

Christmas shopping with Julia Greeley

A 116-year-old recollection in a 50-year-old letter sheds light on why Missouri native Servant of God Julia Greeley was known as the Angel of Charity.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

December 20, 2019 • Vol. 63 No. 13

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Bishop initiates three during Mass in Moberly prison



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight exchanges a sign of peace with the three men he confirmed as part of their initiation into the Roman Catholic Church during Mass in the chapel of the Moberly Correctional Center. — Photo by Jay Nies

Says Holy Spirit's gifts are to be built up, shared

By Jay Nies

Chaplain Tom Brack of the Moberly Correctional Center (MCC) welcomed Bishop W. Shawn McKnight to the chapel and asked about his just-completed visit to the prison's Protective Custody Unit (PCU).

"It was interesting," the bishop told him. "There are saints down there."

Bishop McKnight had accompanied Deacons John Hill and Christopher Sago into the PCU, a wing where the men live separately from the rest of the prison population for safety reasons.

"The guys were asking about having the bishop come, and Deacon Hill said, 'I don't see why not,' said Deacon Sago. "He asked, and the bishop said, 'Well, yeah!'"

Anticipation started building in September, when the men got word of the pending visit.

"It's like a birthday and Christmas all rolled into one for these guys," said Deacon Sago. "They are super excited."

Bishop McKnight visited with the Catholic men in PCU who signed up to talk with him. He heard their confessions and presided at a short Communion service in the same office he had used for a confessional.

"Jesus Christ continually bears to us a message of hope, a message of love and forgiveness, a message of LIFE — eternal life," the bishop told the men.

Deacon Hill preached the homily. He said Advent is a time to make changes, "to take some type of first step to get closer to Christ, to become more like Him."

"The Kingdom of God is at hand!" he said, echoing St. John the Baptist

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175 years and counting for St. Joseph in Edina

By Jay Nies

When the bell strikes midnight, walls that once echoed the prayers and counsel of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton will radiate with the lights and hymns of Christmas.

As always, Midnight Mass in St. Joseph Church in Edina will draw throngs of faithful Catholics from near and far to the altar of grace.

"Midnight Mass brings forth a huge, huge congregation," said lifelong parishioner Larry Clark. "It fills the church!"

Entire families come home to celebrate the Incarnation — perhaps all the more so on this, the parish's 175th Christmas.

"It's been a tradition with Midnight Mass as long as I can remember," said Mr. Clark. "It's been ... forever!"

This fall, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight joined members and friends of the parish for a 175th-anniversary Mass and reception.

Ministering with him at the altar were: Father Colin

Franklin, pastor of the Edina parish, St. John parish in Memphis and the St. Aloysius mission in Baring; Father Paul Clark, a native of St. Joseph parish; and Monsignor David Cox, pastor of neighboring Mary Immaculate parish in Kirksville.

Assisting them was Deacon Ken Berry of the Edina parish.

St. Joseph parish takes in all of Knox County in northern Missouri and has 170 registered families.

Early start

Catholics from Ohio were among the first to settle in the 1830s around what would become Edina.

Among them was Peter Early, who in 1843 donated land for a church and set about getting one built, hoping that a priest would be sent to minister there.

See 175th, page 10

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12/20/19

Pray for deceased priests

Dec. 22 — **Fr. Stephen J. Carew**, St. Aloysius, Baring (1970)

Dec. 26 — **Fr. Robert J. Arnold**, St. Anthony of St. Padua, St. Anthony (1989)

Dec. 27 — **Fr. John W. Buchanan**, Holy Guardian Angels, Brinktown (1984)

Dec. 28 — **Fr. Gottlieb V. Steinwachs**, Holy Spirit, Centralia (1989)

Jan. 1 — **Fr. Robert J. Dwyer**, Immaculate Conception, Montgomery City (1982)

Jan. 4 — **Fr. Edward M. Owens**, Chaplain, Pershing Memorial Hospital, Brookfield (1997)

Jan. 7 — **Fr. Michael N. Schaller**, St. Margaret of Antioch, Osage Bend (1980)

Jan. 8 — **Fr. Leo T. Buhman**, Immaculate Conception, Macon (2011)

Jan. 9 — **Fr. Thomas F. Greaney**, Immaculate Conception, Jefferson City (1967); **Fr. Jeremiah F. Kennedy**, Immaculate Conception, Jefferson City (1967); **Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe** (2006)

Chancery Closings

The chancery offices in the Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center will be closed after noon on **Friday, Dec. 20**, for a staff gathering. The offices will be closed **from noon on Tuesday, Dec. 24, through Thursday, Dec. 26**, for Christmas; and **from noon on Tuesday, Dec. 31, through Wednesday, Jan. 1**, for New Years and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Knights donate 300+ coats

Knights of Columbus Bishop McAuliffe Council 12992 at Cathedral of St. Joseph parish in Jefferson City donated 330 coats and other winter-related items to Samaritan Center, the Salvation

Army, Capital Region Medical Center, and the Pregnancy

See COATS, page 13

RIGHT: Rich Anderson of Knights Council 12992 presents some of the winterwear the council collected to Shane Boessen of Samaritan Center in Jefferson City.



Mass in Cedron

DATE: January 11

TIME: 2 pm

Father Anthony Rinaldo will offer Mass in historical Assumption Church in Cedron at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 11.

The church is located on Cedron Road, about half a mile north of Highway U on Highway D in Moniteau County.

Teaching Positions

St. Clement School near Bowling Green, Mo. is seeking applications for the following positions:

- A long-term substitute teacher beginning in March, 2020.
- A 7th and 8th grade teacher for the 2020-21 school year.

Applicants may drop off resumes at the school or parish office. For questions, please call the school at 573-324-2166.



DIOCESE seeks SUPERINTENDENT of CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau in Missouri has an opening for **Diocesan Superintendent of Schools**, effective **July 1, 2020**. The diocesan school system includes 23 elementary and 3 high schools. Requirements: Active Catholic, advanced degree in Educational Administration, certifiable in State of Missouri, and experience in Catholic school administration, preferably on a diocesan level. Ability to promote Catholic mission of the schools is a high priority. Must also be willing to travel throughout the diocese. Competitive salary, excellent health benefits, and retirement based on diocesan guidelines. Send cover letter and resume to Janet L. Smith, Chancellor, 601 S. Jefferson, Springfield, MO, 65806. You may also call (417) 866-0841 or Email jansmith@dioscg.org to request an application packet.

Seeking Christ for Our Nation

The next "Seeking Christ for our Nation" Masses will be celebrated on **Tuesday, January 7**, at 6:30 p.m. in St. George Church in Linn; and on **Tuesday, January 21**, at 6 p.m. in Our Lady of the Snows Church in Mary's Home.

The Catholic Missourian

Official newspaper — Diocese of Jefferson City
Mailing address: P.O. Box 104900 Jefferson City, MO 65110-4900. Phone: (573) 635-9127

"A diocesan paper serves as a bond of unity by publishing diocesan happenings and promulgating official regulations and decrees. It also plays a teaching role by reporting notable events of a religious and secular nature, and interpreting them in the light of Christian principles."
— Bishop Joseph M. Marling C.P.P.S., July 7, 1957

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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Principal for Catholic High School

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau is seeking a **Principal** for **Notre Dame High School** in **Cape Girardeau, MO**, effective **July 1, 2020**. Qualified applicant must be an Active Catholic, have Missouri principal certification, have a Master's degree in School Administration (or be working toward it) with 3-5 years of Catholic school experience. Administrative experience preferred. To request an application packet please contact Anne Buckley at the Catholic Center, (417) 866-0841, abuckley@dioscg.org.

Math Teacher at Tolton Catholic



Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, Missouri is seeking a High School Math Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year.

Job Summary: The High School Math Teacher fulfills the mission of Fr. Tolton Regional High School by planning, guiding, and evaluating the learning process of the students within the framework of the school's philosophy, organization, mission and curriculum. The teacher is expected to provide the appropriate learning atmosphere and activities to engage students and maximize student competencies and skills for intellectual, emotional, physical, social, and spiritual growth.

Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and certified as a Secondary Mathematics Instructor. Must support and uphold the philosophy of Catholic education and the mission of the school and adhere to the Diocesan Code of Conduct.

To apply: Visit www.diojeffcity.org, scroll to bottom and select Schools Office, then click Job Opportunities.

Principal — Lee's Summit

Our Lady of the Presentation, a dynamic and growing parish located in Lee's Summit, Mo., seeks a faith-filled principal with proven leadership skills and a commitment to Catholic education for its K-8 grade school serving more than 470 students with approximately 50 staff members.

Our Lady of the Presentation is an accredited, nationally recognized Blue Ribbon elementary school that strives to educate the whole child. Qualified candidates must be a practicing Catholic with Administrative certification or the ability to become certified. Candidates must also have teaching and administration experience.

Applications may be made to the Catholic Schools Office on the website at:

<https://careers.hireology.com/the-catholic-diocese-of-kansas-city-st-joseph/352738/description>

Applications close on January 15, 2020.

Christmas shopping with Servant of God Julia Greeley

By Jay Nies

Servant of God Julia Greeley, who grew up in slavery near Hannibal before the Civil War, was known even in her lifetime as an Angel of Charity.

Her self-effacing kindness, missionary zeal and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus emblazoned her memory onto the minds of people who encountered her in Denver, where she spent most of her adult life.

She was blind in one eye due to the harsh treatment she had received as a slave. Her body bore the ravages of excessive, menial work.

She never earned much money as a housekeeper, even to a governor of Colorado and his family.

But as a convert to Catholic Christianity and a professed member of the Secular Order of St. Francis, she held nothing back in helping people who were worse off than she was.

When she ran out of her own money to give away, she begged for more.

She worked in darkness and secret, in deference to the dignity of the people she was helping.

Now, more than a century after her death, her earthly remains await the Resurrection from a place of honor in the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Denver.

The Denver archdiocese opened a sainthood cause for her in 2017 and began compiling an abundance of information about her to send to the

Church's Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Contained therein are written recollections of people who witnessed and benefitted from her kindness and generosity, mostly as children.

Capuchin Franciscan Father Blaine Berkey included many such letters in his book, *In Sacred Service of the Sacred Heart: The Life and Virtues of Julia Greeley*.

One is from Theodora Arnold to Eleanor Pavella Castellan, who was researching Miss Greeley's life 50 years ago.

The letter states, in part: "I'll never forget our first Christmas without Mother.

"Julia told us she was going to ask Father if she could take Margaret and me downtown at night to see the display of lights and all the toys in the basement of the Denver Dry Goods.

"When there, she told us to pick out anything we wanted for Christmas. I remember my sister picked out a three-piece toilet set — comb, mirror and brush — while I, after hearing so much about the hard times looked at the price tag and picked a little wooden bucket and shovel, all for 10 cents and only suitable for a 2-year-old child.

"Julia said, 'Oh, no, child,

you want something better than that.'

"And then she bought me a doll's trunk, costing a dollar and also the bucket. ... She was getting \$10 a month in wages.

"After that, we often saw Julia on the streets, delivering the Sacred Heart League leaflets to the firemen."

Please pray for a miraculous sign of God's favor on a humble woman whose charity and mercy still outshines the darkness she was subjected to while she was growing up in this state.

Juliagreeley.org



This icon depicting Servant of God Julia Greeley (ca.1833-1913) and a child, is based on an actual photo of her.

— Photo from the *Denver Catholic*, newspaper of the Denver archdiocese

Bishop McKnight's December prayer intention for our Local Church


As we celebrate the mystery of the Holy Family, may our Churches and schools support parents in the raising of their children in the faith.

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

Al celebrar el misterio de la Sagrada Familia, que nuestras Iglesias y escuelas puedan apoyar a los padres y madres de familia en la tarea de criar a sus hijos e hijas en la fe.



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



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

DECEMBER

Dec. 20 Bishop's Advent Luncheon with Diocesan Staff, Noon, Catholic Center, Jefferson City; St. Andrew Dinner with Prospective Seminarians, 5 pm, Bishop's Residence, Jefferson City

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Mass, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City, 9:30 pm

Dec. 27-Jan. 12 Mission Trip to Diocese of Jashpur, India

JANUARY

Jan. 12-18 Ad Limina, Rome



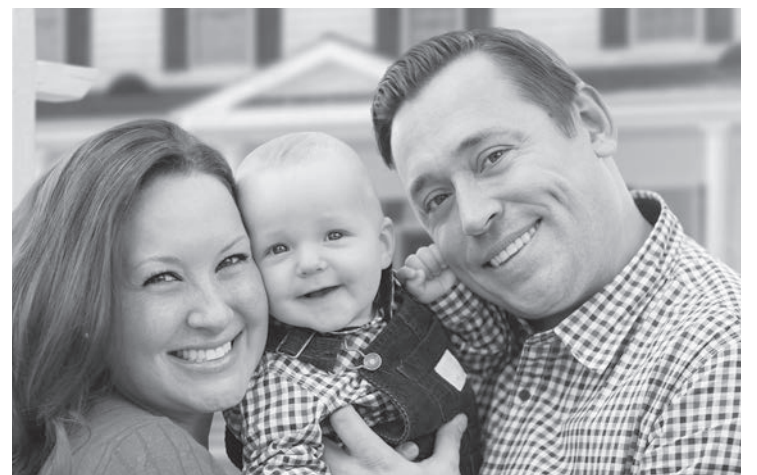
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Father Clarence Wiederholt notes 65th priestly anniversary

Was ordained less than a year before the Jefferson City diocese was founded in 1956

By Jay Nies

It was after 10 p.m. when the doorbell rang at St. Pius X Rectory in Moberly.

Father Clarence Wiederholt, recently ordained, answered the door.

The woman on the porch spoke desperately about a visit she had just received.

She lived a few blocks away from church and worked at home.

Two nights in a row, she put up a sign on her door saying she was sick and wasn't accepting customers.

Twice, a man dressed in white ignored the sign and stood at the foot of her bed.

The second time, he told her to go to the nearest Catholic church.

She entered St. Pius X Church, and immediately noticed the image of Christ above the high altar.

"She said it was the same man who had stood over her bed," Fr. Wiederholt recalled.

The woman wanted to start learning right away about what Catholics believe.

The priest sent her home with a copy of the *Baltimore Catechism* and began giving her instructions the next day.

When she was ready, he set a date to administer the sacraments of initiation and welcome her into the Church.

That's when the pastor, Monsignor John Mahoney, now deceased, realized where she had come from.

"You see, Moberly was a big railroad town," Fr. Wiederholt explained. "There was a big turnaround for the trains, and you had railroad workers coming and going all the time.

"And down on that one street, just a block long, there were a lot of houses where some of the men would go and not stay for very long," he said.

The next several Sundays, Msgr. Mahoney let people know from the pulpit that a new parishioner would be joining them and that in case anyone recognized her, she had turned over a new leaf.

"She was my first convert," said Fr. Wiederholt. "The Lord took care of her and brought her

into the Church in such a beautiful way. All I had to do was believe her and give her instructions."

That is one of many stories Fr. Wiederholt, now retired, has come to treasure in his heart since his priestly ordination on Dec. 21, 1955.

In nearly 65 years of Priesthood, he has served in parishes throughout the diocese and at U.S. Air Force installations on several continents, and now in offering up prayers for people who need them.

"Then and Now"

Fr. Wiederholt was the youngest priest of the old St. Joseph diocese when Bishop (later Cardinal) John P. Cody ordained him, and he became the youngest priest of the Jefferson City diocese upon its creation a few months later.

Now within weeks of his 90th birthday, he is blessed with more seniority than all but one of his fellow priests of this diocese.

He is one of only two who were serving here when Venerable Pope Pius XII created the diocese in 1956.

He recently set up a little display in his apartment in Jefferson City.

Titled "Then and Now," it includes a photo of him at his ordination and a current photo, separated by a statue of the Holy Family — Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

The Holy Family has been Fr. Wiederholt's spiritual inspiration since his freshman year in high school.

Born and raised near Conception Abbey in northeastern Missouri, he started to sense a priestly calling at age 7 and entered the seminary at Conception Abbey after eighth grade.

He continued there for 12 years.

Bishop Cody became bishop of the old St. Joseph diocese, which spanned all of northern Missouri, in 1955.

He decided to have three of his seminarians, including Fr.



Father Clarence Wiederholt, a retired priest of the Jefferson City, put together a display in his apartment to mark his upcoming 65th priestly anniversary. Titled "Then and Now," it includes a portrait taken of him this year and another from his ordination, separated by an image of the Holy Family.

— Photo by Jay Nies

Wiederholt, take an extra semester of theology over the summer so he could ordain them six months early.

On Dec. 21, 1955, in St. Patrick Church in Maryville, Bishop Cody ordained Fr. Wiederholt to the Holy Priesthood.

The new priest offered his first parish Mass at midnight on Christmas at the St. Benedict mission in Burlington Junction, after hearing his first confessions there.

One of his brothers was a parishioner there, so he got to spend his first Christmas as a priest catching up with old friends.

He and Msgr. Mahoney were assigned to Moberly around the same time.

Shortly before that, Bishop Cody's predecessor, the late Bishop Charles H. LeBlond of St. Joseph, had combined the German and Irish Catholic parishes in that city into one and named it in honor of a beloved, recently sainted Pope.

Fr. Wiederholt then served as assistant pastor at St. Lawrence parish in St. Elizabeth, then at St. Patrick parish in Rolla before volunteering to serve as an Air Force chaplain.

His assignments, some rather adventuresome, included five Cold War surveillance stations in deeply isolated parts of Alaska.

He credits prayer and God's desire for him to continue his ministry with saving his life on several occasions during dangerous deployments.

Upon returning to civilian life, he served as pastor of what

is now known as Church of the Risen Savior parish in Rhineland; St. Patrick parish in Gravois Mills (now in Laurie) and the St. Philip Benizi mission in Versailles; of St. Mary of the Angels parish in Wien; St. Clement parish in St. Clement; St. Joseph parish in Edina and the St. Aloysius mission in Baring; St. Anthony of Padua parish in St. Anthony and finally Our Lady of the Snows parish in Mary's Home.

Keeping up

One time during that last pastorate, he was making his rounds at Capital Region Medical Center in Jefferson City.

After giving his last parishioner Holy Communion, he noticed a man in a brown suit, standing nearby.

With urgency, the man told the priest to follow him.

"Regardless of how fast I walked, he stayed quite a distance in front of me as we went from hallway to hallway," Fr. Wiederholt recalled.

After following the man down a long highway, the priest lost sight of him but heard him say, "She is in there."

Fr. Wiederholt turned to thank the man but he was nowhere in sight.

When the woman in the hospital room saw the priest, she started to cry.

"Between her tears, she told me that her children had fallen away from the Church," said Fr. Wiederholt. "They would not listen to her pleas to get her a priest."

He told her that a priest was there with her.

He heard her confession and administered the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

The next morning after Mass, he returned to bring her Holy Communion, but she had died during the night.

"She did not receive Jesus from me that day," he said. "Instead, Jesus received her into heaven."

Only then did Fr. Wiederholt realize that he never actually caught sight of the man's face.

He is convinced it was St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus and patron saint of a happy death.

"I've heard stories of him seeking out a priest for people who are dying," said Fr. Wiederholt. "I believe I could no longer see him because his job was done and his spirit went back to heaven."

"Wonderful things"

Fr. Wiederholt retired from active ministry in 2008.

He moved to Jefferson City and served for a time as volunteer chaplain at the Carmelite Monastery and as sacramental minister of St. Michael parish in Russellville.

He continued helping out as long as he could at Cathedral of St. Joseph parish and other parishes in the diocese.

He has lost much of his eyesight but is grateful for the memories of all he saw and experienced in active Priesthood.

"Being a priest is a blessing far beyond anything words can express," he said. "The wonderful things that I have seen happen through my ministry — the sacraments, the various miracles I've been able to be a part of by inviting people to put their faith in God — it's very humbling."

He still stands in awe that God would choose him to minister at His altar.

"I treasure the fact that the Lord has stuck with me and His calling," he said. "How I'd love to go back and do it all again!"

Your 2020 gift to the Catholic Stewardship Appeal will provide needed funds to support the following ministry in the Diocese of Jefferson City.



Catholic

STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Helping parishes spread the Good News across the 'digital continent'

By Jay Nies

As more Catholics and future Catholics turn to the Web for information and guidance, it's essential for every parish to be right there with them, informing, enlightening, consoling, guiding, and preaching the Word at all times.

Failure is not an option.

"There's an information revolution taking place around us," said Ashley Wiskirchen, director of parish communications for the Jefferson City diocese. "We have no choice but to be a part of it if we're going to be true to our mandate to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all people.

"Fortunately, I think most people in our diocese get that," she said.

Since coming to work for the diocese eight months ago, Mrs. Wiskirchen has been helping parishes throughout these 38 counties strengthen their online presence, using some of the most up-to-date web design and technology available.

The process melds the timeless elements of unity, beauty and truth that have been hallmarks of Catholic evangelization for 2,000 years with the cutting-edge digital marketing practices of this age.

"Parishes deserve good websites that are user-friendly and easy to navigate for Catholics and non-Catholics alike," said Mrs. Wiskirchen. "Data from our diocese shows that many parishioners prefer to be connected digitally, by text mes-

saging, social media and/or email."

She said the parish website project builds on that preference by providing a digital hub that translates fruitful parish life into an invitation for parishioners and community members to "dive in."

The updated parish websites position parishes to begin expanding their communications with parishioners and community members to electronic newsletters, Facebook groups and other social media channels.

"We're meeting the faithful where they are online and enriching our digital experiences by bringing the Church into what Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI referred to as 'the digital continent,'" said Mrs. Wiskirchen.

There are other benefits, most notably regarding Bishop W. Shawn McKnight's emphasis on strengthening the Church through better collaboration.

"Our bishop's vision of a diocese that is 'better together' is the driving principal behind the development and organization of this project, as we seek to design not just one well of information in a digital space,

but a network of parishes that are connecting and engaging with the faithful online," said Mrs. Wiskirchen.

While these new parish websites are owned and operated at the parish level, they also connect back to the main diocesan

website.

"This connection allows us to interweave the parishes in ways that were previously impossible," she stated. "Information can flow freely between the diocese and parish websites, keeping important topics up-to-date and creating an atmosphere of co-responsibility between both parties, to ensure the faithful have accurate and

can overcome hurdles that have, in many cases, slowed or stalled progress in advancing the mission of the Church in evangelization and service."

Waves of energy

With support from the diocese's Catholic Stewardship Appeal (CSA), the parish website project is being carried out in phases through tight

collaboration between individual parishes and the diocese.

The first "wave" includes transforming the websites for 23 parishes and Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCN-MO).

Of those, nine parishes are actively building their new websites, with two nearing the finish

line.

The new site for Ss. Peter & Paul parish in Boonville is in test mode and is set to be launched before the new year.

"I am very excited for Ss. Peter & Paul parish to launch their website," said Mrs. Wiskirchen, "because I can feel the momentum building as our parishes continue networking together to share the Gospel both online and in person as centers of charity and mercy."

Sixteen parishes are signed up for the "second wave," which is set to begin early spring 2020.

Step by step

People involved in building their parish's website from the ground up say it's challenging but rewarding work, individually and for the parish as a whole.

It starts with parishes contacting Mrs. Wiskirchen at the Chancery and appointing a

parish website administrator to spearhead the project locally.

Website administrators receive in-person training; professional support services from Blackbaud, the company the diocese is working with to build the parish sites; and ongoing, helpful guidance from people in the diocesan Communications Office.

The diocese is committed to not only the completion of a new parish website, but to its long-term success and effectiveness to enrich parish life.

As director of parish communications, Mrs. Wiskirchen sees her role as a support person, building the capacity of parish communicators and providing further training, recommendations and insight from her own experience as a website developer and visual communicator.

"I enjoy telling parish staff, 'Please, ask any question!'" she said. "I'm getting great feedback from them on how we can improve upon what we're building as we walk together."

Once they've learned how, the administrators go about customizing their parish website.

"While the parish websites come pre-loaded with a wealth of great information built-in, parishes are encouraged to really make the websites their own," said Mrs. Wiskirchen.

She said it's important to understand the parish's goals online — and then provide them with the easiest path to achieve that goal, both for the staff working on the website and the parishioners who are visiting it.

She cited as an example the annual process through which parishioners commit to sharing their time and talent.

"In many parishes, paper forms are mailed to parish families, filled out and returned to the parish office," she noted. "Parish staff members then input that data back into a digital system, and sometimes have



Ashley Wiskirchen is the diocesan director of parish communications.

relevant content to explore."

Her favorite feature of these new sites is the capability for the diocese to provide in-depth articles on faith topics, Church teaching and diocesan policies — which relieves the parish website administrators of some of the burden of checking the diocesan website for updates and ensuring that accurate information is coming from the diocese directly to parishioners on their website.

"While every parish is unique, they often have similar goals and similar challenges," she noted. "From the big-ticket items like providing an interactive and current parish calendar that promotes community-building events, to the nitty-gritty — and oftentimes stress-inducing — tasks, such as collecting time and talent information online and exporting that data in a meaningful way for parish staff to engage parishioners, these websites

"As each one has received a gift, use it to SERVE ONE ANOTHER as good stewards."

1 PETER 4:10



DIOCESE OF
Jefferson City

See WEBSITES, page 23

Sister Laura Magowan nears 70th year as a Sister of Charity of the Incarnate Word

By Rebecca Martin

Sister Laura Magowan has spent a lifetime supporting families through ministry, the young and the old and the in-between.

As her religious congregation, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word (CCVI), celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, Sr. Laura is nearing her 70th year as a member of the congregation.

Now serving as pastoral minister at Immaculate Conception parish in Jefferson City, Sr. Laura has come a long way from her first home in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.

She felt pulled toward religious life while she was in high school and joined the CCVI sisters in January 1950.

That September, she traveled to San Antonio, Texas, where the order is based, for her religious formation and training.

"It was difficult to leave home, to leave family, parents and siblings," she said in an interview in her parish office. "It

was a challenge, but I realized that religious life was my calling, and I had very supportive mentors and companions along the way in my community."

The CCVIs were founded in 1869 in Texas, first working to establish hospitals to care for the sick.

Their mission grew to include education and social ministries, founding schools and orphanages.

"I was trained to be a teacher and served in parochial schools in Illinois, Texas and Missouri," Sr. Laura said.

Her ministry in education spanned teaching and administrative roles, including seven years as an administrator at an adolescent residential treatment facility in Dallas.

For all ages

"The sisters came (to Immaculate Conception) in 1914 — that was the year the parish opened — and continued teaching in the parochial school until about five years ago," she said.



Sister Laura Magowan of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word is the pastoral minister at Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City.

— Photo by Rebecca Martin, courtesy of the *Jefferson City News-Tribune*

Sr. Laura has served the parishioners of Immaculate Conception for 31 years now, but never as a teacher.

As director of religious education, she helped prepare young people to receive sacraments — First Holy Communion, reconciliation and confirmation — and also led adult education programs and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), where she prepared and welcomed new Catholics into the Church.

"I've had a variety of experiences with the many different people I have worked with," she said. "I have worked with young people preparing for confirmation, I've worked with their parents, I've worked with

volunteer men and women of the parish — outstanding, faith-filled people who have taught me so much and have been very supportive.

"I've learned many things about life and about faith and, I think, the specialness of each person that I meet every day," she said.

Her current role rounds out the various ways she's worked to support families.

"I've always enjoyed teaching, but the role of pastoral minister has been a very special form of service for me," she said. "It's a joy and a blessing at this point in time to serve in ministry to the elderly of the parish, visiting them in homes, in many nursing homes and in the hospital."

Bringing it home

Looking back on a long life of service herself, she is often the face of Immaculate Con-

ception for older parishioners who can't make it to church.

"I just visit and pray, sometimes take them Holy Communion, ask them about the family. If they have a cat or a dog, I play with them because I'm an animal lover," she said of her regular home visits.

"I let them know that their parish knows them and values them and wants to support them however they can at this time in their lives."

During this interview, she was preparing to attend a funeral in the church next door to show her support for the family.

She's as likely to be seen at the monthly breakfast organized for senior citizens or any other event that gives life to the parish community.

She gets as much joy from reaching out to elderly parishioners as she does seeing young families bring their children to church.

"The faith, energy and enthusiasm of our parish gives me renewed energy," she said. "I see the older people who have been with us all along. I see a lot of potential in the young people."

"I think that the faith and knowledge that God is always with us — always has been and always will be — is the focus of my life and is visible in this faith community of Immaculate Conception," she stated.

"The faith, caring and generosity of Immaculate Conception parish is a constant source of inspiration for me and hope for the future."

Mrs. Martin is city editor of the Jefferson City News-Tribune newspaper, which published a version of this article Nov. 10. It is published here with permission.



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Incarnate Word Sister Cathy Vetter celebrates golden jubilee

**Jefferson City native
and graduate of Immaculate
Conception School**

By Eddie O'Neill

In the parlance of religious life, Sister Cathy Vetter is known as a "lifer."

That is, a sister is the only thing she has ever wanted to be for as long as she's been alive.

She dates her calling to religious life back to more than six decades ago when she was a first-grader at Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City.

"I fell in love with my teacher who was an Incarnate Word Sister," Sr. Cathy said with a smile.

"I wanted to be like her, and God gave me the grace to follow through with that," she said. "I was blessed with a family who was very supportive of my call, as I had an aunt who was a nun."

Earlier this year, Sr. Cathy marked her golden jubilee as a Sister of Charity of the Incarnate Word (CCVI), the community in which she professed her first vows in 1969.

Her family ties to Immaculate Conception parish and the diocese here are still strong.

"Two of my siblings — Louis Vetter and my sister, Carolyn Bruemmer — are still very active there," she noted. "As well, I had many nieces and nephews who went to Helias (Catholic) High School."

Today, Sr. Cathy lives in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, where she serves as a novice director for her community.

Through the years, she has served as an educator, a vocation director for the Jefferson City diocese in the 1980s, vocation director for her own community's North American Province, co-vicar for religious for the St. Louis Archdiocese, and on the leadership team for the CCVI U.S. Province in San Antonio, among many other assignments.

She told *The Catholic Missourian* that she has most enjoyed her ministry in the realm of spiritual direction and retreat work.

"I feel that studying spirituality is where my gifts lie," she said. "I have enjoyed giving retreats and encouraging people to go deeper in the walk with God."

She said it's hard to believe



Sister Cathy Vetter of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word greets one of her neighbors in South St. Louis.

— From the Sisters of charity of the Incarnate Word website

that it's been a half-century since she made her first profession.

Religious life, she noted, has changed quite a bit since then.

"Women are entering communities later in their lives after having experienced secular life for a number of years," she explained.

"As well, religious communities are combining forces these days," she said. "More and more we are coming to-

gether with other communities, with classes and activities together. I think that is where the future of the Church and the world lies."

There are currently five sisters from all over the globe at the Incarnate Word Novitiate House in South St. Louis.

Two from Latin America are studying English, while the others hail from the United States.

Sr. Cathy is the director of a second-year novice from Texas.

"I really enjoy journeying with women in their call and encouraging them to respond to God's call for them," she said.

She shared that in her free time, she enjoys visiting over dinner, reading, and swimming at the local YMCA.

She loves to get outdoors, especially on rivers and lakes, and tend to her garden when the season arrives.

As for the road ahead, her prayer is for peace in our world.

"My hope is that each of us would show greater respect for the dignity of every person and for our planet," she said. "Sadly, there is so much fear and anger in our world that we do not know how to be persons of peace and love."

Wreaths for Heroes



Members and friends of St. George parish in Linn take part in the laying of wreaths Dec. 7 at St. George Cemetery. Sponsored by Boy Scouts of America Troops 17 and 3017, and the Cub Scout Pack 17, the event included a keynote address by Chief Warrant Officer Five Patrick J. Muenks. Linn's "Wreaths for Heroes" observance was part of a national effort known as "Wreaths Across America" to honor veterans at rest in national cemeteries and many private cemeteries all across the United States. — Photo by Neal A. Johnson, courtesy of the *Unterrified Democrat* newspaper

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QUESTION CORNER

Adoption by single parent?/ Masses for deceased non-Catholics?

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Q. I desperately want a child. I am not married and have had cancer twice. I take chemo for five days, then I'm off for 23 days, and the cycle is continuous. I will not be able to have my own children because chemo could harm the baby. I am not able to adopt through Catholic Charities since I am single. I am a practicing Catholic wanting to take care of an unwanted child. Why am I unable to adopt through Catholic Charities?

A. Catholic Charities has no rule against adoption by a single parent, so I'm not sure whether you were told that or just assumed it. (The Diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania, for example, specifies on its website, "Single parents are eligible to become adoptive applicants for some programs. Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services understands that a good home can be provided by a single parent.")

While a two-parent home is the ideal, single parents can indeed offer children the love and stability they need to develop and flourish. A prospective parent's health, though, is one of the factors taken into account in the placement decision, since raising a child can be a demanding task. I would suggest that you speak directly to the Catholic Charities office in your area and explain your situation, perhaps bolstered by a doctor's certificate of your readiness to be a parent.

Q. Is there any prohibition against having Masses said for deceased Protestants or Jews, or should they only be requested for Catholics? (Suffolk, Virginia)

A. There is no canonical rule against having a Mass said for a deceased non-Catholic. As a matter of fact, the opposite is true; the Church's *Code of Canon Law* says, "A priest is free to apply the Mass for anyone, living or dead" (Canon 901).

This means that the Eucharist can be offered for anyone — dead or alive, Catholic or non-Catholic. And that brings up another question: If you attend the wake of a non-Catholic, is it OK to bring a Mass card? The answer is "Yes."

One might think the opposite; most Protestants, for example, do not believe in the existence of purgatory; they feel that their deceased loved ones, if they lived a worthy life, are already experiencing eternal beatitude.

Since the Mass is an intercessory prayer (it re-presents the salvific acts of Christ in His death and resurrection and seeks to apply those merits to the deceased), one might suspect that Protestants would see this as unnecessary and could be offended if given a Mass card. But I have never found that to be so; instead I have found them consistently grateful.

Which brings up still a third question: Can you have a Catholic funeral Mass for a non-Catholic? Here again the answer is "Yes," under certain circumstances. Canon 1183.3 provides that a Catholic church funeral may be offered for baptized non-Catholics "unless their intention is evidently to the contrary and provided that their own minister is not available."

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.



Papal Audience

December 18, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In these last days of Advent, we do well to ask ourselves: How am I preparing for the birth of Jesus? One way to prepare for Christmas is to set up a nativity scene in our homes, churches and public spaces, a lovely tradition that began with St. Francis of Assisi. The Christmas crèche is a kind of living Gospel, a touching reminder that the Lord showed His love for us by being born as one of us, in order to share in our daily lives,

hopes and concerns. The name Bethlehem, which means "house of bread," and the image of the manger, evoke the meals which we share as families, and the centrality of Jesus, the Living Bread come down from heaven, in our family life. In this world of frenetic activity, the Christmas crèche also encourages us to pause and contemplate what is truly important in life. Everything in the nativity scene speaks of the harmony and peace that only Christ the Savior can bring to our lives and to our world. As we gaze upon the lowly scene of Jesus' birth, let us invite Him into our hearts, so that each new day can bring spiritual rebirth and preserve in us the joy of Christmas.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's audience, especially the groups from Canada and the United States of America. I wish all of you a very blessed Christmas, and I ask you to pray for the Church, as you are already doing, and for peace this Christmas. Thank you.

Voices from the Vineyard

By Sister Angela McKeever

I have just completed 40 years in Chile and for 25 of these I have been going to the oldest jail in Santiago called the "Peni." It was built almost 200 years ago for 500 men. Today there are 5,000 prisoners.

Most of the inmates are addicted to drugs, alcohol, money and sex. Most have nothing to do all day except smoke drugs, make arms or "spears" to fight one another, or talk on their mobile phones.

To see men or women in jail who are over 60 or 70 years of age is sad, but all their lives they have been offenders. Sometimes you meet whole families who are involved in crime.

One woman I met was in the women's jail at the same time as all of her seven sons were incarcerated. When her children were young, she was abandoned by an alcoholic husband.

One day I met Miguel. He told me he was there for robbery, which had a lot to do with his drug addiction. He had been living on the street as he had lost his family, work, etc., because of the drugs.

I asked him, "Would you not like to give up drugs?" "No," he said, "I love my drugs." I had with me the Narcotics Anon (NA) booklet, "Just for Today," meditations for every day of the year. He said, "Let me see what it says for my birthday."

The theme of that day was "surrender." He handed me back the book and said, "Surrender, never!"

In spite of all his losses, even the loss of his freedom, he was not ready to blame his drugs for his misfortune, which showed how much in the grasp of addiction he was.

Jail is a cruel place, steeped in darkness. We go there to bring some hope and light from the Word of God and also to promote recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or NA. At times, you do meet some who want to come out of the darkness and change their hearts of stone and walk in the light of God. So we keep on going, keep on hoping and keep on praying for these prisoners.

Sr. Angela is an Irish Columban sister working in Chile (columban.org).



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Advent and waiting

By Brett Robinson
Catholic News Service



My wife and I are expecting our fifth child in February. It's been six years since we had a newborn in the house, so there are some things we need to relearn about life with a baby. Most pressing perhaps is the role that technology will play in our family life when the new baby arrives.

Six years ago our kids were much younger. We had a newborn and three kids under 8. Nobody looked at phones or played on tablets. They just weren't part of our daily routine. Now we have a teenager who uses the computer for research and has his own Kindle for reading and games. Our younger children are granted screen time after homeschooling is over so that my wife can catch her breath.

As a media studies academic, I have been very conscious of how technology

An Advent born of hope

By Effie Caldarola
Catholic News Service



It was a chilly March night in a small Midwestern town. Maybe it was windy, because in my memory the Great Plains are always windy.

I had a room-and-board arrangement in the tiny upstairs of an old lady's house. She was sweet, but bordering on senility. She was probably lonely and wanted my company, but I didn't particularly enjoy hers and, at least initially, wished I could be anywhere else.

I had graduated from a Jesuit university the spring before and narrowly missed out on a teaching job in a large Catholic school in the city. That was where I wanted to be. But I needed a job and this small town Catholic school needed an English and history teacher. So, here I was, seemingly at earth's end.

Advent began for me in that small upstairs bedroom. You might wonder what a windy, lonely night in March has to do with Advent. Advent, I think, can be more than the few weeks before the feast of Christmas, more than a liturgical season, although of course it's all of that, too. Advent can be an idea born of hope.

Advent is the beginning. Advent is joyful expectation, when you accept that miracles happen, when you grasp what it means when we say we believe "in things seen and unseen." Mostly, Advent is the

is changing domestic life. My oldest son never had regular screen time and he is now an incredible pianist and artist who loves woodworking and metalsmithing.

He is a digital native in the alternative sense. He uses his digits, his fingers, to create beautiful things that give him satisfaction and pleasure. His music fills the house and his art hangs on the walls, allowing the rest of us to share in that pleasure.

Our other children have thankfully followed suit by developing various artistic and athletic interests, which are entirely analog experiences. But you can see a difference among the ones who grew up with more screen time. They are less tolerant of being bored.

As many others have pointed out, boredom is the seedbed of creativity. If you don't allow a space for boredom, the interior life of reflection, silence and creativity has less room to grow.

This sounds counterintuitive and maybe a little cruel. As a parent, it's hard to tell a child that their misery (their word, not mine) is good for the soul. Pascal said that the source of man's misery

time when we accept Jesus. What's the point of this crazy season, this preparation, if we don't think that this Jesus whose birth we celebrate was the best thing that ever happened? What does it all mean if we're not waiting for Him?

I had grown up Catholic on this side of the Second Vatican Council. But in the rural area where I lived, Vatican II hadn't yet taken root. My childhood image of God was frightening. Yes, God was loving, but he had a brutal hell prepared for transgressors. My childhood confessions were full of angst, guilt, unhappiness.

This was long before the internet, and I realize now how woefully limited was my Catholic catechesis. So, when I got to college, I soaked in diverse ideas. I remember, as a 17-year-old freshman, being struck by James Joyce's description of the Irish as "an unfortunate priest-ridden race."

I left college thinking I must be agnostic but, remembering those images of hell, I kept going to Mass just in case.

This small town Catholic school was brimming with religious sisters and employed two full-time priests. Most of them were young and very kind to me. They drew from me, slowly and in embryonic stages, a new spirituality. They too were in the midst of change, growth and uncertainty in the turbulent wake of Vatican II. Nevertheless, they introduced me to a Jesus I had never really met.

So, on a night in March, as the school

is our inability to sit quietly in a room alone. In a world of constant activity and productivity, it is no small act of rebellion to try and sit quietly in a room alone.

Pope Pius XII said that society's stress on material progress has upset the balance and harmony of man. He cautioned that someone who grows up in an atmosphere that is centered on technology will "inevitably discover that one whole part of his make-up ... is missing."

The ability to think, judge and act in ways that are most fully human can be lost in a technological environment that favors particular ways of thinking, judging and acting that reflect the logic of the machines around us.

We are expected to do things very quickly. A text message that is not answered instantaneously is seen as a slight. A work email that is not responded to immediately is viewed as a lack of productivity. We live in an environment dictated by speed whether by our phones,

our cars or our dishwashers. There is an implicit preference for that which gets things done faster.

We are a couple months away from the birth of our son. We can't wait for him to arrive, but we know God's careful work of creation takes time. It's not the schedule we would pick, but that is partly due to the artificial expectations fostered by our environment.

We are so thankful this waiting coincides with Advent because it helps remind us of the patient waiting that God has ordained for all of creation. The Savior is not Siri. He does not obey our commands like our other technological genies. It is our obedience to God that brings us back into harmony with Christ in the midst of so much "progress."

Robinson is director of communications and Catholic media studies at the University of Notre Dame McGrath Institute for Church Life.

REFLECTION

The time it takes

By Mark Saucier

When men and women are trying to conquer addiction — and all its bad judgments, bad actions and bad outcomes — a punch bowl and urns of coffee are all you will find at the Christmas party bar.

The food, though, matched any Noel noshing. There was the mandatory sausage and cheese, but also chicken wings, meatballs, stuffed mushrooms, and freshly baked desserts.

A royal feast compared to their recent prison cuisine.

After eating, how do you entertain 20 former inmates, users, liars and thieves? Maybe a Bible game will get the wingding swinging.

They had to guess a book of Scripture and then recite a favorite passage to win a prize. Their quotes were not the old standbys like John 3:16's "For God so loved the world ..." or Psalm 23's "The Lord is my shepherd."

No, they quoted from Hebrews, Ecclesiastes and Matthew.

A man offered "Iron sharpens iron." He paused and then recited Proverbs 27 through "so a man is tested by the praise he receives," with his audience softly chanting, "Go. Go. Go."

One young woman, a newbie in our program, said only, "And Jesus wept."

She received the loudest cheer from her peers. Their own journeys to recovery, and for some, their repeated attempts, all began there.

We cleared the center of the room. Our emcee brought out a ball, nearly two feet in diameter, filled with prizes suspended in miles of plastic wrap.

The object was to unroll as much as you could before the previous player threw doubles with a pair of dice.

Of course, you had to wear big oven mitts.

It was wild and funny. What amazed me was the competitive intensity for pens, lighters or a cheap stocking cap.

Still, when it was someone else's turn, they spurred their opponent with shouts and groans.

We gave our gifts to the residents, most of which were much-needed clothes. One woman, urged to don her tunic sweater, gave a sprightly wiggle as she turned and looked over her shoulder.

Referring to 1 Timothy, our director playfully admonished, "Women should adorn themselves ... with modesty and self-control."

To which our fashion model replied, "I'm getting there, but I'm not Paul. My conversion takes time."

At the end, a woman, maybe in her early 30s, hugged and thanked me. With tears glistening on her cheeks, she said, "I haven't had this kind of Christmas in 20 years."

No child should have to wait that long.

See CALDAROLA, page 18

175th

From page 1

Father Thomas Cusack, pastor of St. Stephen parish in Indian Creek, visited Edina and offered the community's first Mass in a home.

Historian Jeane Gilmore in 1974 noted that when the call for construction volunteers went out in the summer of 1844, "two-thirds of the men in Adair, Lewis and Scotland Counties were sufficiently motivated to answer the call, and not one man in 50 was unaware of what was going on in Edina."

Catholics and non-Catholics spent three days bringing logs to the site and setting them in place, Ms. Gilmore wrote in *The Legacy: The History of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Edina, Mo.*, "and with more optimism than foresight built a church that was quite large for the number of Catholics in the area."

Money ran out before windows and interior furnishings could be installed. Mr. Early insisted on heading back to visit friends in Ohio and Kentucky to raise money.

As the log church was being completed, Father Denis Byrne, pastor of St. Patrick parish in Clark County, began traveling to Edina regularly to offer Mass.

Archbishop Peter Richard Kenrick of St. Louis appointed him to be the Edina parish's first resident pastor in 1852.

More immigrants from Ireland, mostly refugees from the potato famine, began settling in the area, and the parish quickly outgrew the log church.

The archbishop sent a much



LEFT: Father Colin Franklin addresses the people from the ornate, oaken pulpit in St. Joseph Church in Edina during the parish's 175th anniversary Mass in September. RIGHT: The altar servers gather before Mass.

— Photos by Jay Nies

younger priest, Father John Powers, to Edina after Fr. Byrne retired.

The 28-year-old oversaw the building of a second, larger church but eventually succumbed to the rigors of frontier life and died.

The next pastor, Father Bernard McMenemy, led the parish through the turmoil of the Civil War but moved to Iowa after passage of the state's 1865 Constitution.

That document included a requirement that all professionals, including teachers and ministers, take an "Ironclad Oath" of allegiance to the Union before publicly engaging in their work.

Archbishop Kenrick, insisting that the privilege and obligation of handing on the Catholic faith comes from God alone, instructed his priests not to take the oath.

Many priests and ministers were arrested and fined before the U.S. Supreme Court

struck down the oath requirement.

Fr. McMenemy was indicted for officiating at a marriage but left the state before he could be arrested.

His successor, Father David Phelan, was also indicted for preaching without taking the oath.

He bought an Edina newspaper and turned it into a regional Catholic paper called the *Missouri Watchman*, raging against such indignities as the Ironclad Oath.

Near the end of this pastorate, he invited a group of Sisters of Loreto of Nerinx, Kentucky, to open a Catholic academy for girls.

Three of the sisters on the faculty had been indicted for teaching without taking the oath.

A group of De LaSalle Christian Brothers later opened up a school for boys.

Both would eventually be combined into a coed institution known as St. Joseph School.

Sisters of Loreto remained on the faculty until 1973.

Their convent later served as a regional catechetical center. The parish in 2004 converted it into a state-of-the-art retreat center, which remains in use.

"Cathedral of the North"

The second church was already snug when Father John Fitzgerald arrived as pastor in 1868.

Before considering a larger building, he convinced a gifted writer in the parish to send letters to East Coast newspa-



pers, inviting immigrants to take advantage of the economic opportunities and strong Catholic community in Knox County, Missouri.

The letters helped swell the population even more, justifying construction of the mas-

sive church that now stands at North Main and East Smallwood streets.

Fr. Fitzgerald enlisted a master builder, Louis Weishar, to design the new church and oversee its construction.

Parishioners raised the money, extracted the stone and clay from the ground, fired the bricks and harvested the lumber locally.

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

Auxiliary Bishop Patrick J. Ryan of St. Louis — future archbishop of Philadelphia — blessed the cornerstone and set it into place in 1873.

Archbishop Kenrick dedicated the church in 1875.

The organ is believed to have been built for the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. Shipped to Missouri by railroad in 1885, it was reported to be the largest instru-

ment west of the Mississippi River at that time. The church's soaring bell tower and steeple — 212 feet from ground to cross — were completed in 1891.

Knowing, loving, serving Most of the parishioners were of Irish lineage, but the archbishop also sent German-speaking priests to assist the pastor in ministering to the smaller German population.

On March 19, 1889, the Feast of St. Joseph, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton — a northern Missouri native, former slave and the Roman Catholic Church's first black priest in the United States — preached a mission in St. Joseph Church.

Following Fr. Fitzgerald's lengthy pastorate came Father Christopher Byrne, who would eventually serve as bishop of Galveston, Texas.

He oversaw the construction of a new school building in 1906.

The parish maintained a grade school and high school until 1954, then continued with grades 1 through 8.

Declining enrollment led to the closing of the school in 1997.

"We thank God and all those who helped make possible the long tradition of Catholic education our parish has been



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150 women attend Advent by Candlelight in Tipton

Advent by Candlelight was enjoyed by more than 150 women at St. Andrew School Gym in Tipton on Sunday, Dec. 8. The band Joshua 24:15 entertained the group with beautiful music containing inspiration and thoughtful lyrics for the season of Advent. This was the seventh year for the Advent by Candlelight event, which began as a special evening for women to gather together for a relaxing evening filled with prayer, reflection, friendly conversation, delicious appetizers and sweet desserts.



— Photos by Peggy Huhmann

Pope blesses Nativity scene statues — signs of God's love

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Francis blessed hundreds of figurines of the baby Jesus — ranging from tiny plastic figures to life-sized statues — and encouraged children to make sure they have Nativity scenes at home.

After reciting the Angelus prayer Dec. 15, the third Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis did the traditional blessing of the “*bambinelli*,” or statues of the infant Jesus, for children to put in mangers at home, at school and in their parishes.

“Raise the statues up,” the Pope told the children. “I bless them from my heart.”

Pope Francis then quoted from his new apostolic letter on the meaning and importance of the creche: “The Nativity scene is like a living Gospel. ... As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God Who became Man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is His love for us that He became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with Him.”

In his main Angelus address, Pope Francis spoke about the importance of answering the Advent call to conversion in preparation for Christmas.

“We are called to recognize the face God chose to assume in Jesus Christ, humble and merciful,” he said.

“Advent is a time of grace,” the Pope said. “It tells us it’s

not enough to believe in God; it’s necessary to purify our faith each day.”

The Advent journey is about preparing “to welcome not a character from a fable, but the God Who calls us, gets us involved and Who makes us choose,” he said. “The Baby lying in the manger has the face

of our neediest brothers and sisters,” who deserve the care of the Christian community.

Nativity scenes were also on the Pope’s mind Dec. 16 when he met members of Italy’s Catholic Action section for 11- to 13-year-olds for his annual exchange of Christmas greetings with them.

Seasonal reminders




Father Gregory Meystrik displays his collection of Nativity scenes from around the world at Trips and More Travel Agency, during the Lichternacht “Light the Night” on Dec. 6 in downtown Rolla. Fr. Meystrik, pastor of St. Patrick parish in Rolla, Immaculate Conception parish in St. James and St. Anthony parish in Rosati, has been collecting Nativity scenes for over 25 years.

“I’m giving you some homework,” he told them. “On Christmas Day pause in prayer and, with the same awe of the shepherds, look upon baby Jesus who came into the world to bring the love of God, Who makes all things new.

“With His birth, Jesus be-

came a bridge between God and humanity, reconciling earth and heaven, restoring the unity of the whole human race,” the Pope said. “And today He asks you, too, to be little bridges where you live. You know there always is a need to build bridges, right?”

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No Hunger Holiday

Bowling Green FFA members help pack boxes for the seventh annual No Hunger Holiday on Nov. 26, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving Day, in the St. Clement Knights of Columbus Hall. It was an all-volunteer effort coordinated with local churches, the Hope Center of Bowling Green and Knights of Columbus St. Clement Council 1928 in St. Clement. Participants, including Father Henry Ussher and members of St. Clement parish, assembled donated ingredients for a complete Thanksgiving Dinner into packages to deliver to 200 families in need in Pike County.

— Photo from Bowling Green FFA's Facebook page

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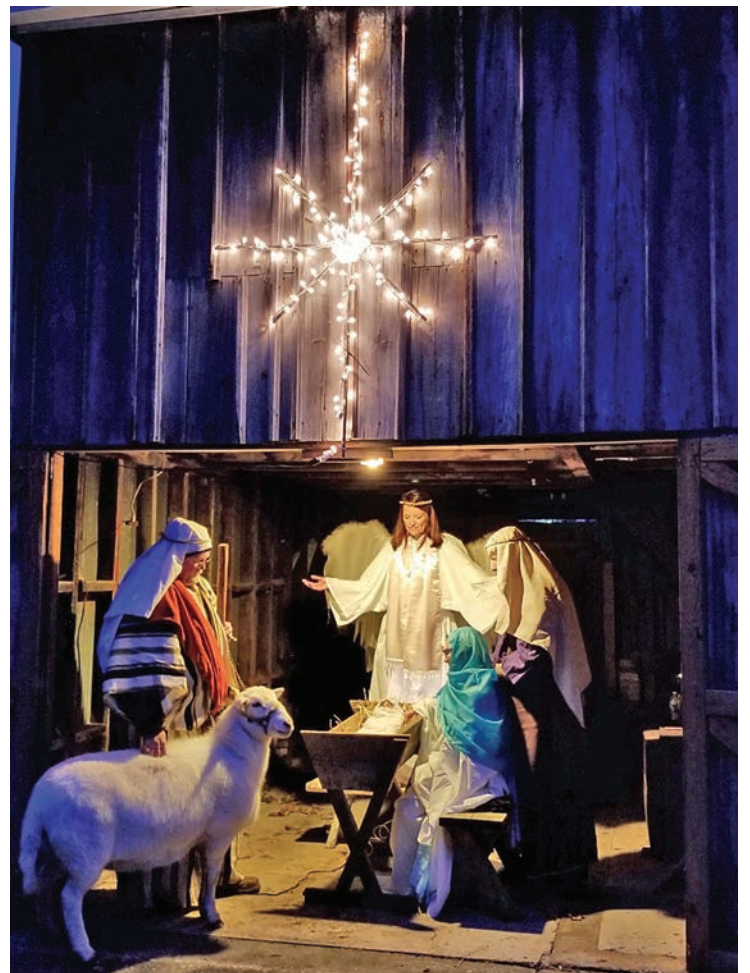


Dustin Dolce
573-230-6902



Jeff Fennewald
573-473-7590

Bonnots Mill Live Nativity



Members and friends of St. Louis of France parish in Bonnots Mill reenact the circumstances leading up to Jesus's birth in Bethlehem, during their annual Live Nativity on Dec. 7. Guests visited each of the stations by driving through town. Doug Starke portrays a shepherd with his sheep, Raspberry. Carol Backes and Carol Haslag stand in for angels. Margie Stucken, Cindy DeOrnellis and Melinda Countryman keep watch of their flocks by night, with sheep provided by Cindy and Ed DeOrnellis. The Three Wise Men are Michael Pohlman, Mike Rackers and Jerry Haslag. Newlyweds Dillon and Andrea Boss stand in for Joseph and Mary, with angel Mara Rackers and shepherd Doug Starke.

— Photos by Brenda Starke

COATS

From page 2

Help Center in Jefferson City. "All have expressed their deepest appreciation and gratitude for these contributions to help them serve the basic needs of their patrons," stated Rich Anderson, a member of the council. Fellow Knights and auxiliary members started collecting gently used coats, hats, mittens, scarves and backpacks



for men, women and children back in October.



LEFT: Rich Anderson presents collected coats to Debbie Sands of Capital Region Medical Center. **RIGHT:** Deacon John Schwartze and Mr. Anderson present donated coats to Bob Cummins from the Samaritan Center.

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VISIT

From page 1

(Matthew 3:2). “Regardless of our situation, the Kingdom of God is here and now,” Deacon Hill continued. “As followers and disciples of Jesus Christ, we try as hard as we can, with the help and the grace of God, to imitate His Son, to show love, to show forgiveness, to show compassion.”

Bishop McKnight gave them Holy Communion and called down a blessing from God.

One of the men said he felt the Holy Spirit reach into his heart, filling him with joy and peace.

The man prayed for his family back home to have the same experience whenever they receive the sacraments.

He said he looks forward to worshipping God with them together some day.

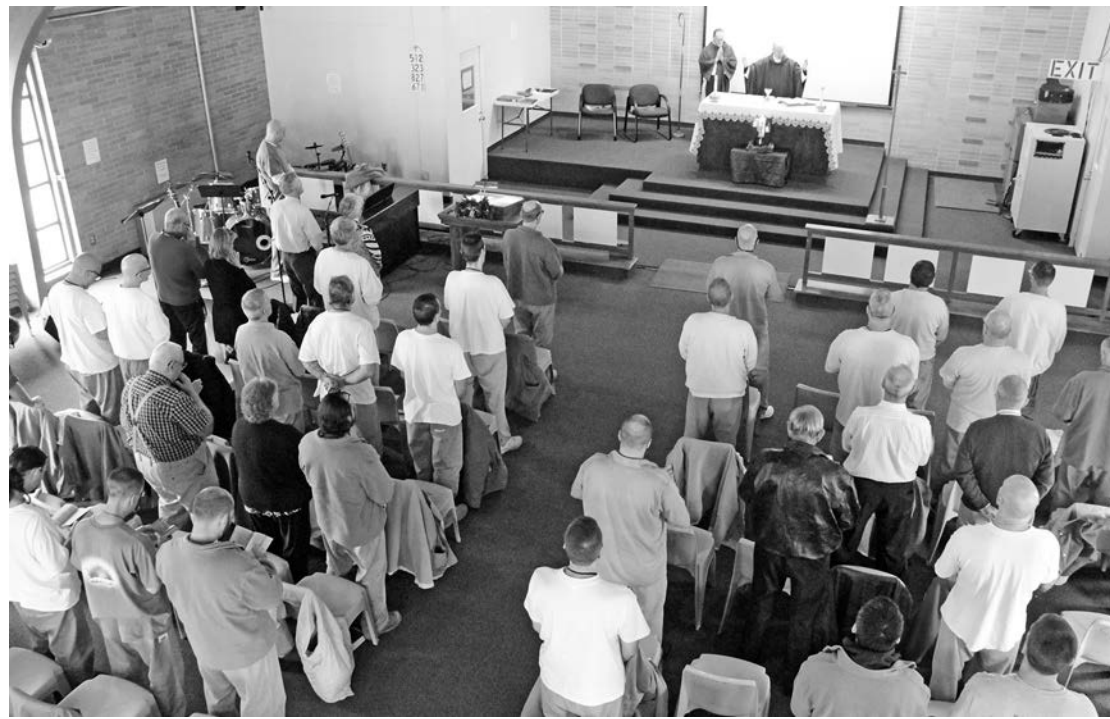
“I believe”

At Mass in the chapel, Bishop McKnight was to welcome three of the residents into full communion with the Church — receiving their Profession of Faith, confirming them and giving them their First Holy Communion.

He first heard more residents’ confessions in a room off to the side of the chapel while about 60 people — prison residents and volunteers from St. Pius X parish who regularly visit them — prepared for Mass.

“What the bishop is going to give you, what God is going to consecrate is truly the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ,” Deacon Hill reminded everyone present. “It’s not a symbol, it is not a sign, it is truly the Body and Blood of Christ.”

“The amen you say back to the bishop means, ‘I believe! I



believe this is Jesus Christ, I believe He died for our sins, and I will try to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ!” the deacon told them.

“What you have received”

Bishop McKnight said Advent is a time to celebrate the Second Coming of Christ.

“We look forward to His return in glory because we also celebrate His birth in time,” the bishop said. “And in a special way, we await His coming on this very altar to us today in the Eucharist — the gift of His very Self.”

Bishop McKnight said Advent, the Sacraments of Initiation and the Holy Eucharist are all intimately linked with the Holy Spirit.

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah told of God’s plans to send the Messiah — His Anointed One — Who would possess the gifts of wisdom, knowledge, un-

derstanding, counsel, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord.

Through the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the Father of that long-awaited Messiah bestows those same gifts on His people for the purpose of building up His kingdom on earth.

Speaking to the three candidates for full communion in the Church, Bishop McKnight said they were about to be sealed with that same Spirit, “when you shall be anointed with the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and the anointing with Holy Chrism oil.”

He reminded them that the supernatural gift of the Holy Spirit is not merely for the salvation of our own souls — “That is what Baptism is for!” — but also to enrich their natural gifts and talents for the mission of the Church.

“The journey of faith in Jesus Christ, already begun in you with your baptism, shall

be sealed, completed and strengthened with this second outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon you,” he told them.

The bishop urged the men to be lifelong witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ, leading other people to Him and His Church through word and deed, just as fellow Catholics had done for them.

“You are challenged to bring others to the table of the Lord by showing the beauty of the Catholic faith in the mercy and charity of Christ,” he said.

The bishop reminded them that God freely bestows His mercy on His elect specifically in order for them to do the same for others.

“All of our past sins against God and one another have been nailed to the cross,” he said. “So now is the time for us to practice the mercy we have received.”

“Be sealed”

By name, the bishop summoned the candidates for confirmation to stand before him and the altar.

Together, they prayed the Nicene Creed with the rest of the congregation.

Each of the three then individually made a profession of faith: “I believe and profess all that the holy Catholic Church believes,

Residents of the Moberly Correctional Center and outside visitors from St. Pius X parish in Moberly pray the Mass with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight in the prison chapel on Dec. 8, the Second Sunday of Advent.

— Photos by Jay Nies

teaches, and proclaims to be revealed by God.”

In unity with the whole Church, the bishop then implored God to seal them with the Holy Spirit.

He anointed them with Sacred Chrism, saying: “Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Peace be with you.”

He then invited everyone forward to exchange a sign of peace with the newest Catholics.

Sent forth

Right before the end of Mass, Deacon Hill called forward an MCC resident who was going home that week, as most of them eventually will.

The man’s fellow Catholics gathered around him, placing a hand on his shoulder as Deacon Hill led them in prayer: “We ask You to bless him, his family and all that he does in Your name.”

Bishop McKnight said he is proud and grateful for all that the deacons and laypeople of St. Pius X parish do to help the men in the prison maintain their connection with Christ and His Church.

He said hearing confessions, offering Mass and welcoming new members into such a tightly-knit community, made him feel like a parish priest again.

“It’s very good for my own heart to be here,” he said.

Holy ground

Moberly parishioners Joe and Mary Knaebel said the MCC chapel is an oasis of peace and holiness for men of many faith traditions.

Mrs. Knaebel encourages the men to spend as much time in the chapel as they can.

“This is a good place to be, away from all the nonsense and negative activity they encounter on the yard,” she said. “They have a wonderful chaplain and



LEFT: A resident of the Moberly Correctional Center (MCC), a minimum- and medium-security state prison in Moberly, proclaims a reading during Mass with Bishop McKnight. **RIGHT:** Three newly initiated Catholics join Bishop McKnight at the altar after Mass.

ST. JOSEPH

From page 10

blessed with," parishioner Cel Dorian stated at the time.

"Not today!"

The decades have made St. Joseph parish a smaller, tighter community than it was in the late 1800s.

The people still take seriously the preservation of their soaring church building, which can be seen from anywhere in town and from miles away.

A massive, four-year restoration project was almost finished when a fire broke out in an area above the sacristy on Aug. 15, 2013, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

An extra layer of sheetrock applied during the renovation helped contain the fire.

Adorning the wall between the sacristy and the sanctuary is an image of the Blessed Mother.

"It was her feastday, and she was like, 'Nope. You're not getting past me. Not today,'" said neighbor and lifelong parishioner Dot Kriegshauser.

The nearby Knights of Columbus Hall served as a temporary church while parishioners worked with insurance adjusters, diocesan advisors and contractors to erase the damage.

"Wise investor"

Bishop McKnight pointed out at the jubilee Mass that the people of St. Joseph parish are a temple of the Lord.

"This magnificent edifice is the sacramental representation of the presence of God and His Church, the people, in this community," the bishop asserted. "St. Paul challenges us to build upon the foundation of what our ancestors in the faith have built."

Bishop McKnight asserted that Fr. Tolton's 1889 visit — and the courage it took to invite him — is an important part of the parish's spiritual patrimony and should be taught to each new generation of children.

He pointed out that St. Joseph parish has been abundantly blessed throughout the past 175 years.

"God is a wise investor," the bishop noted. "And He expects a good return on His investment."

"May our generation build



LEFT: Dot Kriegshauser proclaims a reading during the St. Joseph parish Jubilee Mass. RIGHT: Father Colin Franklin visits with singers and accompanists Kyle, Natalie and Jim Clark before Mass.

upon our ancestors' devotion and good works," he said, "so that everyone in the territory of this parish may experience the Catholic Church in Knox County as a center of charity and mercy."

"Generation to generation"

Fr. Franklin thanked God "for the great gift of this parish, this community and the mission that You have entrusted to us."

"We ask You to bless our efforts," he prayed, "that we may be good stewards of the gifts You have given us and may be encouraged in serving You and proclaiming the Gospel."

Deacon Berry has been a permanent deacon at the parish for almost 25 years. He said that in sickness and in health, his fellow parishioners have buttressed him and his wife, Marianne, with prayer.

He believes the way the people came together and worked to restore the church after the fire "speaks volumes to the type of people we have in our parish."

It testifies to a solid foundation of faith and commitment "which has been passed down from generation to generation, which is the way it should be," he said.

Hardworking and dependable

Cheryl Hayes, who grew up in nearby Baring and joined St. Joseph parish over 50 years ago, said she loves the camaraderie among the people.

"God is right at the forefront of every bit of it," she said, "in the good, even in the

bad."

Mr. Clark oversaw the 2010 renovation of the church and the 2013-15 restoration after the fire.

He described his fellow parishioners as "good, hardworking, dependable salt-of-the-earth people."

He said their faith is evident in how they worship God and look out for each other.

He believes that God worked with firefighters to contain the fire and prevent it from engulfing the entire church.

"There literally were no lathe or studs or anything wooden left behind that wall," he noted. "In a significant area, the only thing left was plaster, and if it had broken through that, we would have lost it all."

Head of household

"I've known people here who would make good saints," said Anne Gramling who taught at the old St. Joseph School for almost 20 years.

"God is right at the center of all of this," she said. "I know He is."

After the jubilee Mass and reception, a group of parishioners and friends gathered in the Parish Education Building for fellowship and memories.

They watched a slideshow of wedding, school, Christmas, historical and other photos.

Parishioner Betty Jo Gonneman noted that her granddaughter is the seventh gen-



eration in her family to call St. Joseph parish home.

She believes 175 years is a milestone well worth celebrating.

"I think that together, we've influenced a lot of people in all that time, hopefully by our faithfulness, our example," she said.



Ms. Kriegshauser has never lived more than two doors away from church.

Growing up, she and her sister would help their dad ring the bells before Mass every Sunday.

Now she assembles the parish bulletin each week and maintains the Facebook page.

"We're a family," she said, "and this is home."

Universal Church

Father Paul Clark, associate pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Columbia and part-time chaplain at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, grew up in Edina and went to St. Joseph School before it closed.

His parents, Jim and Kyle Clark, were always active in the parish — his mother particularly in adult ministry and outreach to the elderly and homebound, his father as director of the choir.

"I think that was a huge influence on me — the whole idea of service, of giving your talents back to the Church and back to the God Who gave you the gifts in the first place," said Fr. Clark.

He believes the 175th anniversary is a celebration for the whole diocese, because all parishes are part of one local Church.

"It's good for everyone, especially young people, to see that there are communities in our diocese that have been thriving since long, long before we were born," he said.

He said it's not just a matter of geology, geography or parish affiliation.

"The word 'universal' keeps coming to me," he said, "and it's not just our Church across the world. It's a Church that exists throughout time, and we are all connected historically back to Christ's Apostles."

"What we celebrate will continue when we're in heaven," he asserted, "when we're all finished and united."



By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

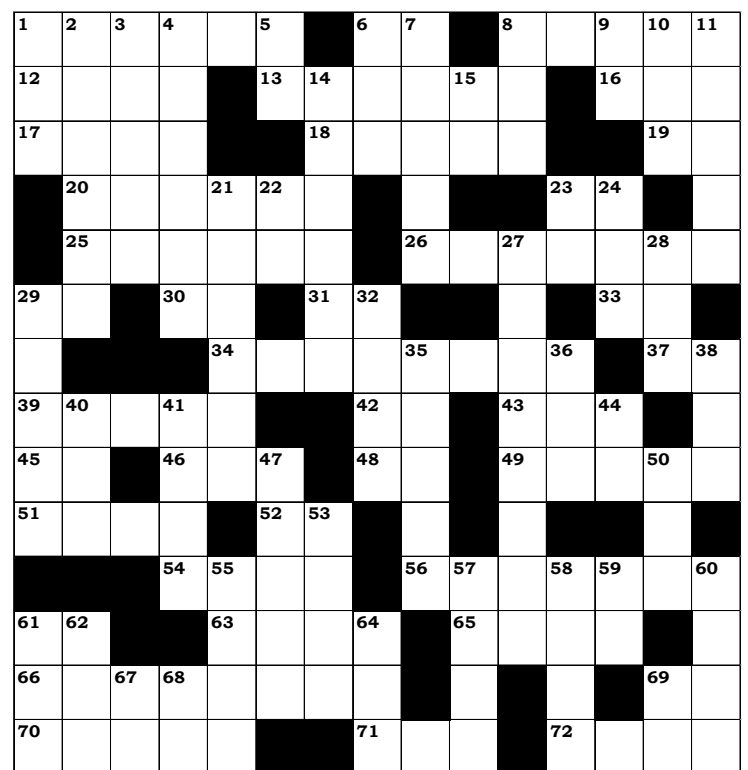
1. Christmas celebrations/traditions/activities abound across Mo. in the Christmas _____. This puzzle mentions at least a few.
6. Related to St. or Dr.
8. Drive in fast food restaurant.
12. Cross letters.
13. Favorite Christmas desserts in _____ include plum pudding and mincemeat tarts.
16. Common winter virus.
17. "The First _____"; Christmas carol.
18. In 1917, at Christmas, a KC stationary store ran out of the customary white-tissue wrapping paper and substituted "_____ French paper." This new holiday wrap was a hit and next year this Hall brother's stationary store designed and sold a line of it locally. The growing store became Hallmark.
19. Abbr. for episode.
20. The mayor planned to _____ a plaque marking the 150th anniv. of the town's annual Christmas parade.
23. Santa _____; oldest capital in the U.S.
25. Original Irish language.
26. Joseph and Mary _____ with the infant Jesus from the murderous clutches of Herod by fleeing to Egypt.
29. Sound of relief, contentment or understanding.
30. At Christmas, the historic mansions at Newport in this State are decked out in

- Yuletide finery with music, tours and spectacular decorations (abbr.).
31. Moon of Jupiter.
 33. Mt. Rushmore initials.
 34. The Country Club Plaza in KC began Christmas decorations in 1925 with a single strand of lights over a store entrance. Now a 15-block area with 150 stores dazzle bright for Christmas _____.
 37. Fee-fi-____-fum.
 39. It can be attached to photo or phono.
 42. Prefix for team or crew.
 43. Color of Rudolph's nose.
 45. In civil rights law, short for equal opportunity.
 46. Suffix for Christ.
 48. Letters for Narcotics Anonymous.
 49. "____ Christmas would hurry up," cried the boy! (2 wds.)
 51. Lover's _____; e.g., a park and great viewpoint just south of Hannibal overlooking the Mississippi River.
 52. Shorthand for eight parishes in our diocese named for the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.
 54. Bats navigate their way in the dark through _____ location.
 56. *The Polar Express* is a 1985 story, and 2014 movie, about a _____ trip to Santa's North Pole. It comes alive in the popular one-hour ride on the Branson Scenic Railway with a gift-giving Santa, carolers, & hot chocolate and cookies.
 61. _____ only he had not gone down that road.
 63. "...like a landowner who went out...to _____ laborers for his vineyard," (Matthew 20:1).
 65. Jeremiah & Kari Scull have raised a small _____ of reindeer since 2014 at their Show-Me Reindeer farm in Robertsville, Mo. Almost every day at Christmastime they take pairs to tree lightings, festivals, private parties, and parades.
 66. This early Catholic bishop, patron saint of children, legendary in his generous gift-giving, gave rise to our modern Santa Claus.
 69. Okie dokie.
 70. Even with the many local and professional Christmas shows around the

71. Is the North Pole really in Mo.? A close replica with animals, a maze, _____ trains, etc. can be found at The North Pole at Union Station in St. Louis.
72. # of ladies dancing in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song.

DOWN

1. Mary was made worthy to be the mother of Jesus by being conceived without _____.
2. "The Lord said to us at Horeb, 'You have stayed here long _____ at this mountain. Leave here...'" (Deuteronomy 1:6-7).
3. Ice rinks in KC (Crown Center Terrace — outdoor rink in a shopping complex), St. Louis (Steinberg in Forest Park — largest outdoor rink in the Midwest), or in Jefferson City (Washington Park Ice _____) might provide a fun Christmastime activity.
4. Mo.'s _____ Dollar City is regularly hailed as one of the best Christmas destinations in the country — 6.5 million lights, 1,000 Christmas trees with the nightly Holly Jolly Christmas Parade with musical floats illuminated by 200,000 lights.
5. Letters for the Tarheel State, the home of mythical Mayberry.
6. Genetic material.
7. In 1925, a St. Louis Mo. _____ troupe was known as the Mo. Rockets. They toured New York City and in 1932 became the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall. They are esp. noted for their Christmas shows. Until 2015, they had a touring company that frequently stopped at Branson.
8. "...but only _____ the word and my soul shall be healed," —from the Communion Rite of the Mass.
9. The huge Mark Twain National Forest (_____) in southern Mo. covers 1,491,840 acres.
10. Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris actually sits on an island in the Seine River, the



_____ *de la Cite*.

11. One of Santa's reindeer.
14. The _____ is made up of 55 unions representing 12 million members.
15. Washington, _____.
21. Successor of the prophet Elijah (1 Kings 19:16-21).
22. 2 p.m. on a sundial.
23. Note between mi and sol.
24. Pollution control agency.
27. St. Charles, Mo.'s celebrated Main Street has many activities throughout Christmastime including illuminated nighttime _____ rides decked out in holiday décor.
28. One of Santa's helpers.
29. "And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the _____... saying: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace..." (Luke 2:13).
32. Our family would _____ presents on Christmas Eve and then go to Midnight Mass.
35. "Joy to the World" is the most published Christmas hymn in North Am. It was written in 1719, and based on _____ 98:4-8.
36. Some items that can be fun to _____ for Christmas include Christmas stockings, tree skirts and Christmas ornaments.
38. _____kosh B'Gosh; children's clothing brand.
40. _____ vs. *Wade*; infamous Supreme Court decision.
41. "...the stump of a _____ he held tight in his teeth and the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath..." — from "Twas the Night Before Christmas."
44. Short for Diana.
47. _____ *obstat*; in Latin, nothing hinders; Catholic certification that a book contains nothing opposed to faith or morals.
50. Dead or Red.
53. Wife of Mr. Dithers.
55. Sow _____; pig food.
57. Sailor's greeting.
58. A type of golf club.
59. Technology that replaced the cassette tape.
60. The Enchanted Lights Display at the _____ of the Ozarks features 200 animated Christmas scenes and tree decorations; also in Laurie, the Shrine of St. Patrick's grounds has 4,000 strands of lights and family activities like reindeer petting and gingerbread house building.
61. I'll be there _____ jiffy (2 wds.).
62. _____ trees are appropriately used for Christmas trees because they are evergreens, symbolizing the ever-present love of God.
64. Abbr. for the 19th book of the Bible.
67. The Cong. of the Resurrection (_____) is a male Catholic religious order, founded in 1836, with missions in 16 countries. Their main charism is providing & improving religious education.
68. Three of these make up a Santa's laugh.
69. The North Pole is _____ top of the world.

ANSWERS on page 19



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Charles Prather • Rick Prather
Tom Kummer

Nativity in the State Capitol

By Jay Nies

Carols and hymns and the light of the Word Made Flesh radiated for two hours in the Missouri State Capitol during this year's Nativity at the Capitol event, held on Dec. 12 in the Capitol Rotunda.

The Columbia 40 Days for Life cosponsored the event, which included the prominent display of a large-scale Nativity scene.

"It was an afternoon celebrating the real 'reason for the Season,'" stated Kathy Forck, coordinator for Columbia 40 Days for Life.

It included prayer and Scripture reading by Missouri residents, and vocal and instrumental music performed by students from eight local schools, including: Blair Oaks and St. Stanislaus schools in Wardsville; Our Lady of the Snows School in Mary's Home; St. Francis Xavier School in Taos; Immaculate Conception School, St. Peter Interparish School, St. Joseph Cathedral School, and Helias Catholic High Schools, all in Jefferson City.

Pianist Annie Skelton, flutist Ada Skelton and vocalist Eva Jones provided additional music.

Rev. Greg White, former Cole County sheriff, served as moderator and master of ceremonies.

Judy Bax of the Missouri Nativity Scene Committee organized the event and provided the Nativity scene for the display.

Since the display is privately funded and sponsored without any government aid or endorsement, it is fully protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

"We are very pleased to be exercising our First Amendment rights by expressing our religious faith in public," said Mrs. Bax. "It is an honor to celebrate Christmas with a nativity scene in the Missouri State Capitol."

More photos from this event have been posted on *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition at: www.cathmo.com



The Helias Catholic High School choir closes out the second hour of this year's Nativity at the Capitol event, held on Dec. 12 in the Capitol Rotunda. — Photos by Jay Nies

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Fundraisers & Social Events

Dec. 31

Cuba, K of C New Year's Eve party to benefit Missouri Special Olympics, 6 pm, for info and tickets visit cubakofc.org; **Mary's Home**, Our Lady of the Snows NCYC New Year's Eve dance; **Wien**, St. Mary of the Angels parish "Ringing in the '20s" New Year's Eve dance, 8:30 pm-12:30 am

Jan. 5

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes Contemporary Group "Farewell to Christmas" concert, 3-4 pm, free-will offering to benefit One Call Institute; **Jefferson City**, "Bells of Christmastide" ecumenical handbell choir concert, 3-5:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph

Jan. 11-12

St. Martins, St. Martin parish "Blest Art" sale, after all Masses

Jan. 18

Fulton, St. Peter K of C Ladies Auxiliary annual Candlelight Lasagna Dinner, 6-8 pm; **Mary's Home**, Our Lady of the Snows parish Shiloh Dance, 7:30-11:30 pm, school gym

Jan. 22

Sedalia, K of C Family Night Buffet, 4-7 pm

Jan. 26

Frankenstein, St. Mary School Archery Breakfast, 7-10:30 am

Meetings & Conferences

Jan. 2

Columbia, Area Ultreya for Cursillo, 7 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes parish's Flanagan Hall

Jan. 7

Moberly, Area Ultreya for Cursillo, 6:30 pm, St. Pius X parish undercroft

CALDAROLA

From page 9

year labored on, I surrendered. I discarded my faltering agnosticism and, in some kind of act of faith whose words I no longer remember, I accepted Jesus.

I'm much older now. I'm not sure how well I've gotten to know this Jesus. I have friends who talk about casual conversations with Him, but I often find myself sitting like a shy student in His classroom. Or like the character in Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood*, seeing Jesus dart from tree to tree, "a wild ragged figure" in the back of my mind.

Nevertheless, despite me He's been faithful. Meister Eckhart, the medieval mystic, said, "We are all meant to be mothers of God ... for God is always needing to be born." May God be born in and from each of us this Advent.

Jan. 9

Columbia, Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program Orientation, 5:30-7 pm, 916 Bernadette Drive

Jan. 10, 18

Jefferson City, "Confirmed in the Spirit: New policy, best practices and practical resources for Confirmation," 9 am-3 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/registration-workshops/

Jan. 11

Moberly, "Confirmed in the Spirit: New policy, best practices and practical resources for Confirmation," 9 am-3 pm, St. Pius X parish, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/registration-workshops/

Jan. 14

Westphalia, "Let's Talk Faith," Women's Ministry discussion on Angels, 6:30-8 pm, K of C Hall, for info visit diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry/

Jan. 20-24

St. Meinrad, IN, 11th Annual National Winter Chant Conference, St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, for info or to register, visit saintmeinrad.edu/continuing-formation/chant-institute/

Jan 22-25

Washington DC, Annual March for Life pilgrimage, for info call (573) 635-9127 or email khartman@diojeffcity.org

Jan. 23

Columbia, Cursillo School of Leaders, 7-8 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes parish's Flanagan Hall

Liturgical

Dec. 21

Mexico, Solemn High Mass in the Extraordinary Form, 11:15 am, St. Brendan Church

Jan. 7

Linn, Seeking Christ for our Nation Mass, 6:30 pm, St. George Church

Jan. 11

Cedron, Christmas season Mass, 2 pm, Assumption Church

Jan. 21

Mary's Home, Seeking Christ for our Nation Mass, 6 pm, Our Lady of the Snows Church

Retreats & Spiritual Renewal

Jan. 3-5

Moberly, Engaged Encounter Weekend, St. Pius X Church, for info or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/ or call (573) 635-9127

Youth & Young Adults

Dec. 21

Mexico, Young adult Day of Recollection, for ages 18-35, by the Institute of Christ the King, 10 am-4 pm, St. Brendan Church

ATTENTION

Parishes and Knights Councils...

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Fall Cursillo weekends

Men's Cursillo #68, held at St. Pius X in Moberly on October 24-27, include: (front row) Deacon Mike Berendzen, Deacon Ray Purvis (Assistant Spiritual Director), Deacon Bill Seibert, Fr. Greg Oligschlaeger (Spiritual Director), Ron Dunn, Brett Witte, Dan Kliethermes, Craig Johnston, Jack Pretz, and Ken Schroeder; (back row) Russ Kennison, Ted Sander, Alan Norris, Al Faiella, Gary Winter, Dean Gregory, John Keener, David White, Bill Durbin, Clint Zuck, and Bob Rieboldt.



Women's Cursillo #76, held at St. Pius X parish in Moberly on November 7-10, include: (front row) Deacon Ken Berry (Assistant Spiritual Director), Linda Bukalski, Brenda Peterson, Phyllis White, Marilyn Broussard, Ismaela (Mayla) Pilsudski, Judy Wilkerson and Fr. Paul Clark (Spiritual Director); (second row) Gretchen Gregory, Carmen Mostek, Lisa Berendzen, Glenda Hinrichs and Melissa Massman; (back row) Maggie Johnston, Beth Ann Keener, Jamie Thies, Susan Stolwyk, Beth Schroeder, Mary Wideman, Becky Sander, Deb Gerecke and Janet Brown.

Anniversaries

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul
 Kenny & Doris Kempf, 66 years
 Jerry & Loretta Quinlan, 66 years
 John & Ruth Hoff, 61 years
 Kenneth & Beverly Nichols, 57 years
 JD & Gretchen Twenter, 51 years
 James & Theresa Innes, 43 years
 Steve & Jane Brengarth, 41 years
 Scott & Peggy Fenical, 41 years
 Kenny & Terri Nordmeyer, 41 years
 Tom & Juanita White, 41 years
 Chris & Beth Vonderahe, 34 years
 Joe & Elaine Green, 32 years
 Joseph & Gigi McAreavy, 28 years
 Matt & Stephanie Adams, 27 years
 Greg & Lana Kempf, 26 years

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception
 Todd & Darlene Gordon, 22 years

Dixon, St. Theresa
 Jim & Shirley Wodohodsky, 58 years

Freeburg, Holy Family
 Paul & Nyla Bassett, 17 years

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake
 Bob & Kathy Cotter, 52 years

Marshall, St. Peter
 Albert & Alice Markes, 66 years
 Freddy & Julie Malter, 40 years

Mexico, St. Brendan
 Jules & Alice Willott, 51 years

Moberly, St. Pius X
 Jim & Irene Tindle, 50 years

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart
 Jeff & Aubrey Winkelman, 18 years
 Paul & Sue Scheulen, 33 years

St. Martins, St. Martin
 Ken & Kaye Meller, 52 years

Unionville, St. Mary
 Martin & Janet Schmidt, 54 years

Wooster, OH, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception
 Joseph (formerly of St. Thomas) & Dorothy (formerly of St. Elizabeth) Lackman, 54 years

Birthdays

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception — **John Burns**, her 95th on Jan. 9

Linn, St. George — **Hugo Brandt**, his 90th on Dec. 28

Mary's Home, Our Lady of the Snows — **Josephine Schwaller**, her 91st on Dec. 21

Mexico, St. Brendan — **Edith Healy**, her 100th on Dec. 23

Marriages

Holts Summit, St. Andrew — **Jessica Hazelhorst & Joseph Jungmeyer**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Sydney Kliethermes & Tyler Luebbert**; **Kay Scott & Tom Heckman**

Baptisms

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Gabrielle Sairreh, Carina Yar**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Theodore Lee Brondel**, son of Nathan & Megan Brondel; **Harvey Anton Hall**, son of Patrick & Jordan Beach; **Margaret Elaine Rackers**, daughter of Eric & Brandi Rackers; **Maxwell Edgar Schnieders**, son of Brian & Margaret Schnieders

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Lucas Alan Sweet**, son of Jake & Catie Sweet

Linn, St. George — **Carter Thomas Brinker**, son of Andrew & Jennifer Brinker; **Presley Marie Klouzek**, daughter of Nick & Brandy Klouzek; **Calvin John Sammet**, son of Amy Sammet; **Stella Rae Seifert**, daughter of Matthew & Amanda Seifert; **Jack Robert Terry**, son of Curtis & Lisa Terry

Mexico, St. Brendan — **Kaylie Vasquez Cruz**, daughter of Efen Vasquez & Lelicia Cruz Ordaz; **Anani and Yareli Cruz Jarquin**, children of Teofilo Cruz Hernandez & Consuelo Jarquin Vasquez; **Abigail Rose McIntosh**, daughter of James & Angela McIntosh; **Louisa Jane Perkins**, daughter of Matthew & Ashley Perkins; **Theodore Ray Schisler**, son of Brandt & Kelsey Schisler

Moberly, St. Pius X — **William Ford Dowling**, son of Tyler & Katlyn Dowling

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Ryland Stegeman**, son of Tyler & Kelsey Stegeman

Elections

Jefferson City, Knights of Columbus Fr. Helias Council 1054 — **Doug Schneller**, Home Association chairman

St. James, Immaculate Conception — **John Grgurich**, new member, parish pastoral council

Names for the People Page

Information for the People Page comes from parish correspondents and individual parishioners, as well as bulletins and newspapers. Submissions for anniversaries (10 years or more), birthdays (90 years or more), and baptisms, deaths, marriages and initiations of local parishioners may be e-mailed to editor@diojeffcity.org; FAXed to (573) 635-2286 (please designate *The Catholic Missourian* as the recipient); or mailed to: *The Catholic Missourian*, P.O. Box. 104900, Jefferson City, MO 65110-4900.

Deaths

Sister Mary Carine Dirkers, 94 — of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, whose teaching assignments included St. Peter Interparish School in Jefferson City — on Nov. 19. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Nov. 26 in the School Sisters of Notre Dame motherhouse chapel in Lemay, near St. Louis.

Sister Teresa Shea, 102 — of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, whose teaching assignments included St. Patrick School in Rolla — on Nov. 12, near St. Louis. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Nov. 20 in the Nazareth Living Center Chapel in Oakville.

Irene M. Steffes, 86 — mother of Deacon Gary Steffes, a deacon of the Jefferson City diocese who is serving in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau — on Dec. 14 in Wien. The Mass of Christian Burial will be on Saturday, Dec. 21, at noon in St. Mary of the Angels Church in Wien.

MOBERLY

From page 14

one of the best programs in the state.”

In the 10 years since they became active in the Residents Encounter Christ (REC) renewal experience for prison residents, they've seen the number of people attending the monthly REC fellowships go from five or six to 50 or 60.

Those are people whose lives began to change when they encountered Christ personally on a three-day REC retreat, held regularly in prisons throughout Missouri.

Each of those weekends requires about 20 to 25 outside volunteers.

“Some of the men here have never experienced love in their lives,” said Mr. Knaebel. “But on this retreat, they feel loved because there are 20 to 25 outside people who come in just because they want to be here with them and share God's love with them.”

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Judy Gehrken, Edward H. Wheatley, Timothy J. Woolridge**

Hannibal, Holy Family — **Sue Artzen**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Margaret B. Benne, Frederick P. Straub Sr.**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Mary Patricia Prenger**

Linn, St. George — **Melvin D. Wolfe**

Loose Creek, Immaculate Conception — **Sylvia Roling**

Macon, Immaculate Conception — **Louise Strobietto**

Moberly, St. Pius X — **Maurice J. “Moe” Heddinghaus, Elmer Orscheln**

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul — **Anthony P. Mogilnicki, Robert Roe**

Sweet Springs, Holy Family — **Robert J. Schnieders**

The residents discover that they must share that love, sending ripples across the prison and beyond as the men are released back into society.

Go in peace

Deacon Hill said it was a phenomenal day for the men of the Moberly Correctional Center.

“I think they've had a spiritual experience they'll remember for a long time, if not for the rest of their lives,” he said.

Was the bishop right about there being saints behind those gates?

“Most definitely!” said Deacon Hill.

Here's how two of the newly initiated Catholics at the Moberly Correctional Center reacted to Bishop McKnight's visit:

“It was a very emotional morning. There were moments I was not able to hold it together. Bishop McKnight was very nice and I could feel the Holy Spirit emanating from him. It was a great honor to be able to get confirmed into the Holy Catholic Church by him, considering my circumstance. It was the best moment of my life and I am looking forward to seeing Bishop McKnight again.” — Thomas Newby

“Most exciting moment in my walk of faith so far. I am most grateful and full of joy and excitement to have been confirmed into the Catholic Church. I can't wait to see what the Lord has in mind for me with my new family in Christ and with the Church.”

— Nathan Klinefelter

Crossword puzzle answers

E	N	I	N	X	O	J	W	R	R	07	
K	O	O	O	S	V	T	H	I	N	99	
V	D	E	H	I	R	E	I	E	I	19	
T	V	C	I	G	M	O	H	C	E	55	
E	D	T	C	I	P	V	E	T	15		
H	S	I	M	I	V	N	I	V	O	54	
S	E	R	E	S	H	P	V	A	C	58	
O	E	R	E	P	O	H	S	N			
T	V	A	O	I	R	H	V				
D	V	C	S	E	C	I	T	V	G	52	
I	E	C	C	T	I	E	A	N	I	02	
P	X	C	N	V	I	T	E	O	N	21	
T	J	V	N	V	C	I	O	R	N	21	
C	I	N	O	S	D	R	N	S	V	E	8

Glad tidings



Young members of Immaculate Conception parish in Loose Creek raise money for their Lifeteen activities and community service projects with the “St. Nick Night” event on Dec. 6. Indoor and outdoor activities included a live Nativity scene, a visit from St. Nick, “Legend of the Candy Cane,” cookie decorating, live music, caroling, “reindeer games” and the Jesse Tree of Giving. Money given to the Jesse Tree helped buy gifts for Bethesda House and Osage County Community Living.

— Photos by Cara Smith



Carols at Crown Center



Sedalia’s Sacred Heart High School choir performs at Crown Center in Kansas City on Dec. 4.

— Photo from Sacred Heart School’s Facebook page

‘Give them something to eat’

Students from Holy Family School in Hannibal helps with Douglass Community Center’s food distribution operation for people in need on Dec. 11. Each month, a grade at the school does service work at the center.

— Photo from Holy Family School’s Facebook page



Most wonderful time



Students at St. Thomas the Apostle School in St. Thomas get in the mood for Christmas.

— Photo from St. Thomas the Apostle School’s Facebook page

God of every nation and people ... when our need for a Savior was great, You sent Your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love.

— From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

An angel speaks to Joseph in a dream

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

Joseph was a carpenter who lived in Nazareth. He was a very devout and righteous man who always obeyed God's laws.

Although Joseph was not wealthy, he did come from a very important and well-known family. One of his ancestors was King David, the shepherd boy whom God chose to become the ruler of the Israelites during Old Testament times.

Joseph was betrothed to a virgin named Mary. "Betrothed" means that Joseph and Mary were married, but they were not yet living together as husband and wife in the same house.

One day, Joseph learned that Mary was going to have a



baby. Joseph decided that, according to the law, he should not remain married to her. Since he was such a good man, Joseph did not want to bring any shame or harm to Mary, so

he decided he would not make a big fuss about divorcing her.

What Joseph did not realize was that Mary had been visited by the angel Gabriel, who told her that the Holy Spirit would

come upon her.

"You will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus," Gabriel told Mary. "He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of David his father, and He will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Not long after he had decided to divorce Mary, Joseph had a dream. An angel of God spoke to him.

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home," the angel said. "For it is through the Holy Spirit that this Child has been conceived in her. She will bear a Son and you are to name Him Jesus, because He

will save His people from their sins."

What the angel said to Joseph fulfilled an Old Testament prophecy that God had revealed to His people through one of His prophets: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall name Him Emmanuel." Emmanuel means "God is with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did exactly as the angel had told him to do. Instead of divorcing Mary, he took her into his home and waited for Jesus to be born.

Read more about it... Matthew 1

1. What famous person was Joseph related to?
2. To whom was Joseph betrothed?

Bible Accent

There were several times when God used dreams to speak to Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. Three of those dreams were meant to help protect the newborn Messiah from harm.

Just before Jesus was born, Joseph took Mary to his family's home city, Bethlehem, the city of David, to be counted in a census. Mary gave birth to Jesus there, and the new parents were visited by Magi who had followed a star to where Jesus had been born.

Not long after the Magi left, Joseph had a dream. An angel

warned him that King Herod wanted to kill Jesus and told him to flee to Egypt with Mary and the Baby. After the Holy Family left for Egypt in the night, Herod ordered all male children up to 2 years old who lived in or around Bethlehem to be killed.

After Herod died, Joseph had another dream in which an angel said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead."

Joseph did so. But in another dream, he was warned

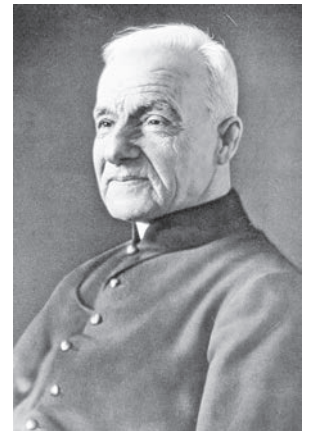
not to return to Judea, because it might not be safe. Instead, Joseph brought his family to Galilee to live in Nazareth.

Trivia

Why did Joseph and Mary present the Baby Jesus at the Temple?
(Hint: Luke 2:22-24)

Answer: To consecrate Him to God.

Saint Spotlight



St. Andre Bessette was born in Canada in 1845. He lived and worked in the U.S. for three years, returning to Canada in 1870. After he came home, he joined the Congregation of Holy Cross and lived in a community near Montreal. He served in many different roles, including as a doorman, barber, gardener and janitor. He also founded a very popular healing ministry. In 1904, he moved into Montreal to help build the Oratory of the Holy Cross. He remained in Montreal until his death in 1937, and we honor him on Jan. 6.

Puzzle

Below are some events surrounding the early life of Jesus. Put them in the order in which they happened. Hint: Answers are in Luke 2, except C, which can be found in Matthew 2:10-11.

- A. Joseph and Mary lose Jesus after a festival.
- B. Jesus is born in Bethlehem.
- C. The Magi visit Jesus and give Him gifts.
- D. Jesus is presented at the Temple.
- E. Joseph and Mary name their Baby Jesus.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____



Answers: 1-B; 2-C; 3-E; 4-D; 5-A.

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“A Hidden Life” illuminates martyred Catholic in Nazi Germany

Reviewed by John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

New York

In 2007, Franz Jagerstatter (1907-1943), a devoutly Catholic Austrian farmer martyred by the Nazis for his stance as a conscientious objector, was declared blessed.

In the luminous, though deliberately paced, drama “A Hidden Life” (Fox Searchlight), writer-director Terrence Malick paints a striking and memorable portrait of Jagerstatter, one that will be especially prized by believing viewers.

Malick focuses on the happy home life of his gentle protagonist, played by August Diehl, sacrificed in order to be obedient to his conscience. Motivated by his faith, Jagerstatter was determined not to take the oath of loyalty to Adolf Hitler that was demanded of all those drafted into the Wehrmacht during World War II. Refusal of the oath would ultimately mean execution.

Along with his much-loved young daughters, Jagerstatter also would be leaving behind his wife, Franziska, known as Fani (Valerie Pachner), with whom he shared a deep spiritual and emotional bond and under whose influence he first became serious about his religion. So, as they wait for the possible news that Franz has been conscripted, she too has to struggle with the radical consequences of the commitment she inspired.

Primarily set amid the splendors of the Austrian countryside, surroundings of which cinematographer Joerg Widmer



August Diehl and Valerie Pachner star in a scene from the movie “A Hidden Life.” — CNS photo/Fox

makes the most, “A Hidden Life” is beautiful both to look at and to contemplate. Yet the movie requires patience since it largely consists of scenes of ordinary domestic activities and farming chores, many of them overshadowed by the dread of what, at first, may lie ahead and later certainly does.

Still, by a process of accretion, Malick succeeds in building a sturdy bridge of sympathy between the audience and the central duo as they live out their doomed existence together — an idyll interspersed with drudgery. Thus by the time of Franz’s death, which Malick depicts with both deftness and sensitivity, attentive moviegoers will feel the weight of his loss to the full.

Malick — whose interest in Christianity, broadly considered, is well-known — celebrates Jagerstatter’s quiet heroism unreservedly. But his portrayal of the parish priest and bishop the future martyr

consulted about his defiance of the regime is ambivalent at best.

Bishop Fliesser of Linz (Michael Nyqvist) is noncommittal and, although Father Furthauer (Tobias Moretti), the pastor of their hometown of St. Rade-gund, accompanies Fani on her last visit to Franz, he first counsels the latter that he has a duty to the Fatherland and is later so anxious to save his parishioner’s life that he advises him to take the oath without meaning it.

In a sign of the times, the real Franz apparently speculated, after their meeting, that Bishop Fliesser might have feared that he was a Gestapo spy out to trick the prelate into saying something dangerous.

It is satisfying to record that Fani lived long enough to attend her husband’s beatification, an experience perhaps unique in the long annals of

Movie Ratings



Adults and Adolescents

Arctic Dogs (PG)
A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood (PG)
Frozen II (PG)
Love and Mercy: Faustina (not rated)
Playing With Fire (PG)
Playmobil: The Movie (PG)



Adults

Charlie’s Angels (PG-13)
Dark Waters (PG-13)
Ford v Ferrari (PG-13)
The Good Liar (R)
Jumanji: the Next Level (PG-13)
Knives Out (PG-13)
Midway (PG-13)
Terminator: Dark Fate (R)
The Two Popes (PG-13)



Limited Adult Audience

Doctor Sleep (R)
21 Bridges (R)



Morally Offensive

Queen & Slim (R)
Uncut Gems (R)

Ratings are supplied by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Film and Broadcasting Office. Visit www.usccb.org for current reviews.

the Church. “A Hidden Life,” which draws on the 2009 book *Franz Jagerstatter: Letters and Writings From Prison*, edited by Erna Putz, ends with her yearning to be reunited with Franz, an eventuality that it is not presumptuous to trust transpired

at her death, age 100, in 2013.

The film contains mature themes, scenes of physical violence and an ambiguous portrayal of Catholic clergy. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents.

“The Two Popes” is flawed but enjoyable

Glossy but highly speculative account of a visit to the Vatican by Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio (Jonathan Pryce), the future Pope Francis, shortly before the resignation of his predecessor, Benedict XVI (Anthony Hopkins).

Screenwriter Anthony McCarten and director Fernando Meirelles ill-advisedly try to extol Francis by trashing Benedict, presenting the latter as doddering and detached from the realities of modern life.

They counterbalance this somewhat with an extended sequence of flashbacks showing Jesuit Father Bergoglio’s quasi-collaborationist approach to the brutal military regime that

came to power in Argentina following a 1976 *coup d’etat*, a subject about which they seem to imagine that they have acquired a clarity and certainty that has evaded many others.

But when it comes to the two pontificates, their bias is more than apparent.

Fine performances by the leads and high production values do not compensate adequately for a fast and loose version of recent Church history.

Themes requiring mature discernment include scenes of violence, a few sexual references, one mild profanity, and a single crass term.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults.

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WEBSITES

From page 5

limited 'next steps' to getting that data processed in a meaningful way."

The new parish websites include a built-in feature allowing visitors to fill out information digitally, and store that information so it can be exported into a useful format for the parish.

"So 'Time & Talent' information can be downloaded in a spreadsheet and shared automatically with the relevant offices or volunteers that can reach out to parishioners to help them dive into the ministry, organization or volunteer role they're signing up for on the form," said Mrs. Wiskirchen.

She called that kind of digitally facilitated collaboration "the sweet spot between being 'user friendly' and 'usable.'"

"This could be a game-changer for some parishes who often feel a tension between what they would like to accomplish in their parish and the limitations of some of the technology available to them currently," she said.

Ongoing support

After parishes complete their content development and implement it on their website, the site is reviewed and any necessary revisions and additions are made.

Multiple users can then be trained on the website's capabilities and functions, allowing parish staff to collaborate appropriately with ease.

Mrs. Wiskirchen has received steady feedback from parish website administrators at every stage of the process.

"Just like any new project, a certain learning curve comes with using a new software or technology," she said, "but many of them are making great headway on learning how to use the user-friendly builder to publish their content and are finding the process useful and relatively easy."

Darlene Kraus, as the administrator for Ss. Peter & Paul parish in Boonville, did the work of creating and migrating all of the parish's digital content into the newly designed template for parish websites.

"The training videos pro-

vided by Blackbaud were very helpful, and I appreciate the help and support Ashley gave our parish," said Mrs. Kraus. "She took the time to look through all of our content and make recommendations that helped us organize information so that visitors to the site can find things easily."

Mrs. Kraus appreciated Mrs. Wiskirchen's support and feedback.

"It's great to have a professional's input on this but still have the ability to make this our own parish website," said Mrs. Kraus.

Beautiful expression

Mrs. Kraus, who was raised Christian but did not become Catholic until 35 years ago, said the pre-loaded content for the parish websites is helpful both to Catholics looking for a refresher on what they've already been taught and non-Catholics who want to learn more about the faith.

Helen Osman, director of diocesan communications, noted that the new websites contain a wealth of information for Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

"Having a process built on best practices and a template filled with standard content for our parishes allows our website visitors to experience the diversity and unity of the Catholic Church," said Mrs. Osman.

The new websites "provide a visually beautiful presentation of the faith, as Bishop Robert Barron so often urges parishes to do, while providing a full expression of the Church's teachings," she said.

For more information on the diocese's work in this area, please send an email to:

[communication@
diojeffcity.org](mailto:communication@diojeffcity.org)

Daily Readings

Sunday, Dec 22

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is. 7:10-14
Ps. 24:1-3, 4ab, 5-6
Rom. 1:1-7

Monday, Dec 23

St. John of Kanty, priest (comm)
Mal. 3:1-4, 23-24
Lk. 1:57-66

Tuesday, Dec 24

2 Sm. 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Lk. 1:67-79

Wednesday, Dec 25

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Vigil: Is. 62:1-5
Ps. 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Acts. 13:16-17, 22-25
Mt. 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night:

Is. 9:1-6
Ps. 96:1-3, 11-13
Ti. 2:11-14
Lk. 2:1-14

Dawn:

Is. 62:11-12
Ps. 97:1, 6, 11-12
Ti. 3:4-7
Lk. 2:15-20

Day:

Is. 52:7-10
Ps. 98:1-6
Heb. 1:1-6
Jn. 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday, Dec 26

ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
Mt. 10:17-22

Friday, Dec 27

ST. JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

1 Jn. 1:1-4
Jn. 20:1a, 2-8

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for December:

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for January:

We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.

Saturday, Dec 28

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

1 Jn. 1:5-2:2
Mt. 2:13-18

Sunday, Dec 29

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Sir. 3:2-6, 12-14
Ps. 128:1-5
Col. 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
Mt. 2:13-15, 19-23

Monday, Dec 30

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

1 Jn. 2:12-17
Lk. 2:36-40

Tuesday, Dec 31

SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

St. Sylvester I, Pope (comm)
1 Jn. 2:18-21
Jn. 1:1-18

Wednesday, Jan 1

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

The Octave Day of Christmas
Nm. 6:22-27
Ps. 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Gal. 4:4-7
Lk. 2:16-21

Thursday, Jan 2

Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops and doctors of the Church

1 Jn. 2:22-28
Ps. 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
Jn. 1:19-28

Friday, Jan 3

1 Jn. 2:29-3:6
Ps. 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6
Jn. 1:29-34

Saturday, Jan 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious (USA)

1 Jn. 3:7-10
Ps. 98:1, 7-9
Jn. 1:35-42

Sunday, Jan 5

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Is. 60:1-6
Ps. 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13
Eph. 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt. 2:1-12

Monday, Jan 6

1 Jn. 3:22-4:6
Ps. 2:7bc-8, 10-12a
Mt. 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday, Jan 7

1 Jn. 4:7-10
Ps. 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8
Mk. 6:34-44

Wednesday, Jan 8

1 Jn. 4:11-18
Ps. 72:1-2, 10, 12-13
Mk. 6:45-52

Thursday, Jan 9

1 Jn. 4:19-5:4
Ps. 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17
Lk. 4:14-22

Friday, Jan 10

1 Jn. 5:5-13
Ps. 147:12-15, 19-20
Lk. 5:12-16

Saturday, Jan 11

1 Jn. 5:14-21
Ps. 149:1-6a, 9b
Jn. 3:22-30

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Father Christopher Aubuchon
Director of Seminarians and Vocations

Father Joshua Duncan
Assistant Director of Vocations



Derek Hooper, Theology III
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City

Ryan Bax, Theology I
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City

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