made her smile when she examined the needlework on her dress.

She thanked me with tears welling up behind those new glasses. She shook my hand vigorously, then turned it over, opened it gently, and put her old pair of glasses in it.

"Take these," she said, "and give them to someone who needs them."

She didn't think of keeping them as a backup in case something happened to her new ones.

She didn't see them as old and worn, but as a gift that had seen her through. She wanted them to help someone else as they had helped her.

Last Sunday in church, I heard Jesus say, "The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

That's when I recalled that beautiful lady in Mexico.

Encounter

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Where you do not find love,
put it there



By Elizabeth Stratman
Administrative Executive Assistant



When my family attended the recent beatification of Blessed Fulton J. Sheen, we reminded

our daughters that the event wasn't for Sheen himself, but for us, the Church.

His life offers a lasting example of how Christ's love calls us to serve others, and it inspires me in my work at Catholic Charities.

Sheen pioneered Catholic media outreach.

Millions tuned in to his radio program, and later to his television show, "Life Is Worth Living," to hear him bring Christ's message into their homes and families.

He articulated Catholic teaching and engaged the modern Church in a way it had never seen before.

Sheen's dynamic evangelization caught the world's attention, but he wasn't merely a media personality.

His heart of service drew him out into the world, where he advocated for and encountered people in need.

Bishop Sheen had a deep

love for the missions.

From 1950-1966, he led the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the oldest Catholic missionary society under the pope's authority.

He regularly traveled, preaching missionary appeals and visiting the people his time, energy, and money supported.

He cared deeply about supporting and uplifting their dignity.

He spoke of his worldwide missionary support at the Second Vatican Council, attending all four sessions from 1962-1965 and serving on the Council's Commission on the Missions.

In 1951, he designed the World Mission Rosary, a way to engage the Church in praying for each of the mission territories around the world, which we prayed bilingually before the beatification Mass.

Each decade of the rosary is a different color, representing a different area of the world the Church serves.

Despite giving more than \$10 million in television earnings to the Church's missionary work, Sheen's witness reminds us that charity involves more than generosity from a distance.

It asks us to encounter others personally, with humility,



Clergy walked in procession at The Dome at America's Center in St. Louis during the Beatification of Fulton J. Sheen on September 24, 2026.
—Photo by Elizabeth Stratman

compassion and genuine care.

As Sheen once said, "Charity is to be measured, not by what one has given away, but by what one has left."

My daughter Gabbie's most powerful takeaway from the beatification was hearing about the encounter Sheen called his "Most Inspiring Moment."

On one of his many trips abroad, Sheen traveled to an African leper colony with 500 silver crucifixes, one for each person he would meet.

During his first encounter, he dropped the crucifix into a man's palm rather than placing it there gently.

Sheen recalled that at that moment one more leper had joined the camp, the most diseased of them all: himself.

He had taken the symbol of

Christ's redemptive love but refused to identify with what it implied and thus refused to identify with the humanity of the man before him.

"It is so easy to love humanity in general but so difficult sometimes to love a man," Sheen said in recalling the experience.

Recognizing his shame and embracing humility, he picked up the crucifix and pressed it between his hand and the leper's.

He continued in this way for the remaining 499 people he met.

Sheen's story challenges us to face our neighbors' suffering, turn away from fear, and love up close.

At Catholic Charities, one of the ways we strive to do just that is through our Charity and Mercy Grants.

Parishes throughout our diocese can apply for funding to support social ministry programs and acts of mercy that respond to local needs.

Charity and Mercy Grants empower parishes to respond to the specific needs of their

neighbors with compassion and dignity.

These parish-led efforts help meet immediate needs while honoring each person's dignity and offering hope for the future.

Pope Benedict XVI expressed this beautifully in his encyclical *Deus Caritas Est* (God Is Love), writing, "The Christian's programme...is 'a heart which sees'. This heart sees where love is needed and acts accordingly."

In one of his early radio addresses, Bishop Sheen said, "Charity is a habit, not an isolated act."

Through our work at Catholic Charities, we strive to help make service a lasting part of life throughout our diocese.

As we approach All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, may the holy men and women who modeled sacrificial love intercede for us.

May we learn to see those around us — in our workplaces, schools, and parishes — with the heart of Christ and recognize where our love is needed.

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Priests instruct the faithful on Amendment 3 through the lens of the Gospel

By Jay Nies

There are situations when public policy and the Church's mandate to give prophetic voice converge.

Such has been the case regarding Amendment 3, which if approved by a majority of Missouri voters on Nov. 3 would restrict most elective abortions out of existence while constitutionally banning gender transition procedures for minors.

In an Oct. 4 homily in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Columbia, Father Gregory Clever pointed out that following Jesus has been controversial for 2,000 years.

"He told us the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are hated and cursed and rejected by the world for his sake," Fr. Clever noted. "So, we should always expect there to be teaching in every generation that the world hates."

He said the official position of the U.S. government is that God exists and is the direct source of some of the nation's foundational rights.

"And when you're dealing with something that's such an affront to human dignity as abortion, we have a moral obligation to speak out," he said.

He called to mind St. Ambrose excommunicating Emperor Theodosius and refusing Holy Communion to him for the slaughter of thousands of innocent civilians.

"That was in 390 A.D.," the priest noted.

Civic responsibilities

Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, spoke of Amendment 3 in his homily on Oct. 4, which is observed in the Church as Respect Life Sunday.

It was also the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi.

Would St. Francis have voted for Amendment 3?

"Absolutely," said Msgr. Kurwicky. "Because he was a good Catholic and a good deacon. And a good Catholic is well informed on every single issue they're going to cast their sacred ballot for."

Catholics take their civic responsibilities very seriously.

"Elections have consequenc-



es, as one of our presidents famously pointed out," said Msgr. Kurwicky.

Amendment 3 deals with abortion, as well as gender transition procedures for minors.

The amendment would allow for a ban on elective abortions except for medical emergencies, as well as in situations of rape, incest, and fetal anomalies, and when the life of the mother is in danger.

It would also place in the state's Constitution a ban on puberty blocking drugs and gender transition surgeries for minors, with exceptions for medical conditions.

"The bishops of Missouri have requested us to seriously study and vote 'yes' on this amendment," Msgr. Kurwicky pointed out.

"What God loves most"

Father Joseph S. Corel, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia, preached on Oct. 4 about the innate dignity of all human beings.

"There is nothing loved more by God in all of his creation than you, me and every other person he created," said Fr. Corel. "So, it's the Church's passion to defend what God loves most, his children."

In the years right after the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 decisions decriminalizing abortion-on-demand in all 50 states, many in the Church focused on the life of the unborn child.

"That piece of the abortion issue absolutely needs to be taught," said Fr. Corel. "But as we learned and discerned more, it became clear that if we wanted to save the life of the child,

we need to focus on the health and wellbeing of the mother."

Doing so is not merely a

means toward an end. See HOMILIES, page 13

An image of the Divine Mercy and an Amendment 3 sign stand outside the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

— Photo by Jay Nies





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Bishop blesses Memorial Garden Columbarium and Shrine outside Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Columbia



LEFT: Our Lady of Lourdes Parish's new Memorial Garden Columbarium and Shrine is faced with pink granite that matches the stone inside nearby Our Lady of Lourdes Church. **TOP RIGHT:** Bishop Ralph B. O'Donnell prays prayers of blessing over the new Memorial Garden Columbarium and Shrine after Mass with fifth- through eighth-graders of Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School on Oct. 1. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Father Roberto Ike, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, joins Bishop O'Donnell in blessing the Columbarium and Shrine with holy water.

— Photos by Jay Nies

By Jay Nies

The holy water flowed down with torrents from heaven.

Bishop Ralph B. O'Donnell blessed Our Lady of Lourdes Parish's new Memorial Garden Columbarium and Shrine in Columbia in the middle of a cloudburst.

"You know, I'm glad it was raining," he said after getting back inside.

"Snow will collect on that columbarium, rain will fall on that columbarium, beautiful sunny spring days, warm, humid August days will all hit that stone where we lovingly place the remains of those who have gone before us," the bishop stated.

The Memorial Garden and Columbarium, an above-ground structure made up of secure niches for cremated re-

mains, occupies a prominent place between the rectory and Flanagan Hall, which was the parish's original church.

The pink granite-faced structure has space for urns containing the cremated remains of 1,042 parishioners — including single niches, double niches for married couples, and family niches.

The polished granite matches the stone around the sanctuary and the pillars inside Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

A Marian grotto adorns one end of the columbarium, with a statue of the Blessed Mother surrounded by stone slabs etched with prayers for seeking her intercession.

Bishop O'Donnell blessed the Shrine and Columbarium after celebrating Mass with fifth- through eighth-graders

of Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School on Oct. 1.

It was the Church's day to remember St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church, who often stated, "I will spend my heaven doing good upon earth."

Father Roberto Ike, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, joined the bishop at the altar and the columbarium.

Fr. Ike appointed a committee of parishioners in 2025 to oversee the construction and maintenance of the columbarium in response to continuing trends in Catholic burial customs.

An increasing number of people in recent years have chosen cremation instead of burial, highlighting the need for an appropriate, dignified place for their remains to be given back to God.

Construction began earlier this year next to an area that has served for years as a parish prayer garden.

A thick concrete foundation was set down before each section of the columbarium was lifted into place with a crane.

The granite and steel finish came next.

Landscaping followed, completing the Prayer Garden and



areas around the rectory and Columbarium/Shrine.

As people pay for their niches and the beautiful rosary-encircled bronze plaques in the columbarium, a portion of the proceeds will go into a special fund, with the proceeds providing for perpetual upkeep.

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"Rest and hope"

Bishop O'Donnell, Fr. Ike and a group of parishioners stood under a canopy outside the church for the prayers of blessing after Mass.

"Grant that this Memorial Garden, placed under the Sign of the Cross may, by the power of your blessing, be a place of rest and hope," the bishop prayed.

"May this place be a comfort to the living, a sign of their hope for unending life," he continued. "May prayers be offered here continually in supplication for those who sleep in

Christ and in constant praise of your mercy."

The bishop then led a procession of people with umbrellas to the columbarium.

"More saints"

One of the readings for the Mass that day recounted the words of Job after he endured massive suffering and encountered God's wisdom and consolation.

"I know that my Redeemer lives ... whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him, and from my flesh I shall see God."

St. Thérèse believed and internalized that message from her early youth.

"Even when her own mother died when she was very young, she asked the Blessed Mother to care for her," said Bishop O'Donnell in his homily. "And Mary did."

Thérèse went about doing little tasks intentionally with great love and faithfulness.

"When someone said something unkind, when someone did something that wasn't respectful, she would offer that

See COLUMBARIUM, page 27

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HOMILIES

From page 11

"The purpose of helping the mother is because she is one of God's favorite creations," Fr. Corel noted. "She is his daughter. She deserves love, support, kindness and the real help that she needs."

All the while, treating her with love and compassion offers a higher likelihood of saving the life of her pre-born child.

Missouri lawmakers enacted a nearly total ban on elective abortions that took effect in June 2024, after the Supreme Court overturned its 1973 decisions on abortion.

Many who opposed that policy worked to have an amendment passed to the state's Constitution in 2024, enshrining the right to abortion through all nine months of pregnancy.

Narrowly passed, that amendment swept away health and safety standards and inspections for abortion facilities; the ability to sue if a woman is harmed by an abortion or any other reproductive healthcare procedure; the requirement for parental consent for a minor to obtain an abortion, and other regulations.

"Can you name another profession where if something goes wrong during the work being done, there is no way to recover damages in a lawsuit from the person who did the wrong?" Fr. Corel asked.

"Ultimately, the Church does not want abortion to be legal because laws are set up to protect God's most precious creation: humans, including women and children," the priest stated.

The Church also believes and teaches protecting children outside the womb, including mi-

nors seeking abortions and minors seeking gender transition procedures.

Fr. Corel noted that while state law currently bans puberty blocking drugs and gender transition surgeries, those bans will cease to be in effect as of Aug. 27, 2027, if Amendment 3 does not pass.

He said children experiencing gender dysphoria "need guidance based on objective truth, love and compassion."

Fr. Corel made it clear that the Church transcends political parties and candidates.

"It is part of the authentic teaching of the Church that we work with whoever is in office to the extend possible, and at the same time, we challenge these same people to make just laws," he noted.

He said feedback from parishioners was mostly positive.

"Some feedback showed that some struggle with the Church's mandate from Christ to preach the prophetic message," he said.

They shared their concerns with him respectfully.

"God-given superpower"

"Because no human being belongs to me, none of us has the authority to grant life or to demand it," said Father Daniel Merz, pastor of St. John Henry Newman Parish in Columbia.

"We belong to God," he stated from the pulpit Oct. 18. "We have responsibility for one another."

Supporting mothers and fathers experiencing pregnancy in difficult situations is part of that responsibility, he stated. "That's the kind of support that we — as a community, a gov-

All within the Church who are in need of mercy and healing for past wounds or sins are invited and encouraged to seek God's forgiveness and restoration through the Sacrament of Reconciliation with their pastor or any priest. God desires healing, mercy, and new life for all.

ernment, a Church — should be striving to offer women who find themselves with an unplanned pregnancy," said Fr. Merz.

He noted that the discussion becomes more difficult "when you have lots of reasons not to be pregnant now and get pregnant."

"But that's precisely the importance of family, community and Church: to remind us that we're not alone, that we don't have to do this alone," he said.

"There is help. We want to help," he stated.

Fr. Merz lauded women for their "God-given superpower" — the ability to nurture life.

"We need to prayerfully support every woman in remembering how she is beloved by the Father and beloved by his Church, and to encourage and support her to love and nurture, with her superpower, the gift of life within her," he said.

"Love does no evil"

"The scourge of abortion and the lasting harm done to women and children is unimaginable," Father Christopher Hoffmann preached on Sept. 6. "We have the opportunity to love, to 'do what is best for the other,' for years to come by supporting Amendment 3."

Fr. Hoffmann is pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City and St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek.

He pointed to a verse from the Letter to the Romans: "Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law," (13:10).

The Church teaches that love anticipates the purpose of government to secure the best interests of the citizenry.

Fr. Hoffmann said the slim approval of an abortion-friendly amendment to the State Constitution two years ago "did not secure the best interest of the citizens."

"That amendment meant that abortion was constitutionally protected in Missouri," he said. "But this November, we will be able to call out evil

— specifically laws that ignore the sanctity of human life, the health of mothers and children, and the dignity of the family," he said.

The goal is to make abortion not only illegal but unthinkable.

"We must first pray," said Fr. Hoffmann. "We need to continue to pray for all those who have suffered in any way from abortion — women, children and men."

"We need to pray that they be healed, made whole and know God's loving and merciful forgiveness," he said.

The priest encouraged everyone to educate themselves about Amendment 3 and the protections it will bring to pregnant women, children's healthcare and the overall dignity of every person in Missouri.

Bearing witness

Father Dylan Schrader, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia and St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Folk, preached on a September Sunday about how a narrow majority of Missouri voters in 2024 undid decades of pro-life legislation.

"I talked about how we have a chance to pass a new amendment to restore some of the restrictions on abortion, such as safety requirements and parental consent for minors, and some other things the amendment would do," he stated.

He spoke also of local charities that support women and families.

"I talked about our duty to bear witness to the truth and not simply go along with whatever is happening in our society, but that we have to bring the Gospel to influence the world around us," he said.

Parishioner reactions were positive. The Folk and Westphalia parishes gave away about 50 yard signs in favor of Amendment 3.

"Full stop"

Father Gregory J. Clever, associate pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia, was startled to receive a rousing

"Amen" and a standing ovation Oct. 4 after preaching on Amendment 3.

"You never want to preach for handclaps," he later stated. "What you do want is to preach to change hearts. Hopefully, what I said struck hearts well and made an impact."

Fr. Clever said being pro-life has been one of the distinctive aspects of Christianity since its earliest days.

"From the beginning, one of the things that made us different from the rest of the world is that non-Christians would kill their babies through exposure if they didn't want them," he said.

Non-Christian Romans went on record wondering why Christians wanted to save babies that were deemed not worth saving.

Fr. Clever pointed to the *Didache*, one of the oldest non-Biblical texts in existence. It codifies rituals and practices for Christians to put the teachings of Christ into everyday practice.

"*Didache* 2:2 explicitly states, 'Do not kill children through abortion nor leave them to die,'" Fr. Clever noted.

"Murder of the innocent is not part of being a Christian," he asserted. "Any Christian, as a distinctive hallmark of being Christian, needs to be against abortion. Full stop."

Taking a human life because she or he is inconvenient is not morally acceptable.

"I know it can be difficult to bring a baby into the world," said Fr. Clever. "We're here to help you with that."

With responsibility comes accountability.

"In the end, we all make decisions, and we have to stand before God for them," he said.

Fr. Clever later revealed that he prayed for about three weeks before preaching his message, "because it's one of the most important homilies I've ever given."

"It also came directly from the heart," he said. "I think that makes a difference."

He offered some advice to anyone else hoping to sway hearts regarding Amendment 3 and the rights of the unborn:

"Do it with love. You're not trying to win an argument. You're trying to win a heart."

YOUTH RALLY

From page 6

and the decisions they make.

"Basically, being able to surrender everything — the big things and the smallest of things — to God," she explained.

She acknowledged that the culture conditions young people to hide their weakness and vulnerability.

"As humans, we have so many weaknesses, and the world views our weakness as a bad thing," she noted.

"But what does Christ tell us?" she asked. "In his moment of greatest weakness, he died on the cross, and through that weakness, his power was made perfect."

"It's how we unite our weaknesses, our sufferings, our struggles with him that his power continues to be made perfect," she stated.

"Our goal is heaven," Miss Seedorf noted. "The more people chase after Jesus, the more they'll find him. We want to provide that 'little bit of Jesus' in order for everyone to want more."



Members of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark learn to write icons from professional iconographer Beverly Layton from Oklahoma. — Photos by Jay Nies

ICONS

From page 1

from Oklahoma, who led the women through each intricate step of writing icons.

“In life, what you see points to a vanishing point, with everything getting smaller

and smaller as you reach that point,” she noted. “But with an icon, everything points to the

viewer, and you become part of it.”

Mrs. Hankins and her husband, Deacon James Hankins, are longtime friends of Mrs. Layton and her husband, Deacon Anthony Layton, and of assistant instructor Teresa Cara and her husband, Deacon Wuse Cara, from their days together in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Mrs. Hankins invited Mrs. Layton to lead a five-day icon-making workshop in the Our Lady of the Lake Parish Hall.

Fifteen women from the Lake Ozark parish set aside the time to join Mrs. Hankins and Mrs. Cara in prayerfully writing images of the Blessed Mother under her title Our Lady of Tenderness.

“It truly was a blessings-filled week, with fellowship, prayer, learning and inspiration,” one of the women stated. “Friendships were formed, gifts were shared and each woman brought her own faith, creativity and heart to this special experience.”

Art and intercession

Icons are an ancient form of sacred Christian art that draws upon an extensive lexicon of religious symbolism to depict Christ, Mary and the saints with haunting clarity and simplicity.

Iconography in the Roman Catholic tradition gradually yielded to other forms of art in the centuries after the Great Schism of 1054 A.D.

Mrs. Layton, who has led iconography workshops all over the country in the past 26 years, sees Catholic icon revival on the horizon.

“There’s kind of a movement to bringing icons back into the Catholic experience,” she said.

The theology of iconography is rooted in the Incarnation: the core Gospel truth that Christ, the Son of God, became fully human while remaining fully divine.

For centuries in the Church in the West and up to this day in Eastern Orthodox Church-

See WINDOWS, page 15



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WINDOWS

From page 14

es, the faithful have recognized the work of the iconographer's brush as a true but imperfect reflection of God's own glory, echoing St. Paul's words of encouragement to the Christians in Corinth: "At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then (we shall see) face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known," (1 Corinthians 13:12).

As such, creating an icon is deeply prayerful, allowing the Holy Spirit to turn what otherwise would be simply a religious picture into a two-way window to heaven.

"There's an intense amount of prayer that goes into creating an icon," said Mrs. Layton. "What we have here is really a spiritual experience as well as an art class."

In this case, the women began each day by praying a special iconographer's prayer together. They also prayed the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet together at least once each day.

Recordings of Gregorian Chant played gently in the background throughout the week.

"And each person has intentions that they pray for while

they're working on the icon," said Mrs. Layton. "Everybody has somebody they're praying for during the icon class."

Once completed, an icon is blessed by a priest or deacon and is thereafter handled with respect and honor.

"You pray with them, not to them," Mrs. Layton emphasized. "You pray with them and with the saints they depict."

One of the women who signed up for the workshop in Lake Ozark could not attend, due to a family emergency.

"We've all been praying for her, and we're doing her icon for her," said Mrs. Layton.

Out of darkness

An iconographer starts with a blank piece of wood, works up a charcoal outline and starts building up layers of color, beginning with the darkest.

"And then, layer after layer, lighter and lighter and lighter," said Mrs. Layton.

The brighter shades come from mixing more water — in this case, holy water — into the paint on the palette.

"And so, you bring the darkness into light," she stated.

The final layer is known as the "divine lights" — the little touches of light on facial fea-

tures that increase depth and clarity.

Throughout the process, a relationship inevitably unfolds between the iconographer and the saint depicted in the icon.

"The further along the face comes toward reality, the saint starts helping me, because we have a connection now," said Mrs. Layton. "Especially when their face is done and they have eyes that you helped form, they start to help you."

She said women mostly sign up for the workshops she leads, although some men occasionally take part.

The Laytons and Hankinses became close friends while the husbands were in formation to become deacons for the Oklahoma City archdiocese.

The Hankinses later moved to the Lake of the Ozarks and joined Our Lady of the Lake Parish, where Deacon Hankins assists the pastor.

Mrs. Layton has written icons of many sizes for private homes, schools and churches, including large icons for her own parish, Holy Family in Lawton, Oklahoma, and the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine in Oklahoma City.

The latter required her to work from photos and descriptions of the martyred missionary to Guatemala, who died in 1981.

She collaborated with the archbishop and a deacon of the Oklahoma City archdiocese to determine the right kind of image and colors.



— Photos by Jay Nies

"You basically have to immerse yourself in his relationship with God and see the world through his eyes," she stated.

Our Lady of Tenderness was

See TENDERNESS, page 16

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TENDERNESS

From page 15

the first icon she wrote 26 years ago.

"I fell in love with that image," she said. "How can you not when you're painting the face of the Mother of God? Especially when she's looking with such care toward her Son?"

Mary's face is shown with the infant Jesus's face pressed close to hers.

"That's such a tender moment," said Mrs. Layton. "That's why she's called Our Lady of Tenderness."

Mrs. Layton explained to her pupils about setting aside a sacred space in their homes to display their icons, where they can go in silence and pray without distraction.

She said she readily recognizes how her own artwork pales in comparison to God's.

"It's like a sunset," she said. "There's no artist who can do a sunset like God can."

It is written

Catholic iconography follows a clear, established language.

"We all develop our own technique and put it out there," Mrs. Layton noted. "But the icons themselves have a certain pattern for you to follow."

Catholic icons of saints generally have their names written beside them.

Icons depicting Jesus contain the letters "O W N," which in Greek stands for "I Am."

Icons depicting the Blessed Mother are embellished with the letters "MP OV," a Greek abbreviation for "Mother of God."

Mary is also depicted with



Budding iconographers from Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark join their instructor, Beverly Layton, and assistant instructor Teresa Cara, for a group photo during a five-day icon-writing workshop in Lake Ozark.

— Photos by Jay Nies

three stars, referring to her perpetual virginity before, during and after the birth of Christ.

Red points to martyrdom. White points to purity. Gold points to heaven.

Saints who are martyrs are often depicted with an indication of how they died, such as St. Lawrence, who was sentenced to death by burning, holding a hot gridiron.

"That's why we say we're writing icons," said Mrs. Layton. "We're telling a story, and you learn to read them."

Unbroken circle

Lake Ozark parishioner Patty McNally had dabbled in artwork decades ago, using pen and ink, pencil and charcoal.



Having a brush in her hand did not come naturally. Neither did letting go.

"The perfectionist in 'Picky Patty' had an epiphany part-way through the week when I

realized I was missing out on part of this holy adventure due to my intense concentration, trying to do each layer of color and brush stroke just right," she said.

The journey was much more meaningful for her from that time forward.

Parishioner Alice Hand, who was sporting an artist's-style beret, got to see an abundance of icons during a trip to Greece last year.

"But I'm not an artist," she said. "I can't even draw a circle."

She told everyone at the beginning that "you girls are going to witness a miracle here" if she successfully writes an icon.

"It's been such a wonderful adventure," she said, looking around at the other women

and down at her impressively progressing icon.

Parishioner Gayle Pleus spoke of the latitude within the rules of iconography that allow each icon to be written uniquely.

"We all put our little touches on the color or the drawing," she said. "You have to follow the rules, but within the rules, you can give a little bit of yourself to the Blessed Mother and to Jesus."

Mrs. Hankins likened the subtle differences among each icon to newborn babies in a nursery.

"To an outsider, they all look kind of alike," she said. "But to you, it's like, 'But this one's mine!'"

Another parishioner said the experience of writing icons could help her become a better parent.

"It's overwhelming, but it's doable," she said. "And it's very forgiving. It's great practice in patience for me."

A gift for Jesus

"This has been way more spiritual than I ever dreamed," one of the women stated. "When we go home, we'll take with us a blessed piece of artwork and incredible memories of this group."

Patty couldn't hold the tears back when Monsignor Gregory L. Higley, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, blessed the finished icons and when her fellow iconographers then venerated each other's blessed artwork.

"There were so many spiritual surprises this week — prayer, music and magical moments with my sweet Catholic sisters," she stated. "I cherish the memories and will hold them in my heart forever."

Mrs. Layton believes that being able to write icons and teach others to do so is a gift from God that she is called to share.

She said someday, she hopes to meet Jesus at the Gates of Heaven and present to him some of her best work.

"I want to say, 'Jesus, this is what I thought you looked like the whole time,'" she said. "This is how I depicted you with my own hand and my own eyes."

An Iconographer's Prayer

This is the prayer iconographer Beverly Layton and her students prayed at the beginning of each day of their work of writing icons during a five-day workshop in Lake Ozark:

O, Divine Lord of all that exists,
thou hast illuminated the apostle and
evangelist Luke with thy Holy Spirit,
thereby enabling him to represent
the most Holy Mother,
the one who held thee in her arms and said:
"The grace of him who was born of me
is spread through the world."
Enlighten and direct my soul,
my heart and my spirit.
Guide the hands of thine unworthy servant,
so that I may worthily and perfectly portray

thine icon, that of thy Mother and all the saints,
for the glory, joy and adornment
of thy Holy Church.
Forgive my sins and the sins of those who will
venerate these icons, and who praying devoutly
before them give homage
to those they represent.
Protect them from all evil and instruct them
with good counsel.
This I ask through Christ Our Lord, by the
intercessions of thy most Holy Mother, the
Apostle Luke and all the saints. Amen.

‘Put us to work’: How 6 young men with Down syndrome served Pope Leo in Paris

Instead of asking for a photo, six young men with Down syndrome asked Pope Leo XIV for a job — and brought years of parish experience to Place de la Concorde

By Alyssa Murphy
National Catholic Register

As hundreds of thousands of voices fell silent across Place de la Concorde in Paris on Sept. 26 for the start of Mass with Pope Leo XIV, 22-year-old Maxime took his place near the altar, completely in his element.

To anyone watching, he was simply a confident altar server handling his duties, but to those who know him best, he is the self-proclaimed “altar boy manager,” a title he takes to heart.

Maxime was one of six young men with Down syndrome who served alongside Pope Leo during his apostolic trip to France, together bringing years of local parish experience to the grandest stage of their lives.

Connected through the Jérôme Lejeune Foundation, Maxime, Théophile, 11;



Altar servers with Down syndrome graced the sanctuary on Sept. 26, with Pope Leo during Mass at Place de la Concorde in Paris during his apostolic journey to France.

— Photo courtesy of the Jérôme Lejeune Foundation

François, 28; Foucauld, Timothée and Jérôme didn’t ask for a special audience or a photo op with the Pontiff. They asked to do what they already knew how to do: put on their albs and work the altar.

‘In my parish, I’m the altar boy manager’

Serving before a sea of cameras, television crews and hundreds of clergy may seem daunting for most, but not for this crew. It was a natural extension from years of weekly (sometimes daily) dedication to the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

In his parish of Saint-Marc in Bécon-les-Bruyères, Maxime serves as both a thurifer and a mentor, even training fellow group member Foucauld.

“I’ve been an altar boy since my first Communion 14 years ago,” Maxime proudly declared during an interview with *Aleteia Français*. “In my parish, I’m the altar boy manager!”

His father, Xavier, remembers the exact moment he realized his son was called to the altar all those years ago: “Fourteen years ago, at the end of Mass, our priest told us my son was ready for his first Communion. He noticed the look in his eyes during the Eucharistic Prayer. He sensed that he had understood everything.”

For Xavier, young people with Down syndrome bring “a lot of joy to families” through their heightened spiritual openness.

Meanwhile, 28-year-old François serves Mass daily at Saint-Augustin in Paris. Trained in self-advocacy through the foundation, he

speaks out confidently about what matters most. In his daily prayers, he intentionally includes “all the family, all the friends, all disabled people, including those in wheelchairs and the deaf and mute. It’s very important,” he insists.

Reflecting on his life, François’ testimony sheds light on an unmistakable truth in an era where some countries applaud euthanasia or the eradication of Down syndrome: “We are disabled, but we must be proud, happy to be alive.”

‘I shook hands with the pope!’

The path that brought the six servers to the Place de la Concorde began with a delightfully direct piece of diplomacy led by their youngest member.

During an audience at the Vatican in June, 11-year-old Théophile approached Pope Leo directly to hand him a letter signed by all six, asking to be put to work as altar servers alongside the Holy Father for an upcoming Mass in France. The Pope accepted, leaving an indelible mark on the group.

“I shook hands with the Pope, just like Emmanuel Macron! And I told him that I pray for him,” Maxime recounted with radiant joy when remembering that Vatican encounter.

Three months later, the young men stood alongside 400 fellow altar servers, bring-

ing a quiet witness to the massive celebration. François admitted beforehand to feeling a little stressed, but viewed the opportunity to be close to the Pope as a *rayon de soleil* — “a ray of sunshine.”

‘They do not look for excuses not to pray’

For Violaine, Théophile’s mother, the joy and dedication shown by the group reflect a distinct spiritual gift.

“People with Down syndrome have great empathy for others,” she testified. “Our children open us up to relationships, to a sensitivity, that we ‘normal’ people don’t necessarily have.”

While she playfully noted that “they are a little stubborn,” she views that persistence as a genuine spiritual asset: “It makes them very assiduous in prayer. They edify us in their faithfulness to God and in their ability to live in the present moment. They do not look for excuses not to pray; they will never claim to have too much work or to be too tired to pray.”

The ‘irreplaceable person’

During his homily, Pope Leo offered an insight that resonated deeply with the presence of the six young men at the altar, warning against reducing human worth to what can be measured or counted: “None of us is merely a number or an entry in a register, but a unique and irreplaceable person.”

While Théophile, François, Maxime, Foucauld, Timothée and Jérôme did not need to prove their value through their duties, their presence stood as a living example of dignity in action — a reminder that belonging to a community means not only making room for everyone, but recognizing their talents, trusting their abilities, and giving them a place, including at the altar.

Alyssa Murphy is Managing Editor of Digital Assets for the National Catholic Register (ncregister.com). This report was originally published Oct. 1 and is republished here with permission.



All six young men were so excited to take part in the papal trip in Paris. The day was marked by gratitude and grace.

— Courtesy photo, Jérôme Lejeune Foundation

MOTHER

From page 1

ectopic pregnancy.”

She took a pregnancy test, and it came back positive.

She and her husband were “both happy but a little surprised.”

“Our youngest was still pretty little!” she noted. “But that’s how it happens sometimes. So, here we were, happy to be welcoming another baby into the family.”

At first, the couple only spoke to God about the news.

“We told him, ‘Thank you!’” Mrs. Schulte recalled. “We always start praying right away when we find out we’re pregnant. We were very excited.”

Mindful of possible complications early in pregnancy, they also asked the baby’s Guardian Angel to look out for her or him.

They soon shared the news with their other children: “Mommy has a baby in her

belly again.”

“Moderate pain”

Before long, Mrs. Schulte started noticing symptoms often associated with miscarriage.

She turned again in prayer to God, mindful that some of her friends had had similar situations during pregnancy and given birth to strong, healthy babies.

She got in touch with her healthcare team, who had guided her through the delivery of her other children.

This was before passage of a constitutional amendment wiped away years of regulations and safeguards on abortion in this state.

“We were still under what everyone would consider an (elective) abortion ban following the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*,” Mrs. Schulte noted.



Destiny Rehagen Schulte, her husband, Clinton, and three of their children await the birth of their little brother in this family photo from earlier this year.

Her obstetrician at what was then known as Capital Region Medical Center in Jefferson City took blood samples to check for the proper levels of human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG), a hormone essential to healthy pregnancy.

“The level needed to be doubling every so often,” Mrs. Schulte noted. “So, that’s what they were looking for.”

The first two tests were promising, even as she continued experiencing some symptoms of miscarriage.

The doctor prescribed medication to help raise Mrs. Schulte’s progesterone level.

“If your progesterone is low, as is often the case in nursing mothers, the baby can’t implant properly in the uterus,” Mrs. Schulte noted.

She went back a couple of weeks later for more labs and found that her hCG levels weren’t rising at an acceptable rate.

“My doctor was getting concerned,” she said. “And my symptoms were getting worse.”

She mentioned the symptoms to her mother, who won-

dered out loud if they could be symptoms of an ectopic pregnancy.

That serious condition happens early in pregnancy, when the tiny pre-born baby implants outside the mother’s uterus, often in one of her fallopian tubes.

“I told her that’s very uncommon and probably not the case here,” Mrs. Schulte recalled. “I wasn’t on the floor, writhing in pain, unable to walk. It was moderate pain.”

Her doctor continued doing bloodwork and determined that the baby had grown large enough to be seen on an ultrasound.

“So, she scheduled an ultrasound,” said Mrs. Schulte.

“No hesitation”

The day before her appointment, the pregnant mother was doubled over in pain.

“I had never had a miscarriage before, so I thought maybe this was just part of what happens if you do,” she said.

She endured a restless night, then went for her ultrasound.

“Pretty much as soon as the imaging technician looked at

the image, she called the on-call ob/gyn,” Mrs. Schulte recalled.

The on-call doctor told her, “You have an ectopic pregnancy. Your right fallopian tube is ruptured, you’re bleeding internally, and you have to have emergency surgery today.”

Mrs. Schulte was shocked to learn that hers and her baby’s lives were both in danger.

“The nurses and pre-surgery team were as compassionate as could be and explained the whole thing to us,” she said.

They told her and Mr. Schulte: “There is nothing we can do to save the baby. If you die, then you and the baby will both die.”

There was no stopping to check the laws, no conferring with an attorney or hospital administration.

“There was absolutely no hesitation,” said Mrs. Schulte. “Nobody said anything about the laws for abortion or anything like that. It was, ‘This is what’s going on, and this is what we need to do to save you, and this is what we’re going to do.’”

The hospital staff were resolute but very compassionate and understanding that the Schultes were losing their baby.

Mrs. Schulte kept praying, “Please don’t take the mother of my children from them.”

“I wasn’t worried about myself,” she noted. “I didn’t want my kids to grow up without a Mom.”

“In his love and mercy”

Mrs. Schulte asked if the baby could be surgically removed from the fallopian tube and implanted in the uterus.

Her doctor told her that would not be possible.

“Especially once you have a rupture, things are dissolving rapidly,” the doctor said.

The baby’s grandmother asked for an on-call priest to be summoned.

“He came right away,” said Mrs. Schulte.

The priest administered the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, imposing hands on Mrs. Schulte’s head and praying silently over her.

He then anointed her hands and spoke: “Through this holy anointing, may the Lord in his

See BABY, page 19

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BABY

From page 18

love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up."

At that time, the hospital had a program for mothers going through miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy, where the baby's remains would be retained and buried with a proper ceremony at a nearby cemetery.

"I was very thankful for that," said Mrs. Schulte. "It took a huge weight off of me and my husband in that moment."

Her mother told their other children, "Mommy is going to the doctor and getting a surgery, and we're going to say some prayers for her."

"In heaven with God"

The anesthesia was administered, and Mrs. Schulte drifted from anxiety to deep sleep.

She asked God and her Guardian Angel to protect her, and her baby's Guardian Angel to take him or her safely back to God.

The couple chose a gender-neutral name for the baby: Gale Beretta Molla, in honor of St. Gianna Beretta.

Mrs. Schulte came home from the hospital with a stack of paperwork and resources for grieving the death of a baby before birth.

The papers were adorned with flowers and beautiful writing.

"I remember my oldest saying, 'Mom, what's all this pretty paper for?' she said. 'She was the only one old enough to understand that one of our babies is now in heaven with God.'"

The Schultes still grieve over the death of their baby.

"Losing a baby at any point, I think you grieve for a lifetime," said Mrs. Schulte. "Sometimes, out of nowhere, we think back on it. It hits hard out of the blue like these things do."

She conceived their fifth child shortly after their fourth child died.

Font of Mercy

All within the Church who are in need of mercy and healing for past wounds or sins are invited and encouraged to seek God's forgiveness and restoration through the Sacrament of Reconciliation with their pastor or any priest. God desires healing, mercy, and new life for all.

What Amendment 3 actually says about protecting mothers

Abortion is allowed in a medical emergency

6 2. An abortion may be performed or induced upon a woman in cases of medical
7 emergency, fetal anomaly, rape, or incest. In the case of abortions performed or induced
8 in cases of rape or incest, the abortion may be performed or induced no later than
9 twelve weeks gestational age of the unborn child.

Emergency, miscarriage and ectopic care are guaranteed

39 8. A woman's ability to access health care in cases of miscarriages, ectopic
40 pregnancies, and other medical emergencies shall not be infringed by the state.

How A3 defines "medical emergency"

71 (5) "Medical emergency", a condition that, based on reasonable medical
72 judgment, so complicates the medical condition of a pregnant woman as to necessitate
73 the immediate termination of her pregnancy to avert the death of the pregnant woman
74 or for which a delay will create a serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical
75 impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman. A medical emergency
76 shall include, but not be limited to, an ectopic pregnancy at any point following the
77 diagnosis of such and treatment for a miscarriage;

Official text: HJR 73 (Truly Agreed and Finally Passed), Missouri House
documents.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills251/hjr/bills/pdf/2454H.05T.pdf

Read it yourself. VOTE YES ON AMENDMENT 3 · NOVEMBER 3

"Luckily, that's taken up a lot of our time!" said Mrs. Schulte. "He and our other children keep us nice and focused."

The mother mentioned a few things people generally can do better to help couples who are grieving the loss of a baby before or shortly after birth.

"Lots of prayer!" she emphasized. "Prayer goes a long way."

People's default response tends to be pretending that nothing happened, "because it's an uncomfortable subject."

"I think if we made it more normal to talk about this kind of loss, it would be a great help for a lot of people," she said. "I think people would become more comfortable with grieving the loss of a baby."

She called to mind a simple word of kindness from her brother, who had experienced miscarriage with his wife earlier that year.

"He said, 'I'm so sorry that this happened to you,'" she recalled. "That meant the world to me."

"Common sense"

Mrs. Schulte will vote yes on Amendment 3, and she and her husband are praying a No-

vena for Life for its passage.

She hopes people will listen and learn from their experience.

"I'm a real person, I have a real story, and this all happened under Missouri's 'restrictive' abortion laws," she said. "No one hesitated to treat my condition. Not even for a second."

"When you see an ad saying

women are going to be denied lifesaving healthcare because of an abortion law, it's completely inaccurate and untrue," she said.

She's seen the bombastic headlines that say otherwise.

"If you look into it, in almost all of those cases, those women were victims of medical malpractice, not a state's abortion law," she said.

She pointed to the verbiage presented in Amendment 3: "A woman's ability to access health care in cases of miscarriage, ectopic pregnancies and other emergencies shall not be infringed by the state."

She believes that those words are honest and true.

"No doctor will ever willingly let a woman die," she said. "It seems silly to have to say this. It's common sense. But people have been lied to for so long, they think doctors will let women die if an abortion restriction is put into place."

She added that Amendment 3 would restore legal liability to medical professionals who commit malpractice while administering reproductive healthcare.

"It would hold them more

accountable than the current situation does," she noted.

"When they insult you"

Mrs. Schulte almost never posts on social media, but she and her husband agreed that she needed to take a stand.

"We were sickened by the ads we were seeing," she said. "We shared the truth, and now we're counting on God to protect us."

Numerous people have commented — many thanking her for her witness, some telling her she's wrong.

"I can't even believe some of the rude and nasty things people say about someone losing a baby in any context," she said.

"I just want people to know the truth," she stated. "Those ads they're putting out there do pull on your heartstrings. Who would vote for something if it meant doctors are going to let women die because they're pregnant?"

"But that's not the truth of the matter," she said. "So, when anyone spews hatred or vitriol at us, we just pray for them and hope they will one day reassess and change their minds."

Bishop's prayer for Amendment 3



Ever-living God, you give life and desire a future for all your children. Take hold of our nation, state, and community and awaken in every heart awe for the gift of life. Send your Spirit to strengthen us with wisdom and fortitude as we defend mothers and children in Missouri from laws that disregard their health and safety.

Mary and Joseph trusted in you and welcomed Jesus into our broken world. God Almighty, we ask their intercession to protect the preborn and their mothers, and to guide all parents in raising their children. May they help us build a civilization of love by upholding the sacredness of life and accompanying pregnant women in need.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady, Mother of the Family, pray for us!

St. Joseph, protector of the unborn, pray for us!



Paid for by the Diocese of Jefferson City,
Bishop Ralph B. O'Donnell,
2207 West Main Street Jefferson City, MO 65109

Vote YES on Amendment 3



By Father Donald Antweiler

ACROSS

1. 35% of land in Mo. is forested (i.e., 15.4 million acres out of a total land area of ____ 44.6 million acres).
12. "All that are in Hell choose it. ____ soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek, find," —*The Great Divorce*, by C. S. Lewis.
14. St. John Vianney, the famous Cure of ____, patron saint of parish priests.
15. "...in my inmost ____ teach me wisdom," (Psalms 51:8).
16. To tell a ____ is a sin against the 8th commandment.
17. NYSE letters for Under Armour, an Am. sports apparel and footwear brand.
18. Little Rhody State (abbr.).
19. OT priest who raised the prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 1-4).
21. "____ — a species not strong, yet they store up their food in the summer..." (Proverbs 30:25).
22. Eggs.
24. Oak and hickory trees ____ Mo.'s forests, making up 80% of Mo.'s wooded areas.
29. Main body of a church.
31. Yet there is amazing diversity in Mo.'s forests. There are 119 common ____ of native Mo. trees in our state, shaped by a mix of eastern hardwood forests, prairie transitions and southern river lowlands.
32. "Blackburn, a well-educated Kentuckian, tried to use ____ medical expertise to engage in a kind of biological warfare against the North," —*Lincoln and Booth*, by H. Donald Winkler.
34. I asked my mother for ____ on how to make a really good peach pie.
36. "Scripture brought me to the gate of paradise, and the mind stood in wonder as ____ entered," —Ephrem the Syrian.
37. "I believe in one Lord Jesus

Christ, the Only Begotten ____ of God..." —Nicene Creed, which we recite at Mass.

38. Overall, Mo. forests feature some of the finest oak, walnut, pine and red ____ trees anywhere.
39. "Stuntmen are so nuts that ____ do dangerous things for recreation," —*A Murder in Hollywood*, by Michael Crichton.
41. America's Uncle.
42. Letters for Our Lady (i.e., Mary, mother of God).
43. Part of BA, a college degree.
44. A Burr Oak near Columbia is Mo.'s ____ tree, about 400 years in age; it is tied with a Burr Oak in Kentucky for the biggest Burr Oak in the nation.
47. "...it will be more tolerable for ____ and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you," (Matthew 11:22).
49. Mizzou.
50. Letters for Old English, the historical Germanic language spoken in Anglo-Saxon England from the 5th to the 11th centuries.
51. My teen ____ way too much time on her phone.
54. 5th bk. of the Bible.
56. Just a very few of the many iconic trees in Mo. not otherwise mentioned in this puzzle: Redbud, Sugar Maple, Sycamore, ____, Bald Cypress, Birch, Willow, Ash, etc.
57. The Buckeye State, home to Pontifical College Josephinum, where some of our seminarians study (abbr.).
59. The Flowering Dogwood became the Mo. State Tree in 1955; a smaller tree (not over 40 ft.) that produces in the Spring white/____ blooms and red fruit which are simply beautiful.
60. Yes, in the Yucatan.
61. "The materialist philosophy, whether true or ____, is certainly much more limiting than any religion," —*Orthodoxy*, by G. K. Chesterton.
63. ____ *pro nobis*.
65. "We all spend so much time worrying about the future that the present moment ____ right out of our hands," —David Leavitt.
68. ____ is me! (Isaiah 6:5).
69. The most valuable trees for construction in Mo. are Black Walnut, White Oak, Red oak, Teak, and Black Cherry for ____ and veneer.

72. Glory ____ to the Father...
73. Harvesting and processing trees into wood products add \$10 billion to Mo.'s ____, providing jobs for thousands of people.
77. Canoe propulsion.
80. "Let us celebrate the ____... with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth," (1 Corinthians 5:8).
81. Letters for Physical Education.
82. Over, poetically.
84. "When you hold a lunch or a ____, do not invite your friends or your brothers..." (Luke 14:12).
85. A few well-placed trees around a house will generally cause a 30% average reduction in both winter heating bills and ____ AC and cooling bills.

DOWN

1. Brother of Moses (Exodus 6:20) and priest (Exodus 28:3).
2. 85% of Mo.'s forest land is ____ owned, mostly by individuals and families.
3. Letters for Public School.
4. "...the son of Jesse, the son of ____..." (Luke 3:32).
5. Letters for the gas Xenon, used in camera flashes and strobe lights.
6. Pope Saint John Paul ____.
7. Letters for The Gopher State, or The Land of 10,000 Lakes.
8. 15% of Mo.'s forest land is owned or managed by federal, state or local gov't. ____.
9. The U.S. military's Delta Force, Navy Seals and Green Berets are all considered ____ units.
10. 51 in old Rome.
11. A yes vote.
12. A partial list of native Mo. ____ and fruit trees include Black Walnut, Pecan, Hickory, Persimmon, Pawpaw, Black Cherry and Plum.
13. A desert watering place.
20. "The ____ are made to share in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly office of Christ; they have...their own assignment in the mission of the whole People of God," —*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #873.
23. Extremely enthusiastic or eager (e.g., a reader or football fan).
25. Bone.
26. Letters for Military Police.
27. Letters for the Latin phrase "*id est*," meaning "in other

words."

28. Prefix for teem or chew.
30. Letters for the gov't agency dealing with the environment.
32. An average 2,000-sq.-ft. single-family ____ uses 13,000 board feet of cut timber and 9,500 sq. ft. of panel products.
33. "To interpret properly Mr. Lincoln's language it must be constantly borne ____ mind that its single object was to curb and restrain the impatience of zealots from either faction," —*Abraham Lincoln: A History*, by John Hay and John Nicolay.
35. A golden-ager.
37. "But when he heard this he became quite ____, for he was very rich," (Luke 18:23).
38. The overall largest tree in Mo. is a 70-year-old Eastern ____ in KC's Kessler Park; it stands at 129 ft. high, 120 ft. crown spread, 9 ft. across, 29 ft. around.
39. Mo.'s only native naturally-reproducing pine is the Shortleaf Pine, a large tree with a long clear ____; it provided countless RR ties in the early 20th century.
40. Abbr. for height.
41. In text, letters for Show Less.
43. Prayer ender.
44. Short for Oldsmobile, an auto company founded in 1897, operated by GM from 1908 until phased out in 2004.
45. 5th note of the musical scale.
46. Short for temperatures or

temporary workers.

48. 6th sense.
52. If I feel in need of sleep, I just open a book or turn on TV. Both are better than any sleeping ____, —Ethel Merman.
53. The average life of a tree on an urban ____ or a heavily used city park is 25-30 years; in a remote rural forest, 100-150 years.
55. "My Country '____ of Thee..." —from the song America; served as a U.S. national anthem until replaced by The Star Spangled Banner in 1931.
56. Prefix for center, graph or tome.
58. ____-hoo: a greeting; or, a shelf-stable chocolate beverage.
62. *Adoro* ____ *devote*.
63. ____-GYN.
64. St. Joan of ____; patron saint of France.
66. Name of our current Pope.
67. A person to whom money is paid.
70. Largest rideshare company in America, similar to Lyft.
71. ____ *culpa*.
74. Photo ____ with celebrities were the young aspiring actor's ambition.
75. The word New, in Berlin.
76. It was a small ____ and Pop grocery store.
78. Letters for Artificial Intelligence.
79. Licensed healthcare professional.
80. Faith, in Mexico.
83. Union Pacific or Norfolk Southern.

See ANSWERS, page 23

CHARISMATIC

From page 7

as their Savior, led by the witness of his Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Some came to rest peacefully in the Spirit, while others gently helped them lay down before the Lord.

"Look at Christ!" Fr. Padilla pleaded. "Accept him into your heart, now and forever!"

"¡El Espíritu, El Espíritu, El Espíritu Santo! ¡Ven, Espíritu Santo!"

"Come, Holy Spirit!"

The people then came forward and gathered around the altar of repose.

The shimmering lights reflected off the polished floor like the sea of glass in Revelation, where thousands upon thousands cry out for all eternity, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain!"

Praise faded to sublime stillness, followed by heartfelt thanksgiving and people exchanging a Sign of Peace.

The assembly prayed the Divine Praises together and concluded with a hymn.

Day and night

Mr. Almazán grew up in El Salvador in a family and a parish where the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are appreciated and celebrated.

"The Charismatic Renewal is a little different from other movements in the Catholic Church," he noted. "But in some ways, it's exactly the same."

He recalled hearing adults pray in tongues and seeing people resting in the Spirit by the time he was 5.

"That was just normal to me when I was growing up," he said.

In 2005, when he was 16, he and his family moved to Marshall. Masses in Spanish were only being offered there once a month, and the Charismatic Renewal had yet to gain traction in this area of the Church.

"But in 2007, we had our first Charismatic retreat, and the community started growing and growing and growing," said Mr. Almazán.

By 2008, a Mass in Spanish was being offered every Sunday in St. Peter Church, and the Charismatic Renewal was spreading to Hispanic commu-



LEFT: Jose Funes, the Jefferson City diocese's assistant director of pastoral ministry, greets a teen participant in the Youth Congress at the diocese's Hispanic Charismatic Conference in Sedalia. **CENTER:** Father Julio Padilla, a priest of the Diocese of Nashville, Tennessee, preaches a message during the conference. **RIGHT:** An aspiring young drummer joins in accompanying a joyful hymn at the end of the conference.

— Photos by Jay Nies

nities throughout the diocese.

The Marshall parish also has Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament every Friday morning and every Friday evening, attended mostly by people who are part of the Charismatic Renewal.

"Whoever works the second shift goes to Adoration in the morning," Mr. Almazán noted. "People who work in the day, they come at night."

"Deepest expression"

Jose Funes noted that some of the young people at the Charismatic Conference preferred to spend the day with their parents.

"This year, we gave them the option to do that or be a part of our Youth Congress," said Mr. Funes, the Jefferson City diocese's assistant director of pastoral ministry.

"One of the reasons for offering both was, we wanted

whole families to feel welcome and free to come," Mr. Funes added. "We wanted everyone to hear that God is calling them to be saints."

About 20 teens took part in the youth events in the smaller gym at Sacred Heart.

In addition to the talks and Adoration, they got to play games and dance to music.

Mr. Funes said ministering to young people in Hispanic communities in this country is always interesting.

They usually stand on the edge of two cultures, questioning whether either is fully theirs.

Many speak Spanish at home and English at school and with their friends.

"When we gather, they prefer the music in Spanish," said Mr. Funes. "Even though they want the talks to be bilingual, when they pray, when they sing to God, they want to do so in the language they grew up with."



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"It's where they find the deepest expression of themselves," he said.

The late Pope Francis (+2013-2025) described the Catholic Charismatic Renewal as a "current of grace in the Church and for the Church," emphasizing its role as a gift from the Holy Spirit rather than a structured organization.

The late pope encouraged this movement to share the "Baptism in the Holy Spirit" with everyone, fostering unity, service to the poor, and evangelization.

This past March, Mr. Funes stated his belief that viewing the Catholic faith through a Char-

ismatic lens restores something that's often missing.

Namely, "preaching the Gospel how it used to be in Jesus's time," he explained. "Wherever and whenever he spoke and taught, his powerful mercy and glory would manifest around the people."

"I have felt that in modern days, people tend to think that God stopped performing miracles," said Mr. Funes. "That's not true. The time of miracles is still happening. Because we have a living God, a living Jesus."

Organizers are already planning next year's Charismatic Conference.



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DIocese of Jefferson City

Fundraisers & Social Events

Nov. 5

Jefferson City, St. Mary's Hospital Gift Shop Open House, 4-6:30 pm; **Jefferson City**, SPIRE Benefit: Aces for Accessible Spaces, 5:30-8:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/aces

Nov. 7

Moberly, St. Pius X Parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society community chili & soup supper, 4-7:30 pm, parish undercroft; **Sedalia**, St. Vincent de Paul Parish Red Carpet Ready Dinner Auction, 5-9 pm, Sacred Heart School

Nov. 8

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Annual Turkey Dinner, 11 am-3 pm; **Brookfield**, Immaculate Conception Parish Annual Turkey Dinner, 10:30 am-1:30 pm; **Columbia**, "The Musical Dad Joke Event of the Year — 9th Annual Basi Family Concert, 2-3 pm, St. John Henry Newman Parish; **Glasgow**, St. Mary Parish Fall Dinner, 11 am-2 pm

Nov. 14

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish Trivia Night, 5-8:30 pm, Cana Hall, for info or to register call 573-635-7991

Nov. 21

Loose Creek, Christmas Extravaganza & Pork Burger Sale to benefit the Megan Boehm Memorial Scholarship Fund, 9 am-3 pm, Loose Creek Community Center

Nov. 22

Crocker, St. Cornelius Ladies

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

Group annual fundraiser bake sale, 11 am-1 pm

Nov. 26

Tipton, St. Andrew Parish Annual Thanksgiving Event, 8 am-9 pm, K of C Hall

Dec. 5

Shelbina, K of C Farm Toy Show, 9 am-2 pm, Fr. Buhman Center

Meetings & Conferences

Every Wednesday & Saturday

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

Every Wednesday thru Nov. 25

St. Martins, Seasons of Hope Grief Support Group, 2-3 pm, St. Martin Church cry room

Nov. 2, 9, 16 & 23

St. Martins, "Forgiveness 101 Workshop," 4-session class, sponsored by the Forgiveness Institute KC, 6:30-8:30 pm, St. Martin Parish undercroft, for questions call 573-338-6772 or to register visit yeabut.org/events

Nov. 18

Jefferson City, Men of Signum Crucis monthly gathering, 6:30-8 pm, Helias Catholic High School, for info visit menofsignumcrucis.com; **Rolla**, "10 Keys to Recovering

from Divorce" workshop, 5:30-7:30 pm, St. Patrick Parish Center, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/divorce-ministry

Nov. 19

Various locations, Parish Leadership Deanery Meeting, 6:30-8 pm, for info visit diojeffcity.org/deaneries-2

Dec. 16

Jefferson City, Men of Signum Crucis monthly gathering, 6:30-8 pm, Helias Catholic High School, for info visit menofsignumcrucis.com

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Every Monday

Jefferson City, Centering Prayer, 12:10-12:40 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish's Sacred Heart Center

Every Tuesday

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

Every Friday

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

Every other Tuesday thru Oct. 5, 2027

Columbia, "The Bible Timeline:

The Story of Salvation," 6:30-7:30 pm, in-person or online, St. John Henry Newman Parish, for info or to register email Laura@comonewman.org

Nov. 5-16

Laurie, "Who is the Man of the Shroud?" traveling exhibit, Tue. 3:30-7:30 pm, Wed.-Fri. 10 am-1 pm, Sat. 1-6 pm, Sun. 9:30 am-12:30 pm, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church

Nov. 7

Laurie, First Saturday Tour and Devotions, 1:30-5:30 pm, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, for info visit mothersshrine.com

Nov. 20

Jefferson City, "Ladies Night Out," diocesan Women's Ministry event, 6-9 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Cana Hall, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry

Nov. 21

Jefferson City, Diocesan Women's Ministry Fall Retreat, 10 am-4 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Cana Hall, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry

Nov. 20-22

Clyde, Mo., Monastic experience weekend with the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, for single women ages 18-40, for info or to register visit benedictinesisters.org/come-let-us-adore

Dec. 5

Laurie, First Saturday Tour and Devotions, 1:30-5:30 pm, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, for info visit mothersshrine.com

Liturgical

Nov. 9

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

Nov. 10

Starkenburg, Second Tuesday Mass, 11 am-2 pm, with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Rosary, Mass and optional luncheon, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows

Nov. 11

Jefferson City, Veterans Day Mass, 9:30-10:30 am, Pro-to-Cathedral of St. Peter

Nov. 14

Jefferson City, St. Cecilia Mass and Blessing of Parish Musicians, with Bishop Ralph B. O'Donnell, 9:30-11 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph

Nov. 19

Jefferson City, Healing Mass for those who have been divorced or separated, 6 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

Nov. 22

Columbia, African Catholic Thanksgiving Mass, 3-6 pm, Sacred Heart Church

Dec. 14

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

Youth & Young Adults

Nov. 5

Columbia, CoMo LifeTeen's First Thursday XLT, 6:45-7:45 pm, St. John Henry Newman Parish, for info visit comonewman.org

Nov. 22

Jefferson City, Diocesan Youth Rally, 10 am-4:15 pm, Helias Catholic High School, for info visit diojeffcity.org/diocesan-youth-rally

Dec. 3

Columbia, CoMo LifeTeen's First Thursday XLT, 6:45-7:45 pm, St. John Henry Newman Parish, for info visit comonewman.org

Health & Wellness

Dec. 7

Boonville, Blood drive, 1-5 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish

HEAVEN

From page 8

It is a great joy to know and feel in my heart heaven "touching" earth.

I know there have been times in my life as a Catholic in which I was just going through the motions at Mass and I didn't truly appreciate what was happening.

I thank God in my personal prayers for one holy and pious priest who showed me the beauty of the Mass, the coming down of heaven, through the reverence he brought to it.

God worked through that priest to reach me and help me appreciate the Mass more. I'll be forever grateful that God placed him on my path for a short amount of time.

Let us genuinely appreciate the beauty

of the Mass and take the time to contemplate the mystery of faith that lets us know that Heaven is Coming Down.

We should also be thankful for life and take each day as it comes and be willing to offer everything to God. The good, the bad, the ugly — just offer it to God and watch as HE comes down; He and Heaven come down all the time through life.

When a kind act is initiated, a touch of Heaven Comes Down. When goodness is done, a touch of Heaven Comes Down.

When there is evil, yet someone turns it around and does good, a touch of Heaven Comes Down.

When we suffer but offer it back to God, since Jesus suffered for us, a touch of

Heaven Comes Down.

When we are humble, a touch of Heaven Comes Down.

Let us each live our days to the best of our abilities and watch for the amazing, yet sometimes seemingly ordinary, moments of Heaven Coming Down all around us.

I then challenge you (and myself) to gather up the Heaven Coming Down moments we observe, and the ones we do, and take them all to the ultimate Heaven Coming Down, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, in true and blessed thanksgiving to our Lord and Savior.

Anita Frey is a member of St. Alexander Parish in Belle.

ms, Birthdays
rements of
Elections,
on

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	P	P	R	O	X	I	M	A	T	E	L	N
14	A	R	S	R	O	B	E	I	N	G	U	A
16	R	I	E	E	L	I	A	N	T	S		
22	O	V	A	D	O	M	I	N	A	T	E	I
29	N	A	V	E	S	P	E	C	I	E	S	
34	T	I	P	S	I	T	S	O	N			
38	C	E	D	A	R	T	H	E	Y	S	A	M
42	O	L				A	R	T	S	O	L	D
47	T	Y	R	E	M	U						
51	S	P	E	N	D	S						
57	O	H	P	I	N	K	T	S	I	P	P	
61	N	O	T	L	O	R	A	S	E	L	I	P
68	W	O	E	L	U	M	B	E	R	S	E	A
72	B	E	C	O	N	O	M	Y				
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81	P	E	O	E	R							
85	S	U	M	M	E	R						

Doing whatever floats their boat



Sixth- through eighth-graders at St. Joseph School in Salisbury take part in their annual boat race at the Salisbury public pool. As part of their math and science studies, they worked in teams to design and build boats out of recycled materials, then found out whether they could paddle across the pool without sinking. “Having the privilege of watching students learn from one another, work together and encourage and cheer each other on makes every stressful, messy and hot workday completely worthwhile,” said Laurie Millar, their science teacher.

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

Walking on the waves



Eighth-graders at Immaculate Conception School in Loose Creek reenact for their schoolmates the famous miracle of Jesus walking on water and inviting St. Peter to join him.

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

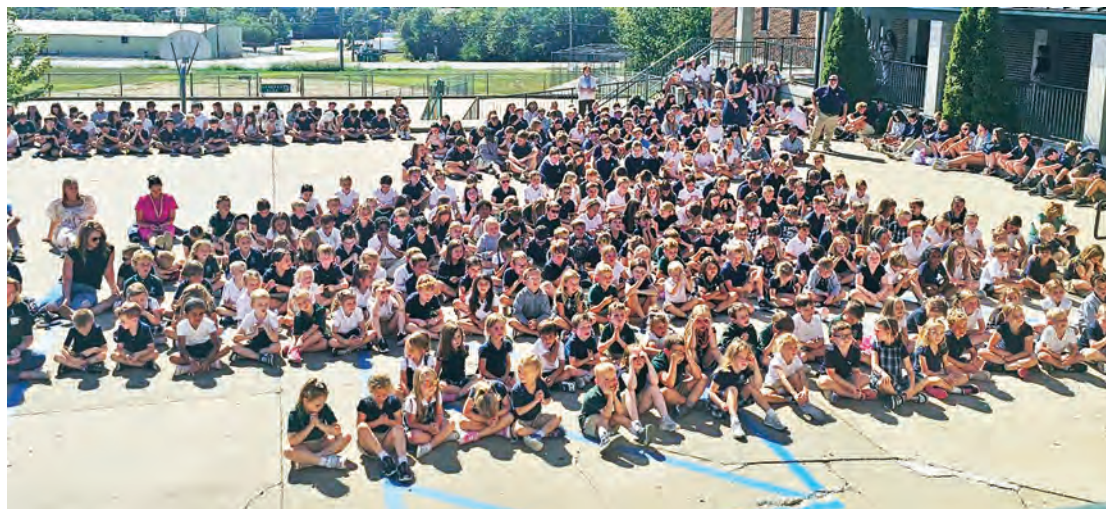
Tennis players help out



LEFT: Members of Helias Catholic High School's Crusaders girls' varsity tennis team volunteer at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri in Jefferson City. They prepared Hope & Healing bags, which provide two days' worth of nutritious, shelf-stable food to SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital-Jefferson City patients who are food-insecure when they are discharged. The team also helped restock the client choice Food Pantry, making sure it was ready to welcome neighbors the following day.

— Photo from the Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Facebook page

Praying the Rosary together



Eighth-graders at St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City lead an all-school outdoor Rosary for the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary.

— Photo from the St. Joseph Cathedral School Facebook page

Bible Accent

The Gospel of Luke recounts other times when Jesus dined in people's homes.

For example, in Luke 5, we read that Jesus called Levi the tax collector to be one of his apostles. Levi gave a great banquet for Jesus, and many other tax collectors attended.

The Pharisees and scribes complained that Jesus was dining with sinners.

"Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do," Jesus said. "I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners."

In Luke 7:36, we read that a Pharisee invited Jesus to dine with him. During the meal, a sinful woman approached Jesus with an alabaster jar of ointment. She cried and kissed his feet. She then bathed his feet with her tears, dried them with her hair and anointed them with the ointment.

"Her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love," Jesus said.

And in Luke 10:38, we read that Jesus dined with his friends Mary and Martha. Martha was rushing around serving while Mary sat and listened to Jesus.

Martha complained to Jesus about Mary.

"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her," he said.

St. Margaret of Scotland

Around 1045, St. Margaret was born in Hungary, where her father, Prince Edward of England, had been living in exile. Prince Edward returned to England in 1057 and brought his family with him. They lived in England until the Norman Conquest in 1066, after which they took refuge in Scotland. In 1070, Margaret married King Malcolm III of Scotland. She was deeply religious, and she used her influence to align the Scottish church with Rome. She also was known for caring for orphans and the poor. Margaret died in 1093, and we remember her on Nov. 16.



Jesus asks whether it is lawful to cure on the Sabbath

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

One day, Jesus went to dine at the home of a leading Pharisee. It was the Sabbath, and everyone was carefully watching Jesus.

In front of Jesus was a man who was suffering from a condition called "dropsy," which is abnormal body swelling caused by fluid buildup and retention.

Jesus spoke to the scholars of the law and the Pharisees.

"Is it lawful to cure on the Sabbath or not?" he asked.

The Pharisees and the scholars of the law kept silent.

Jesus turned to the man with dropsy. He healed the man and then dismissed him.

"Who among you, if your son or ox falls into a cistern, would not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?" Jesus asked.

The Pharisees and the scholars of the law were unable to answer Jesus' question.

Afterward, Jesus looked around and noticed that the invited guests were choosing places of honor at the table.

He began to tell a parable.

"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honor," Jesus said. "A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him, and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, 'Give your place to this man,' and then you would proceed with em-



Illustration by Linda Rivers

barrassment to take the lowest place."

Jesus said that an invited guest should instead take the lowest place at the table.

"When the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table," he explained. "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Jesus then turned to the host who had invited him.

"When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your

friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment," he said.

"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Read more about it...

Luke 14

1. Where did Jesus go to dine?
2. Whom did Jesus heal?



What person did an invited guest call blessed?

(Hint: Luke 14:15)

Answer: One who will dine in the kingdom of God.

Puzzle

Using the hints provided, circle the correct words to fill in the blanks in the sentences about Jesus visiting people's homes.

1. Jesus said that salvation/shame had come to the house of Zacchaeus. (Luke 19:9)
2. Jesus entered Peter's house and cured his wife/mother-in-law. (Matthew 8:14-15)
3. A paralytic/leper was brought into a home where Jesus was staying. (Mark 2:3)
4. Jairus asked Jesus to come to his home to heal with wife/daughter. (Luke 8:41-42)

Answers: 1. salvation; 2. mother-in-law; 3. paralytic; 4. daughter.

Planning for death is as natural for the Christian as planning for life. Having a will is good stewardship and planning of your assets.

Remember to always take care of your family, and consider taking care of your parish family long after you are gone.

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



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Catholic actor's new sketch comedy series evangelizes through laughter

By Anna Dougherty
OSV News

A new sketch comedy series is breaking ground as a secular-style show for women with a distinctly Catholic heart. Created by Christin Jezak, "Our Ladies" aims to evangelize through humor and storytelling, reaching audiences via streaming platforms in the United States, United Kingdom, Mexico and Canada.

The show has garnered international recognition, winning at the 2026 New Media Film Festival in Los Angeles and the Paris Film awards.

Each 22-25 minute episode tackles relatable topics — like forgiveness, beauty and anxiety — through sketches that are both entertaining and spiritually resonant. Jezak hopes that the series will inspire women to see themselves as God created them.



Christin Jezak and Sarah Hernandez star in a sketch scene in "Our Ladies Show," now streaming on the Roku Channel.

— OSV News photo/courtesy Our Ladies Show

Jezak started acting when she was 5 years old at a community theater. Her love of acting led her to Hollywood, where she acted in the film "Miracle at Manchester" and Jimmy Kimmel sketches, among many other roles.

Her moral convictions meant that she lost acting opportunities that conflicted with her Catholic beliefs. In one instance, she stepped away from a film crew after one episode of a show made fun of pro-life people.

"There have been times, especially as an actor, or even on a crew, when I have had to say no to things," Jezak said. "It is a gift to be able to create things that you can feel good about."

Jezak said that "Our Ladies" was born out of a desire to create a show that represented her Catholic heart and her love for comedy.

Jezak met the two co-stars of the show, Hillary Hawkins and Sarah Hernandez, at Christians in Hollywood events, where they became instant friends. Hawkins, a former Nick Jr. host, is an acclaimed voice artist and actress. Hernandez's acting credits include "Nefarious" and "Unplanned," among other titles.

Jezak said that she hopes to invite the audience into their friendship. Each episode of "Our Ladies" has a segment in which the actors unpack the themes of the sketch through testimonials and Scripture quotes.

"I wanted it to feel like we were all sitting in the living room together. The actors are sitting there, but then also the audience members could feel like they were actually with us having the conversation," Jezak said.

Jezak said that she was inspired by St. John Paul II's "new evangelization," which envisions media as a means to evangelization.

"How would St. Paul spread the Gospel today? Well, he would use the most effective means of the media," said Jezak, who is a third order co-operator with the Daughters of St. Paul, also known as the "media nuns."

"Sometimes people are afraid to step into a church, but they will watch a TV series," she said. "There's just such a great way of being able to laugh at the difficult things that we go through and to

Movie Ratings

A-I General Patronage	Adore Him: He Is Here (not rated)
A-II Adults and Adolescents	Forgotten Island (PG) Sense and Sensibility (PG)
A-III Adults	Heart of the Beast (PG-13) Other Mommy (R) Practical Magic 2 (PG-13) The Social Reckoning (R) Street Fighter (PG-13) Whalefall (PG-13)
L Limited Adult Audience	Primetime (R) The Uprising (R)
O Morally Offensive	Clayface (R) Digger (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

break down those barriers ... to make people open to powerful messages through comedy."

Jezak said that each sketch was born from prayer and the study of Scripture.

"I would get the idea for a theme and then I would look up every single Scripture passage that had to do with that theme. Then I would sit, sometimes in adoration in prayer and just allow that Scripture to inspire the sketches that I wrote," Jezak said.

"Neighborhood Watch" — the sketch comedy segment of the show, which was released as a standalone series on YouTube before "Our Ladies" premiered — won best web or TV series at the Paris Film Awards, Best Web Series at the New Media Film Festival, and has won awards at other festivals, including the London Movie Awards, Florence Film Awards and Hollywood Gold Awards.

The show received three nominations at the 2025 Content Christian Media Confer-

ence, including a nomination for Jezak as Best Actress in a TV and Web Series.

More than these accolades, Jezak said that she feels most rewarded when her audience shares how the show has impacted their lives in a personal way.

"I've had multiple people tell me, especially about that first episode about holding grudges, about how they needed to reconcile, or they needed to apologize, and how powerful it was to hear the advice from the show," Jezak said.

Jezak imagines mothers and daughters, or groups of women, watching the show together. She created a free discussion guide to help facilitate conversations after the episodes, available on the show's website.

Jezak hopes to produce another season of the show. In the meantime, Jezak is working on an audio drama of the rosary for the Fio app, which will

See SHOW, page 27

On air

Mustard Seed
Sunday Scripture readings and reflections
Sundays, 10:06 am, KWIX-AM 1230, Moberly
Sundays, 8 am, KRLL-AM 1420, California

EWTN and other Catholic programming
Covenant Radio Network broadcasts
KHJR 88.1 FM, Jefferson City
KBKC 90.1 FM, Moberly
KEFL 91.5 FM, Kirksville
94.7 FM, Columbia
103.3 FM, Fulton
K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

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SHOW

From page 26

dramatize the stories of Mary, Elizabeth and other saints who appear in the rosary.

"I really hope that the show

('Our Ladies') brings healing and helps women to see the value of who God created them to be. And I hope that

they laugh and have a great time in the process," Jezak said.

Anna Dougherty writes for OSV News from Texas.

COLUMBARIUM

From page 12

up for the benefit of that person," the bishop noted.

That commitment kept growing and led her to profess vows as a cloistered Carmelite nun.

After entering Religious Life, "Thérèse never left her cloister," the bishop pointed out. "But in offering up her daily sacrifices and kindnesses on their behalf, she ministered to prisoners on death row and priests, especially priests who were experiencing difficult crises in life."

Bishop O'Donnell challenged the all the students, teachers, clergy, parents and grandparents

present in the assembly to work on imitating St. Thérèse's "Little Way" — "finding in those simple ways to bring Jesus Christ's love into the world."

"If we can dedicate ourselves to patience, kindness, charity, forgiveness, mercy, compassion in those little ways, be assured that Jesus is present," he said.

The bishop assured everyone that "there are a lot more saints yet left to come" in this country and around the world.

"And that's our job, to bring Jesus into the world," he said. "Jesus calls US to be saints!"

POPE LEO

From page 3

television channel. "He wants to be there. That's why I believe Cusco will always be on his list," he said.

However, Peruvian organizers remain extra cautious regarding the trip, and for his Nov. 11-16 encounter with the nation, "he will have a specialized ambulance, as befits a head of state, which will accompany the delegation at all times," Msgr. Guillermo said.

"In the case of Santa Cruz, the possibility of having an ambulance helicopter is being considered in case of any eventuality. In addition to his own doctor, there will be a Peruvian doctor prepared to attend to any situation," the prelate said of another high altitude town in the Andes Mountains, which the pope plans to visit Nov. 14.

Doctors report post-surgery progress

Papal medical team confirmed in the Oct. 26 statement that the pope's "recovery continues to progress," and that since returning to the Vatican Oct. 17, "the Holy Father has gradually resumed his

activities, adjusting his daily schedule in consultation with his doctors to prioritize his recovery while continuing to fulfill the responsibilities of his ministry."

The papal doctor said that while the pope "has maintained important appointments and public engagements" he also had "appropriate periods of rest."

"The Holy Father remains deeply grateful for the prayers and affection he has received from throughout the world and for the dedicated care of the medical professionals who have accompanied him during his recovery," the statement read.

"Dr. Luigi Carbone confirms that the Holy Father's recovery after the surgery continues, and the latest medical examinations attest to his good health and favorable clinical condition."

Longest, most demanding trip to date

Pope Leo XIV will travel more than 19,000 miles on 14 flights during the November trip to Peru, Argentina and Uruguay, according to the full schedule the Vatican released Sept. 21, which the Vatican did not indicate would change in the Oct. 26 statement.

The Nov. 6-17 trip will be the first papal visit to Latin America of Pope Leo's pontificate.

Over 12 days, he will celebrate nine public Masses, visit seven cathedrals and preside over two stadium prayer vigils.

The trip culminates with a return to Chiclayo, Peru, where he served as bishop from 2015 to 2023.

The journey begins Nov. 6 with a flight of more than 14 hours and 6,900 miles from Rome to Montevideo, Uruguay.

The return flight from Lima, Peru, to Rome covers 6,700 miles. In between, the pope will travel to a new destination nearly every day, including a 2,200-mile flight from Buenos Aires to Lima and a military helicopter flight Nov. 14 to the Andes mountain town of Santa Cruz de Succhabamba, Peru.

By comparison, Pope Leo traveled 11,000 miles over 11 days during his trip to Algeria, Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea earlier this year.

Paulina Guzik is international editor for OSV News.

Pope to offer 12 public Masses in November

OSV News, Rome

Pope Leo XIV will celebrate 12 public Masses during the month of November, starting with an All Souls' Day Mass at Rome's largest cemetery.

The month begins with an All Souls' Day Mass Nov. 2 at Rome's Verano Cemetery. Before leaving for South America, Pope Leo also will celebrate a Nov. 5 memorial Mass in St. Peter's Basilica for cardinals and bishops who died

Daily Readings

Sunday, Nov 1

ALL SAINTS

Rv. 7:2-4, 9-14

Ps. 24:1bc-4ab, 5-6

1 Jn. 3:1-3

Mt. 5:1-12a

Sunday, Nov 8

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wis. 6:12-16

Ps. 63:2-8

1 Thes. 4:13-18 or 4:13-14

Mt. 25:1-13

Monday, Nov 2

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

Wis. 3:1-9

Ps. 23:1-6

Rom. 5:5-11 or 6:3-9

Jn. 6:37-40

Monday, Nov 9

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Ez. 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

Ps. 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

1 Cor. 3:9c-11, 16-17

Jn. 2:13-22

Tuesday, Nov 3

St. Martin de Porres, religious

Phil. 2:5-11

Ps. 22:26b-30ab, 30e, 31-32

Lk. 14:15-24

Tuesday, Nov 10

St. Leo the Great, pope and doctor of the Church

Ti. 2:1-8, 11-14

Ps. 37:3-4, 18, 23, 27, 29

Lk. 17:7-10

Wednesday, Nov 4

St. Charles Borromeo, bishop

Phil. 2:12-18

Ps. 27:1, 4, 13-14

Lk. 14:25-33

Wednesday, Nov 11

St. Martin of Tours, bishop

Ti. 3:1-7

Ps. 23:1b-6

Lk. 17:11-19

Thursday, Nov 5

Phil. 3:3-8a

Ps. 105:2-7

Lk. 15:1-10

Thursday, Nov 12

St. Josaphat, bishop and martyr

Phlm. 7-20

Ps. 146:7-10

Lk. 17:20-25

Friday, Nov 6

Phil. 3:17-4:1

Ps. 122:1-5

Lk. 16:1-8

Friday, Nov 13

USA: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, virgin

2 Jn. 4-9

Ps. 119:1-2, 10-11, 17-18

Lk. 17:26-37

Saturday, Nov 7

Phil. 4:10-19

Ps. 112:1b-2, 5-6, 8a, 9

Lk. 16:9-15

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for November:

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

Saturday, Nov 14

3 Jn. 5-8

Ps. 112:1-6

Lk. 18:1-8

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Mother's Shrine in Laurie to host 'Who is the Man of the Shroud?' exhibit

November 5-15

Sundays: 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Tuesdays: 3:30-7:30 pm

Wednesdays-Fridays: 10

am-1 pm

Saturdays: 1-6 pm

Presenting the science, history and Scripture behind the most studied artifact in history

"Who is the Man of the Shroud?" will be on display at the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, Nov. 5-15.

The exhibit connects scientific research, historical records and Scriptural references to explain the 2,000-year-old burial cloth known as the Shroud of Turin, believed to bear the image of the crucified Jesus Christ.

Presented by Shroud Exhibitors of Central Missouri (SECMO) in partnership with Othonia, Inc., the exhibit encourages people of all ages and faith backgrounds to explore the historical, scientific, and Scriptural evidence surrounding the Shroud and to consider the identity of the Man it reveals.

Since the exhibit's grand

opening last month, "Who is the Man of the Shroud?" has drawn an estimated 5,000 visitors to its displays at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City; the Beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Expo in St. Louis; the Knights of Columbus Hall in Westphalia; and the Diocese of Jefferson City Priests' Institute.

Its next scheduled appearance at the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church — 176 Marian Drive, off of Highway 5 in Laurie — will feature a new addition to the exhibit: a life-sized sculpture of the crucified body of Jesus, modeled directly from anatomical measurements, wound patterns, and 3D image data of the Shroud of Turin.

Known affectionately as the Mothers' Shrine and dedicated to Mary, Mother of the Church, the National Shrine honors the Blessed Virgin Mary and celebrates the dignity of motherhood and the gift of life.

"We are truly excited to welcome the Shroud of Turin exhibit to the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church," said Andrew Wright, Executive Director of the Shrine. "I can think of no better place for this

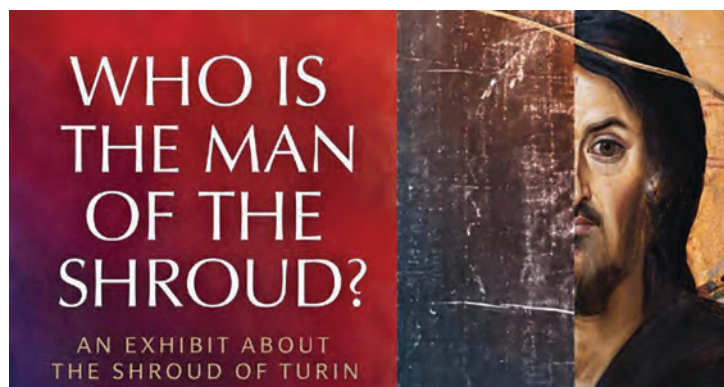


exhibit than at a shrine devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, who always brings us to her Son, Jesus Christ. The Shroud invites us to reflect on Christ's suffering and sacrifice, the depth of his love for humanity, and the hope of his Resurrection. We are delighted to offer this opportunity for visitors to deepen their understanding, strengthen their faith, and encounter the story of Jesus in a meaningful way."

"Who is the Man of the Shroud?" features a replica of the Shroud, a life-sized sculpture of the crucified Jesus, and a series of panels that guide visitors through the cloth's documented history, physical characteristics, scientific study, and Gospel accounts of the Passion and burial of Jesus.

Visitors can also scan a QR code to access an audio docent, quick facts, and deeper resources on their phones.

The exhibit is open to the public and free of charge during

the Shrine's normal hours of operation. The Shrine is closed on Mondays.

Free-will donations are appreciated to support the "Who is the Man of the Shroud?" Traveling Exhibit.

SECMO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation working in partnership with Othonia, Inc., to bring the traveling exhibit and curriculum to Missouri. Through this effort, SECMO seeks to support educational, cultural, historical, and faith-informed learning opportunities for schools, churches, civic organizations and the broader public.

Othonia Inc. (*Othonia.org/exhibits/central-missouri*) takes its name from a Greek word used in Scripture for the linens associated with Jesus' burial.

Othonia's diverse team of specialists — scientists, historians, scholars, and believers from many backgrounds — share the mission of lead-

ing people to encounter Jesus through the eyes of reason and faith.

Othonia recently launched a five-part Shroud curriculum for Fall 2026 that includes a Teacher Guide, Student Workbook, video lessons, classroom slides and family connections.

The Mothers' Shrine, welcomes pilgrims, families, and visitors seeking a place of prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal.

The Shroud exhibit offers a fitting opportunity for visitors to contemplate the life, death, and Resurrection of Christ in a setting dedicated to His Blessed Mother. Through Mary's example and intercession, the Mothers' Shrine seeks to lead all who visit closer to Jesus.

To learn more about the Mothers' Shrine, visit their Facebook page and website at mothersshrine.com.



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12:00 PM

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- Turkey
- Stuffing
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Green Beans
- Coleslaw
- Noodles
- Cranberry Sauce
- Mixed Fruit
- Homemade Bread/Rolls
- Homemade Desserts
- Tea & Water
- Coffee Available Upon Request

Join us for great food, fellowship, fun, and the tradition of St. Andrew's Thanksgiving Festival!

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