

A hub of charity taking shape on holy ground

Excitement builds as the renovation and expansion of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri's new headquarters moves forward.
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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

February 5, 2021 • Vol. 64 No. 16

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

\$1.4 million gift funds bonuses for school employees



Fourth-grade teacher Mandi Steinlage and fifth-grade teacher Connie Andrews of St. Stanislaus School in Wardsville sport their "Be a Light" attire on the Tuesday of Catholic Schools Week.

— Photo from the St. Stanislaus School Facebook page

Bishop announces generous donation during Catholic Schools Week

By Jay Nies

"Thank you" are two of the most important words in the English language.

Their power multiplies when coupled with concrete acts of appreciation.

"It has been wonderful to see the expressions of gratitude for our Catholic schools, from our parishioners, our school families and our community at large, especially during Catholic Schools Week," Bishop W. Shawn McKnight told Catholic school employees this week.

"This is an extension of that gratitude," he said in a video shown to all the Catholic school personnel in the diocese on Thursday afternoon.

With that, he announced that each Catholic school teacher and staff member will receive a substantial bonus on Feb. 12.

A one-time, \$1.4 million gift from anonymous donors within the diocese is being distributed to all full- and part-time teachers, administrators and support staff.

The amount varies depending upon the individuals' role and is intended to bring Catholic school personnel's salaries closer to their public school counterparts' pay.

The bonus is also meant to acknowledge how gracefully and faithfully Catholic school employees have dealt with the challenges they've faced over the past year.

Bishop McKnight said the people who made the gift "understand that all our teachers and staff deserve a shot in the arm, so to speak, as we deal with COVID fatigue."

See SCHOOLS, page 15

This year's Lenten, Holy Week observances will be holy but somewhat different

By Jay Nies

Catholics throughout the Jefferson City diocese will notice several differences in this year's Lenten journey toward Easter.

Temporary changes authorized by Pope Francis to slow the spread of COVID-19 include a different way of receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17.

During all Liturgies that day, the priest will bless the ashes and sprinkle them with holy water after the homily.

He then will declare to the entire congregation at once: "Repent and receive the Good News," or "Remember that you are dust and until dust you shall return."

The faithful then will come forward to have ashes sprinkled over their heads, without any physical contact.

"Because this is a change in the custom for ashes in our

country, this should be explained to the assembly beforehand," the Diocesan Liturgical Commission stated in a recent memorandum to parishes.

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, an important step for people preparing to receive Sacraments of Initiation at Easter, will be held as scheduled the afternoon of Feb. 21, the First Sunday of Lent, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

In order to allow for proper social distancing, only the catechumens and candidates, their sponsors and parish RCIA coordinators are invited to attend this year.

Bishop McKnight has authorized the distribution of palms this year on Palm Sunday, March 28.

See LENT, page 15

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MOVING? If you are moving or changing parishes, please fill out information below. Clip and mail to THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN, 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Or email changes to dbarnes@diojeffcity.org. Allow two weeks.

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02/05/21

2021 Lenten regulations, admonitions for the diocese

As another Lenten journey of conversion begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, and ends with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 1, Holy Mother Church calls all Catholics to a deeper spirit of penance, fasting, almsgiving, prayer and worship, "which express conversion in relation to oneself, to God, and to others" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* # 1434 & 1969).

In order to foster a greater spirit of penance, of reparation for sin and to encourage self-denial, Catholics are reminded of the following obligations of fast and abstinence that are part the proper observance of Lent:

1.) Abstinence: All persons who have already celebrated their 14th birthday are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday (Apr. 2).

2.) Fasting: Everyone, from the celebration of their 18th birthday to their 59th birthday, is bound to fast on Ash



A woman prays alone at St. Leo the Great Church in Fairfax, Va., March 18, 2020. — CNS photo/ Zoey Maraist, Arlington Herald

Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting is generally understood to mean eating only one full meal each day. Two other partial meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken; but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed.

Voluntary fasting on other weekdays of Lent is highly recommended. But please note, when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, neither the law of fasting nor the law of abstinence obliges.

These are minimal peniten-

tial practices and should not be lightly excused.

Other forms of fasting, as it regards to alcoholic drink, needless television, videogames, internet use and social entertainment, are of true spiritual value and strongly encouraged.

3.) Almsgiving: The act of giving to the poor, in the most ancient tradition of the Church, is an expression of penance, a witness of fraternal charity, and an expression of Lenten conversion. Therefore, all Catholics are encouraged to support generously the charitable works of the whole Church: through regular stewardship to their parish, support of charities, and their generous response to the diocesan Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

4.) Prayer: In order to deepen one's love for Christ, Catholics are urged to participate in the sacramental life of the Church during Lent by attending daily Mass and frequent the Sacrament of Penance.

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Position Openings - Chancery Office



The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City has several positions open in the Jefferson City office at 2207 West Main Street:

Maintenance Worker — Full-time position with at least 5 years experience in the following areas: custodial services and meeting room set-up; general carpentry, painting, plumbing and electrical repairs; performing general building maintenance and some groundskeeping; maintaining safety of sidewalks and steps to building. Previous experience overseeing contracts such as snow removal, grass cutting, fire and safety inspections and elevator inspections is helpful. Qualified candidates should email resume to HRDir@diojeffcity.org.

Administrative Assistants — Two opportunities for experienced, take-charge, confidential administrative assistants supporting multiple Directors within the Chancery office. This is a great fit for someone who enjoys variety in their work day, setting priorities, composing correspondence and scheduling. The ideal candidate will have at least 5 years' experience supporting an executive level leader. Candidates are encouraged to apply through indeed.com and complete Word and Excel assessments.

Director of Religious Education and Youth/Young Adult Ministry — Administer the curriculum approval process for parish-based religious education. Provide direct support for, and development of, parish-based young adult leaders and youth ministers in the outreach, evangelization, faith formation and pastoral care of their youth; serve as liaison between Newman Center campus ministers and the Chancery; oversee the coordination of diocesan-supported youth ministry events at the diocesan, regional and national levels; and exercise diligence and oversight for assigned budget. Capability of ministering across cultures, with well-developed social media skills. Master's degree in catechetics, religious education, theology or youth ministry required. Qualified candidates should email resume to HRDir@diojeffcity.org.

OSAGE

SENIOR CENTER

Located in Wardsville, Mo., we are looking for interested seniors to fill possible vacancies and/or be placed on our wait list for USDA or MHDC units. The Center is located close to St. Stanislaus Church.

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The Catholic Missourian

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

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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Pray for deceased priests

- Feb. 7 — **Msgr. Joseph H. Winkelmann**, Sacred Heart, Rich Fountain (1960)
- Feb. 10 — **Msgr. Paul U. Kertz**, Immaculate Conception, Jefferson City (1960); **Fr. William F. Harris**, St. Boniface, Brunswick (1974)
- Feb. 14 — **Fr. Bernard H. Luebbering**, St. Mary, Shelbina (1972)
- Feb. 19 — **Fr. Peter B. O'Rourke**, Immaculate Conception, Shackelford (1975)



2021-2022 Incoming Kindergarten Registration & Parent Meeting

Saint Joseph Catholic School
WESTPHALIA
schooloffice@stjosephwestphalia.org

Thursday, February 25

6:30 pm

Due to COVID, only ONE PARENT per family is to attend. Everyone must wear a mask

PRE-REGISTER for the parent meeting by **Feb. 19** — email names of both parents, mailing address, child's full name & birthday to schooloffice@stjosephwestphalia.org. After receipt of this info, forms for parent meeting will be emailed.

Child must be 5 years old by July 31 to enter Kindergarten. Bring copies of State birth certificate, immunization record, Social Security card, baptismal certificate, photo of student, parent's drivers license, and any divorce/custody paperwork. \$50 non-refundable registration fee, payable to: St. Joseph School Registration Fee.

For info, call the school office at (573) 455-2339.

Transformation under way for new headquarters, service hub for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri

Fundraising continues for “Open Hearts, Open Doors” renovation to former La Salette property

By Jay Nies

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri’s new headquarters in Jefferson City will be one of the most energy-efficient buildings around.

The renovated and expanded former La Salette Seminary chapel and gymnasium will include an array of solar panels and a geothermal heating and cooling system.

“That will make this one of the first ‘near net zero’ buildings in central Missouri,” said Dan Lester, executive director of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO).

Not only will that mean lower utility costs, it will be much easier on the environment.

“As Catholics who take to heart the call to be stewards of God’s creation, we’re pleased to be able to incorporate this important teaching into our everyday work and witness,” said Mr. Lester.

CCCNMO purchased the building, known since 1983 as the Shikles Auditorium, from the Jefferson City Housing Au-



Work progresses on transforming the former La Salette Seminary chapel and gymnasium in Jefferson City into a headquarters and state-of-the-art hub for services for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri. — Photos by Dan Lester

thority in 2020.

Work began in November to renovate and substantially expand the building and transform it into the agency’s new headquarters.

It will include a full-service food pantry, a community wellness clinic, and space to integrate and enhance services to the local community and the entire Jefferson City diocese.

The \$4 million project, funded through an ongoing capital campaign, is on target for completion in July.

“We want everyone in the diocese to be excited about the reality of this moving forward,”

said Mr. Lester.

An anticipated blessing and opening in August would coincide with the 65th anniversary of the building’s original construction.

Generous support for CCCNMO’s “Open Hearts, Open Doors” Capital Campaign, coupled with a \$225,000 grant from the Sutherland Foundation of Kansas City and a \$750,000 challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma, brings the project to within \$769,453 of its goal.

A \$1.5 million matching gift toward programmatic efforts has been offered when people donate to the “Open Hearts, Open Doors” renovation.

This dollar-for-dollar match, along with the Mabee Foundation challenge gift, ultimately means donations have tripled the impact.

“We’re very pleased to have found these new avenues of support in which a \$10 gift turns to \$30,” said Mr. Lester.

Under one roof

Once completed, the 16,000-square-foot complex will bustle with activity.

The former chapel will be home to classroom, meeting and event space, a health clinic and other community services.

The expanded former gymnasium downstairs will become a food pantry, including a waiting room, shopping area, demonstration kitchen, warehouse, loading dock and packaging area.



New administrative offices for CCCNMO will be built in a mezzanine area overlooking the food pantry.

A large parking lot will be added, providing full access for people with disabilities.

More than 12 weeks into the building’s transformation, Mr. Lester is amazed at the progress.

Workers recently poured the concrete foundation for the 4,500-square-foot, two-level addition, which will include

the food pantry’s warehouse.

The food pantry, to be operated in partnership with The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri, will be a “marquee ministry,” attracting people from an area of concentrated need in the city.

While there, clients will also have access to health and nutrition services, disaster response and preparation, and immigration services.

See CATHOLIC CHARITIES, page 17




Bishop McKnight’s Calendar

The following appointments are tentative, depending on the pandemic.

FEBRUARY

- Feb. 6** SEEK21 Mass, 8 am, St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbia
- Feb. 9** Very Reverend Dean’s Meeting, 11 am; College of Consultors Meeting, noon; Presbyteral Council Meeting, 1 pm, Catholic Center
- Feb. 10** Confirmation, St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia and St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Folk, 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church, Westphalia
- Feb. 16** Catholic Home Missions Townhall Meeting, 2 pm, Virtual
- Feb. 19** Missouri Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee, 10 am, Virtual
- Feb. 21** Rite of Election, 3 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- Feb. 23** Personnel Board Meeting, 2 pm, Virtual

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Bishop McKnight’s February prayer intention for our Local Church

For parents: may they have the spiritual and material resources they need to provide their children a home in which charity and mercy are practiced, and knowledge of our faith is shared.

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

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

Por los padres de familia: para que tengan los recursos espirituales y materiales que necesitan para brindarles a sus hijos un hogar en el que se practiquen la caridad y la misericordia, y en el que se comparta el conocimiento de nuestra fe.



LEFT: Young people from St. George Parish in Hermann stand in the National Mall, with the Smithsonian Institution and the Washington Monument behind them, displaying the signs they made for this year's March for Life. **RIGHT:** About 200 people take part in this year's March for Life, which was substantially smaller than in years past due to the COVID-19 pandemic and heightened security in the nation's Capital. — Photos by Megan Manning

Small group from Hermann parish travels to Washington, D.C., for scaled-down national March for Life

By Jay Nies

This year's national March for Life in Washington, D.C., went virtual.

Mostly.

Five adults and four eighth-graders from St. George Parish in Hermann were among a little more than 200 people who marched up Constitution Avenue on behalf of society's smallest, most defenseless people.

"Our voices are being heard," stated Megan Man-

ning, a member of the group. "We're here for everybody who wasn't able to make it."

The annual march marks the Jan. 22 anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decisions that legalized abortion-on-demand throughout the United States.

It usually draws hundreds of thousands of participants from all over the United States.

Seventh- and eighth-graders as St. George School raise money every two years to travel to Washington for the march.

All bus pilgrimages from this diocese were cancelled this year due to COVID-19 and security concerns.

However, Monsignor Gregory L. Higley, pastor of St. George Parish and of Church of the Risen Savior Parish in Rhineland, allowed a group of students and their

families who wanted to make the trip to sell M&Ms after Mass to raise money for airfare.

Members of both parishes wound up covering the entire cost of the trip.

"That was our sign from God that we needed to be here," said Mrs. Manning, who teaches kindergarten at St. George School.

"We decided that with everything going on, our kids needed to be there and be Jesus's shining light for everybody," she said.

Just getting from Hermann to Washington was an adventure.

"We had that lovely snowstorm in Missouri," Mrs. Manning stated.

Traffic on I-70 was slow and occasionally stopped as they made their way to the airport in St. Louis.

The delays provided increased opportunities for prayers in the cars.

"We did a lot of praying for people who were stopped on the side of the road and for the safety of our own trip," said Mrs. Manning.

Warm hearts

Catholic News Service reported that this was the smallest, coldest national March for Life in years and may also be remembered as the bravest.

A little over 200 people, tightly flanked by members of the Knights of Columbus, endured subfreezing temperatures and wind as they sang

hymns and trudged a zigzag route with Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, from the National Museum of the Bible to the Supreme Court.

The theme was "Together Strong: Life Unites."

Ms. Mancini acknowledged "that we're all symbolically marching, and we're all in solidarity with each other."

Before they stepped off, she told the marchers, originally a group of 60, that although this year was a deeply somber occasion, "let's be prayerful" and to fulfill the event "in the best way we can."

Marchers included Auxiliary Bishop Joseph L. Coffey of the Archdiocese for the Military Services.

"Never despair, never give up and keep fighting," Bishop Coffey told EWTN while marching.

Others included former NFL player Benjamin Watson and Abby Johnson, the former Planned Parenthood clinic director who operates the pro-life ministry And Then There Were None.

The march, lasting about 90 minutes, was considerably quieter than the placard- and flag-filled processions of thousands toward Capitol Hill in previous years. And there were no counter-protesters.

The wind chill was 13 degrees.

62 red roses

The group from Hermann,

wearing matching bright red hoodies, joined a group marching up Constitution Avenue from 12th Street, praying several communal Rosaries before meeting up with the rest of the marchers near the National Native American Veterans Memorial.

"The sky was dark and gray most of the morning but the sun came out while we were marching," Mrs. Manning stated. "We took that as a good sign."

She said participants did their best to follow health guidelines for slowing the spread of COVID-19.

In a throwback to a former March for Life tradition, Ms. Mancini and others in the core group carried single red roses, which, she announced, would "symbolize the profound grief pro-life Americans feel over the deaths of 62 million unborn children through legal abortion."

They laid those on the sidewalk behind the fenced-off Supreme Court building as marchers broke into the "Ava Maria" and "God Bless America."

Mrs. Manning said her most vivid memories of the event will probably be "marching next to big, tall fences and armed guards while praying the 'Hail Mary.'"

"It felt like being in a different world," she said. "Barbed-wire fences are not the first thing we think of, be-

See MARCH FOR LIFE, page 14

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

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

Nancy Hoey, Victim Assistance Coordinator
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**DIOCESE OF
Jefferson City**



70 years of friendship, memories following St. Peter High School's senior production of "The Song of Bernadette"

By Jay Nies

"Life goes fast, my child. It's hard to believe how fast."

Marilyn Tucker addressed those words to Ann Diemler in the spring of 1951.

They were playing the roles of mother and daughter, Louise and Bernadette Soubirous, in the St. Peter High School senior class production of "The Song of Bernadette" in Jefferson City.

Based on a novel and award-winning motion picture of the same name, the three-act play tells the story of St. Bernadette and of the Blessed Mother's 18 apparitions to her in 1858 near the little town of Lourdes, France.

Members of the St. Peter senior class served as the cast, stage crew, ushers and publicists.

They prepared and exhaustively rehearsed before performing the play the evenings of Sunday and Tuesday, April 15 and 17, in the Selinger Centre next to St. Peter Church.

The reviews were excellent. "Majestically and competently, the alert and quick-witted cast moved along in the touching and beautifully dramatic story of Bernadette and Mary's message to an unbelieving world," a scribe for the

school yearbook attested.

It was something entirely different. Previous years' senior plays were comedies.

"When this play was announced, I recall the fussing and disappointment by many seniors," one cast member stated.

Accordingly, several who were previously unknown to many of their classmates landed roles.

The production turned out to be "a big hit and great success," the cast member stated.

Well worth it

Charlie Bernskoetter, who played Louis Bouriette in the production, grew up on his parents' dairy farm in rural Cole County. He and his siblings needed to help with milking and other chores before and after school. "My free time was limited," he recalled. "Being a member of the cast in the senior play was one of the few extracurricular activities I was able to participate in."

He deems it time well spent.

"It was a very congenial group, and the many friendships that were developed while participating in this play



Members of the St. Peter High School Class of 1951 gather for a group photo after the dress rehearsal for their senior production of "The Song of Bernadette."

— Photo from the April 15, 1951, edition of the *Jefferson City News-Tribune*

have lasted a lifetime," he said.

Paul Meyer played the role of Francois Soubirous, St. Bernadette's father, while the former Frances Eggen portrayed one of the nuns.

Now they are husband and wife.

"We didn't start dating until I had been through junior college and two years in the service," Mr. Meyer noted.

St. Peter High School, forerunner to Helias Catholic, attracted students from St. Peter and Immaculate Conception parishes as well as surrounding communities.

De La Salle Christian Brothers taught the boys; School Sisters of Notre Dame taught the girls.

They studied on separate floors of the building and seldom crossed paths during the school day.

"Unless we'd gone through grade school with them, we wouldn't have known most of them," said Mr. Meyer.

The least of these

"The Song of Bernadette"

highlights one of countless examples throughout history of God raising up the lowly and confounding the powerful.

Neither strong nor intelligent, young Bernadette obediently repeated to Church and secular authorities the urgent messages of repentance Our Lady had given her.

She did not back down while facing reactions ranging from belief to pity to rage.

She entered religious life and continued doing God's work until her death at age 35. Millions of people each year now make pilgrimages to the massive basilica that stands where the Blessed Mother appeared to her.

St. Bernadette was declared a saint in 1933, the year most members of the Class of 1951 were born. Her feastday is April 16.

Feb. 11 is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Come to the water

"It came back to me as if it were yesterday," said Don Knollmeyer, who played a young miller named Antoine Nicolau and also opened and closed the stage curtain between scenes.

He still has a copy of the script, pages dog-eared and marked in pencil with names and cues.

"It says when to pull the curtain, how fast or slow," he

noted.

Another cast member recalled how Jack Zimmerman, now deceased, in the role of Mayor Lacade enjoyed ad-libbing his lines.

"It made things interesting for the other actors and actresses," the classmate stated.

Dick Groner, now deceased, played Chief of Police Jacomet.

His father was a farmer and had a large, galvanized water tank for feeding cattle.

The elder Mr. Groner set up the tank on stage with a pump. The stage crew disguised it with rocks and *papier-mâché* painted to look like cave stones.

"So we had a grotto with running water on the stage," said Mr. Meyer. "It looked like the real thing!"

Valuable lesson

Joan (Huhman) Thessen served as an usher.

"I knew of St. Bernadette but was not familiar with the complete story of her life," she recalled. "The play was certainly enlightening and I was amazed at how well our class performed in it."

She recently perused her 1951 school yearbook and turned to the pages from the senior production.

"The play itself had a depth of feeling and a sense of spirituality that the actors conveyed to over-flowing audiences in a magnificent way," it stated.

"All who attended were captivated by the gentle, unassuming Bernadette, her schoolgirl friends, her worried parents, the woman with the sick child, the blind man, the rich widow, Bernadette's managing aunt, the young miller eager to help Bernadette, strict Sister Vazous, Dean Peyramale, his talkative housekeeper and even the police," the yearbook continued.

The real thing

Several who held parts or helped with the production wound up making their own pilgrimages to Lourdes.

See BERNADETTE, page 23

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Virtual Cursillo Reunion to feature Fr. Corel, Deacon Seibert

DATE: February 25
TIME: 7 pm

The Jefferson City Diocese Cursillo Movement will hold a virtual event at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 25, in lieu of an in-person grand reunion.

Deacon William Seibert of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City and Father Joseph Corel, pastor *in solidum* of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, will be the featured presenters.

The theme will be “Into the Heart.”

Deacon Seibert, a former lieutenant colonel of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, will speak from the heart about racial issues.

Fr. Corel, a former spiritual advisor for the diocesan Cursillo movement, will lead participants into the heart of Mother Church for spiritual wisdom to respond to this time in history.

“We are expecting a large virtual turnout for real-life answers to the real challenges of our day,” the event’s organizers stated.

To join the virtual



Father Joseph Corel



Deacon William Seibert

Grand Reunion event via Zoom, visit diojeffcity.org/cursillo.

Please log in early so the event can start on time.

This event replaces the previously scheduled Feb. 27 event in Columbia, which is cancelled.

For information, contact Susan Stolwyk, diocesan Cursillo lay director, at s.stolwyk@gmail.com or 573-607-0435.

Helias Catholic H.S. students take part in their own March for Life

By Jay Nies

Students at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City stretched their legs, their minds and their hearts on Jan. 29.

The school had its own March for Life in response to 48 years of legalized abortion throughout the United States.

Groups of students walked around the old school track throughout the day.

“We’re walking to promote pro-life and end abortions,” said sophomore Arica Ketcherside, who helped set up for the event.

“We want to give everyone a chance to live,” she said. “Every human life deserves a chance.”

Signs of the times

There were sobering messages at every few steps along the track, shedding light on the inalienable sanctity and dignity of all human life.

Most of the messages pertained to abortion. One stated: “Over 4,000 pre-born infants are killed daily, or over 1 million a year. Some call this the silent holocaust.”

Other signs highlighted Catholic principles of social justice, beginning with the life and dignity of the human person.

“We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person,” a message from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops



Students at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City take part in the school’s March for Life on Jan. 29. — Photos by Jay Nies

stated.

Explanations of the other principles followed, including the call to family, community and participation; the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable; the dignity of work and the rights of the worker; solidarity; and care for God’s creation.

A sign containing a quote from St. Theresa of Kolkata stated, “No one should die alone. Each human should die with the sight of a loving face.”

Another placard pointed to the current refugee crisis, the largest in history, with 79.5 million people forcibly displaced worldwide, 20 million of those being refugees.

Another revealed that 50,000 people become victims of human trafficking in the United States each year.

Another stated that nearly 700 million people around the world subsist on less than \$2 a day.

Another contained an estimate that between 20 million and 40 million people worldwide are victims of modern-

day slavery.

Another noted that Planned Parenthood performs more than 300,000 abortions each year.

These and other affronts against human life and dignity contribute to a culture of death and factor into the number of people who seek abortions.

An excerpt from the U.S. Catholic bishops’ Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities stated: “Only with prayer — prayer that storms the heavens for justice and mercy, prayer that cleanses our hearts and souls — will the culture of death that surrounds us today be replaced with a culture of life.”

Where it all begins

Helias Catholic junior Josie Heckenkamp and a friend were making their sixth trip around the track.

“We’re trying to spread awareness for the unborn, because they don’t have a voice themselves,” Josie stated.

She said it matters because “all human life is sacred and important, and we should do

our best as Catholics to fight for them.”

She often hears the slogan, “My body, my choice.”

“But it’s not just their body,” she said. “There’s another person involved. An infant in the womb doesn’t get a choice.”

She said one way to help is to join an organization such as the Life Runners, which raises money and awareness about abortion and helps pregnant women in crisis know their options for life.

Helias junior Alexa Lamb is a Life Runners member and has traveled to several states to take part in pro-life events.

“We need to fight for our rights from womb to tomb,” she said. “If we don’t protect life in the womb, who says we’ll be able to protect life outside of the womb?”

“Abortion should not be a choice, because in the end, it’s only going to hurt everyone involved,” she stated.

To anyone suffering from regret from an abortion, she would say: “I’m here for you. I will pray for you and I can help

you in any way you need help.”

Much to think about

Students also contributed \$1 apiece to take part in a dress-down day, raising over \$920 for the local Pregnancy Help Center.

Father Stephen Jones, the school’s chaplain, was impressed by the energy and attention the students put into the event.

“So many individual classes took part throughout the day, witnessing and learning about all the issues in the Church relating to the sanctity of life,” he said.

Helias Catholic President and Principal Kenya Fuemeler said the event turned out “really well” and could become an annual tradition.

In the meantime, organizers hope the day’s message will linger.

“Our goal was to give everyone an opportunity to reflect on how they value the human person in all circumstances,” stated Maureen Quinn, campus minister.



QUESTION CORNER

Baptism & marriage of parents / Suicide and the Catholic Church

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Q. I was recently asked whether an infant can be baptized into the Catholic Church even if his parents, although Catholic (non-practicing), were married in a civil ceremony. The parents were told by a priest that they had to be married in the Church before the infant could be baptized. I don't think this is correct. What does Church law say? (Kansas)

A. There is nothing in Church law that requires that parents be married in a Church ceremony prior to having their child baptized — although that, of course, would be the ideal.

In 2014, the Italian press reported that Pope Francis had baptized the child of an unmarried couple in a ceremony in the Sistine Chapel; and in 2009, while still a cardinal in Argentina, the pope was quoted as telling the Italian magazine *30 Giorni* that “the child has absolutely no responsibility for the state of the parents’ marriage.”

Canon law does say, though, that for a baptism to take place, “there must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion” (Canon 868). That same canon goes on to note that “if such hope is altogether lacking, the baptism is to be delayed ... after the parents have been advised about the reason.” (The baptismal ceremony itself includes a pledge by the parents to raise and educate the child in the beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith.)

What I normally do is to meet for half an hour individually with each couple who are having their first child baptized. If I have not seen them regularly in church, I am particularly direct in highlighting their own responsibility to support the child’s growth in faith by their own Catholic practice. (Only a couple of times — in more than 50 years — have I sensed that this commitment was “altogether lacking.”)

Q. A friend’s sibling committed suicide about 20 years ago while in high school — after struggling with depression for years, despite getting treatment, counseling and a lot of family support. The family was — and still is — devastated. At the time, the family’s priest said something about suicide being a sin, which added to the family’s hurt and turned them away from the Church.

I fully support respect for life, but I think I remember reading that the Church has changed its thinking about depression-related suicide in recent years and now relates it to an illness that might not be a sin in those circumstances. Is that correct, and do you have any suggestions for helping the family think about getting back to Church?

(I don’t want to add to the family’s pain or be seen as meddling, so please withhold my name and city. I have been praying and just want to help if possible.) (City and state withheld)

A. I commend you for your concern — and for your prayers for that family. The hurt from a suicide lasts a long time, and I will pray for them, too. Your question arrived in my email during the same week that I was involved in a funeral for a suicide victim.

I have explained to this family that, when I was first ordained (in the 1960s), the common practice of the Church was not to celebrate a funeral Mass for someone who had chosen to take his own life.

See DOYLE, page 18



Papal Audience February 3, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on prayer, we now turn to the sacred liturgy, the Church’s public prayer. The Second Vatican Council stressed the importance of the liturgy, together with personal prayer, for the spiritual life of Christians. Indeed, all Christian spirituality is grounded in the celebra-

tion of the sacred mysteries, in which Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, becomes present in the midst of His people through the mediation of the sacramental signs of bread and wine, water and oil. Just as, in the Incarnation, the Son of God took flesh and dwelt among us, so too He now becomes present in all His saving power, through the liturgical celebration of word and sacrament. Our personal prayer is meant to interiorize and draw enrichment from the spiritual treasures of the Church’s liturgical prayer. Because the liturgy is the source and summit of our Christian prayer, all of us are called to take an active part in this great act of worship, by offering our own lives in union with Christ as a holy and pleasing sacrifice to the Father.

I cordially greet the English-speaking faithful and I invite everyone, especially in this time of pandemic, to rediscover the beauty of the liturgy and its ability to enrich our personal prayer and the growth of our communities in union with the Lord. Upon you and your families I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!

Pope adds Martha, Mary and Lazarus to universal calendar of the Church

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Recognizing their welcome of and witness to Christ, Pope Francis has approved changing the liturgical feast of St. Martha to include her sister and brother, Mary and Lazarus, on the Church’s universal calendar of feast days.

The names of Mary and Lazarus will be added to the July 29 feast on the General Roman Calendar, the universal

schedule of holy days and feast days for the Latin rite of the Catholic Church.

The Vatican Feb. 2 published the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments’ decree ordering the change in calendars.

The decree said Pope Francis approved the memorial for Martha, Mary and Lazarus after “considering the important evangelical witness they offered in welcoming the Lord Jesus into their home, in listening to

Him attentively, (and) in believing that he is the resurrection and the life.”

“In the household of Bethany, the Lord Jesus experienced the family spirit and friendship of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, and for this reason the Gospel of John states that He loved them,” it said. “Martha generously offered Him hospitality, Mary listened attentively to His words and Lazarus promptly emerged from the tomb at the command of the One Who humiliated death.”



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Upholding the dignity of life

Responding to editors' requests for a regular sampling of current commentary from around the Catholic press, here is an editorial titled: "Upholding the dignity of life" published online Jan. 26 on the website of *The Compass*, newspaper of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin. It was written by Sam Lucero, news and information manager.

This year's 48th annual March for Life in Washington was canceled due to safety concerns stemming from the pandemic, as well as the Jan. 6 Capitol riot. A live broadcast of a scaled-down march took place on Friday, Jan. 29, at 10 a.m. (EST) It included talks and a performance by Christian singer Matthew West. The event can be viewed

at marchforlife.org/2021-virtual-events.

While the March for Life, which marks the Jan. 22 anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion, didn't feature thousands upon thousands of marchers from around the country, Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Defense and Education Fund, said a small group of pro-life advocates, clergy and lawmakers walked from the National Mall to the Supreme Court Jan. 29.

Here in the Diocese of Green Bay, Respect Life Masses would usually be held for parish groups on their way to the March for Life. Instead, this year Bishop David L. Ricken joined pro-

life leaders and young adults for the Disciples for Life Conference Jan. 23 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. The day concluded with a Respect Life Mass.

The event, which had limited attendance due to the pandemic, attracted about 125 people. Another 60 to 70 guests participated via livestream.

Standing up for life, in all ages and stages, has been a challenge in the past year. We've seen many incidents of racism that have led to violence and even death. We've seen people on federal death row executed despite objections from Church leaders. We've even seen members of our own faith, gathered to celebrate the Eucharist and pray for the unborn, subjected to taunts and

protests.

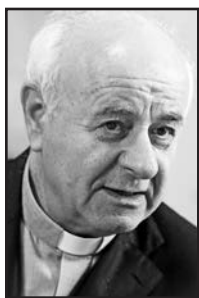
This most recent occurrence took place Jan. 22 at St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio. According to Catholic News Service, "The protesters, which a video posted by *The Columbus Dispatch* showed to number about seven, stormed into St. Joseph Cathedral during the liturgy Jan. 22 and marched through the sanctuary. They shouted that abortion was under attack and carried cardboard signs with messages supporting abortion."

After police arrived and removed the protesters, Columbus Bishop Robert J. Brennan, who was celebrating the Mass, asked that the community pray

See DIGNITY, page 19

The Church must go out

By Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia
Catholic News Service



Nowadays, the Church cannot be a mere guardian of ideas and beliefs, however good and righteous that may be. The mystery of life, that is, the way God dwells in history, must not only be safeguarded and protected, but also pragmatically proclaimed as much as possible, because men and women on this planet need to perceive the salvific presence of the Spirit in their lives. This change of approach is extremely relevant today.

First, as Pope Francis often says, the Church and all of us, the community of believers, must be out and about, not shut up inside, to proclaim our Christian values and principles in everyday life. We must bring Christianity back to the streets, where its lifeblood is much needed. A profound rethinking of the questions that are crucial for humanity implicitly needs everyone's help.

Let us consider, for instance, the members of the Pontifical Academy for Life: Among them there are Catholics of course but also Orthodox, Protestants, Muslims, Jews, Taoists, even nonbelievers. This results in an overall impression of enriching diversity because differences are genuine portals of discovery and regeneration. Arid are those who regard differences only as problematic and divisive aspects.

The academy is meant to be a place for dialogue, where science and contemporary cultures are combined with religion and ethic to render a service to humanity.

In the academy, we are convinced that we will have to face a perspective that in a synthetic way can be called

bio-politics. In the face of a new condition of globalized humanity, political forces at all levels must be careful to rethink and redesign the role of politics itself. We must avoid a rich Global North that does not take into account the large number of poor countries. We must prevent discrimination within the same country.

The pandemic we are experiencing makes us understand the need to rethink and reorganize health care, treatments, technologies, public health in a more shared and more equal way. The academy is putting a great deal of thought into it. It is also committed to preventing the so-called "surveillance society" from prevailing, where technology owners could become the absolute masters of citizens' lives.

As you can see, the number of topics to be addressed is increasing, but they are all directed toward the perspective of the unity of the human family that dwells in the only habitable planet we have, and it must be so for this generation, for the next one and for those to come.

In my vision, our academy is similar to the talents of the Gospel parable: The pope gave them to us expecting us to realize a profit, to make them grow, just as the wise servant did. That's the reason why we must "live" in contemporary cultures, to discuss and be confronted with them, to take part in the scientific and academic debates.

We must not be like that fearful, lazy, indifferent servant who buries his talent in the ground. That would be a big mistake. I am not referring only to the gifts entrusted to each of us. Here I mean that unique gift that is our academy, a family of scholars and researchers, passionate and giving professionals, including religious and nonbelievers.

Our common goal is to invest our lives to protect, defend and promote

the gift of life. That is the academy's mission.

Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia is president of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

REFLECTION

Long row of candles

Mark Saucier

Pope Francis just declared an annual World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

I write this after a long drive to meet the newest addition to our clan, and on the eve of another birthday that adds to my own creds among the codgers and the coffin-dodgers.

The Holy Father's announcement underscored the importance of intergenerational relationships and pastoral care for the elderly in a world where youth is a highly prized commodity and growing old is only applauded if you can accomplish something age-defying.

Sure, Abraham was 100 when he fathered Isaac. John Goodenough was 97 when he won the Nobel Prize. And at 90, Sister Madonna Buder is the oldest Ironman competitor.

But the majority of the superannuated retire in relative anonymity, cope with chronic health conditions, and worry about loss of independence and financial security.

This is good reason to remember grandparents and the elderly.

That same day, though, should urge us seniors, regardless of age or activity, to take on our biblical roles as the dreamers of Joel, the wise elders of Job, or the gray-haired splendor of Proverbs.

I think of my own grandparents, a shoe repairman on my mother's side and a railroad brakeman and his farm wife on my father's.

I loved the time I had with each, but it was far too short, and I was not old enough or smart enough to ask the great questions of their lives before they left.

As the candles get added to my cake, I find there are insights and truths from my life that I need to share with my children's children.

I want them to know that young or old, here is where I am and here is where I am supposed to be.

This moment, as difficult or temporary as it may be, has a meaning for me.

I want them to know that I didn't get here alone. The good in my life is not of all my doing and I often fail to appreciate the people without whom it would not be.

I want them to know that there will be many storms in life and, once they are over, you'll wonder how you made it through them.

You need to keep wondering that until you know.

I want them to know that their happiness depends on how they choose to view the world.

I want them to remember the old words of Hugo of St. Victor: "Love is the eye."

Fr. Tolton's life to be etched in stone outside Quincy, Ill., church

Highlights include his escape from slavery in Missouri and his becoming the Church's first recognizably Black priest in the U.S.

By Jay Nies

Depicted on one side of the river are two wrists in shackles.

On the other is a dove, free and at peace.

Together, they will adorn one of nine marble plaques symbolizing important moments in the life of Venerable Father Augustine Tolton.

The plaques will be installed this spring on an outside wall of St. Peter Church, in Quincy, Illinois, next to the stairs that schoolchildren ascend each day on their way to lunch.

"They'll see it every day," said local artist Tim Haubrich, who designed all nine of the artworks. "We'll be instilling Fr. Tolton's memory in all of the schoolchildren."

Fr. Tolton (1854-97), the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States, likely will be declared a saint someday.

St. Peter Parish is renowned for its role in welcoming him and his family from slavery to freedom.

"It's a point of pride for us to have been his home parish," said Monsignor Leo Enlow, pastor of the parish. "My vision is that once he's canonized, you're going to have a lot of pilgrims coming to Quincy

to view not only his statue but also this display of his life."

From slave to priest

Fr. Tolton was born into a family of slaves in Northeastern Missouri and baptized into the Catholic Church in Brush Creek a few years before the Civil War broke out.

He escaped as a child into Illinois with his mother and two siblings, while the war that would claim his father's life was still raging.

The family remained Catholic, and young Augustine gradually became aware of his priestly calling.

No seminary in the United States would accept him.

He persevered with help from God, his family, local priests, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Franciscan friars in Quincy, Illinois, and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome.

"I must now give praise to that son of the Emerald Isle, Father Peter McGirr, pastor of St. Peter's Church in Quincy, who promised me that I would be educated and who kept his word," Fr. Tolton later proclaimed.



Tim Haubrich, a lifelong member of St. Peter Parish in Quincy, Illinois, and longtime art director for his family business, PAM Printers, created these images as part of a series of nine that will be etched in black granite and mounted on an exterior wall of St. Peter Church in Quincy. These represent his baptism in Brush Creek, Missouri; his family's escape by boat to Illinois; and his priestly ordination in Rome.

"It was through the direction of a (School) Sister of Notre Dame, Sister Herlinda, that I learned to interpret the Ten Commandments; and then I also beheld for the first time the glimmering light of truth and the majesty of the Church," he added.

Ordained to the Holy Priesthood in Rome inside the Basilica of St. John Lateran in 1886, he was sent back to Quincy as a missionary to his homeland.

He ministered with profound grace and weathered many difficulties before being reassigned to Chicago.

There, he served as pastor to some of the city's poorest and most vulnerable individuals until he died of heatstroke and exhaustion at age 43.

The cause for declaring him a saint is now well under way, and devotion to his memory continues to spread.

Priestly people

The current St. Peter Church was completed in 1961. A few years ago, it needed some shoring up on the side facing the school.

The nine metal plates that restored structural integrity also opened a door to inspira-



tion.

Msgr. Enlow believes that inspiration came from the late Father Roy Bauer, who served



for many years as pastor at St. Peter.

As a young priest stationed in Springfield, Ill., Fr. Bauer helped Msgr. Enlow recognize his own vocation.

"I still blame him for my Priesthood!" Msgr. Enlow recalled with delight. "He was the cause of it — other than the grace of God."

Later, as pastor of a group of country parishes in the Springfield diocese, Fr. Bauer mentored Msgr. Enlow during his

transitional deacon year.

"As far as I am concerned, he's a saint," said Msgr. Enlow.

Fr. Bauer was an avid historian and promoter of Fr. Tolton's legacy.

He helped gather information for the sainthood cause and wrote several books, including *They Called Him Father Gus: The Life and Times of Augustine Tolton, First Black Priest in the U.S.A.*

Life and times

Mr. Haubrich, a local artist and lifetime St. Peter parishioner created the designs for all nine Fr. Tolton plaques.

He based them in large part on Fr. Bauer's books and

personal recollections.

As art director for PAM Printers, which publishes church bulletins and devotionals, Mr. Haubrich knew Fr. Bauer for years as a pastor and later as an editorial contributor.

"What a guy!" said Mr. Haubrich. "He's where I learned about Fr. Tolton."

All of Mr. Haubrich's children went to St. Peter School, and now he has a grandson in kindergarten there.

"I can't wait until he's a bit older and will be able to understand," he said.

The panels Mr. Haubrich designed are rich with symbolism:

- a depiction of Fr. Tolton's parents' wedding rings, a cross and the baptismal font in Brush Creek;

- an illustration of the escape from Missouri to Illinois by rowboat across the Mississippi River;

- a young Augustine's arrival at the old St. Peter Church at Eighth and Main streets in Quincy;

- a representation of Fr. Tolton's time as a seminarian in Rome and his priestly ordination in St. John Lateran

See FR. TOLTON, page 18

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Pro-life witness is rooted in the Eucharist, Archbishop Lori says

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

The witness of the pro-life movement is rooted in the Eucharist, said Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore.

“The Eucharist unites and strengthens us in our efforts to secure justice for the unborn, and to create a culture wherein every human life is cherished, nurtured and protected from the moment of conception until natural death,” said Archbishop Lori, chairman-elect of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

“All these extraordinary efforts, in the midst of this pandemic, testify to the importance of anchoring our pro-life mission in the Eucharist,” Archbishop Lori said in his homily at the Jan. 29 closing Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Wash-

ington.

“Eucharistic adoration followed by the celebration of Holy Mass is like a school that forms and equips us to place our humanity at the service of the least of these, the tiniest of human beings and the most vulnerable of all,” the archbishop said.

In his homily, Archbishop Lori brought the words of St. Paul to “have no anxiety” into topical focus.

“We might be tempted to say, ‘St. Paul, are you kidding? Have you seen the executive order rescinding the Mexico City policy? Do you know that the cancel culture portrays pro-life advocacy as hate speech?’” he said.

“Friends, I’d suggest that we give St. Paul more credit than

that,” Archbishop Lori added. “His encouragement should be ringing in our ears as we march for life — if only virtually.”

Anxiety, he said, “betokens a lack of trust in the Lord and his providential love. It suggests that we are in charge, more like independent con-

tractors than disciples. Anxiety frays our relationships with others, including our pro-life partners, and corrodes that unity so necessary if the pro-life cause is to succeed.

“Anxiety incites us to engage in behaviors counterproductive to the cause of life, and, worst of all, it hinders us from discerning the Lord’s will amid the challenges we face.”

God has not abandoned anyone, Archbishop Lori said, but “remains with us, most especially in the Eucharist, and He continues to exercise the power of His love in our midst to this very day. That very fact should not only console us but also embolden us to pray and work for the cause of life perhaps as never before.”

The Roman Empire of Paul’s time was “right in the

midst of a culture filled with idols and decadent living” but contained “signs and indicators of God’s own truth and love,” Archbishop Lori said. “Similar signs and indicators of God’s truth and love exist in our culture.”

He added, “Our culture gives a lot of credibility to science. Well, science attests to the humanity of the unborn child, psychology attests to the interior pain often associated with pro-

ured abortions, while almost everyone has a soft spot in their hearts for a newborn child.”

Reflecting on the Gospel passage from John 14, Archbishop Lori said, “Make no mistake: We do not manufacture the peace of Christ. ... The peace of Christ is not a mere good feeling, but is rather the amazing experience of a love that is stronger than sin and death.”

“Our mission,” he said, “is not to preach to ourselves but to connect with and speak persuasively to those who have not yet understood the truth, justice, and love of our cause,” he continued. “Our mission is to reach those who are searching, because at some level, they understand the stunningly beautiful truth about the inviolable dignity of each human being.”



This is a screen grab of Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori distributing Holy Communion during the closing Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Jan. 29, 2021, amid the coronavirus pandemic.

— CNS screen grab/EWTN Broadcast

Bishops, other pro-life leaders decry Biden action to end ‘Mexico City policy’

Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life and interna-

tional policy committees said President Joe Biden’s memo rescinding the so-called “Mexico City policy” Jan. 28 is a “griev-

ous” action that “actively promotes the destruction of human lives in developing nations.”

“(It) is antithetical to reason, violates human dignity, and is incompatible with Catholic teaching. We and our brother bishops strongly oppose this action. We urge the president to use his office for good, prioritizing the most vulnerable, including unborn children,” said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace.

The policy, first announced by President Ronald Reagan during an international conference on population in Mexico City in 1984, blocked U.S. funding for nongovernmental organizations that perform or actively promote abortion as a form of family planning in other nations.

Republican presidents since then have upheld the policy and Democratic presidents have overturned it. Opponents of the policy call it a “gag order.”

San Diego bishop warns against ‘weaponization of Eucharist’

Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego warned against the “weaponization of Eucharist” as a way to get Catholic elected officials, President Joe Biden among them, to adhere to the Church’s stance on abortion.

“I do not see how depriving the president or other political leaders of Eucharist based on their public policy stance can be interpreted in our society as anything other than the weaponization of Eucharist and an effort not to convince people by argument and by dialogue and by reason, but, rather, to pummel them into submission on the issue,” Bishop McElroy said.

He made the comments during a Feb. 1 online forum, “President Biden, U.S. Bishops and Pope Francis: How to Promote Catholic Principles in a Divided Church and Nation,” sponsored by the Georgetown Initiative on Catholic Social Thought.

Other panelists issued their own cautions on the issue. At least one, Helen Alvarez, a professor at the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University in Virginia, did not dismiss the possibility of sanctions.

“Bishops have excommunicated folks for failure to integrate schools, etc.” and many people have “differences of opinion of how to protect the common good. This is different,” she said about abortion.

Bishops support Biden’s racial equity orders on housing, prisons

Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

The chairmen of two U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ committees welcomed recent executive actions by President Joe Biden to address racial equity in housing and the use of private prisons by the federal government.

The orders will reduce discrimination in federal policies, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, head of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop Shelton J.

Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, head of the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, said in a Feb. 1 statement.

One order directs the Department of Housing and Urban Development to review the Trump administration’s repeal of the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule, a plan to tackle housing discrimination and segregation.

The second order directs the Department of Justice to phase out the use of private prisons, which hold about 14,000 of the 2 million people incarcerated in the U.S.

Frankenstein native Sister Therese Thoenen celebrates 70 years as a School Sister of St. Francis

Sister Therese Thoenen remembers well that pre-dawn foggy morning of Aug. 22, 1947, when she boarded the train to Milwaukee to begin her life as a School Sister of St. Francis.

She entered the convent at age 14, hoping to become a teacher, but her mother superiors had much bigger plans for her.

This farm girl from Frankenstein was destined for team-building and development, going from teacher/organist to education administrator and even leadership of the congregation's United States Province.

When she joined the community, Sr. Therese was given speech lessons to make her Missouri accent easier to understand.

Without a trace of that drawl left, she tells this story with great humor.

Where does her down-to-earth nature come from? She was the second of nine daughters accustomed to milking cows and boxing eggs.

She fondly describes her father's comic timing and work ethic and her mother's hospitality and gentleness.

Those are characteristics she inherited, and they have served her well.

She holds a bachelor's degree in education from Alverno College in Milwaukee, a master's degree in religious education at Loyola University, Chicago, and a professional certificate in spiritual gerontology.

Her teaching ministry began in the primary grades and later moved in junior high.

After 11 years of teaching, she served as an elementary school principal for the next 30 years at St. Walter School in Roselle, Illinois, and at St. Philip the Apostle School in Addison.

She served on various educational and parish committees and boards in the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois, and was an organist and director of the parish



Sister Therese Thoenen SSSF

choir.

From 1995-2003, Sr. Therese served on the Provincial Leadership Team for the School Sisters of St. Francis United States Province in Milwaukee as team member and Provincial.

She traveled to Austria and Germany, and recently joined a pilgrimage to Assisi.

From 2003-11, she served as director for the Sacred Heart Convent Nursing Home in Milwaukee.

She continues to work with the U.S. Province leadership, associates and Mission Advancement office and spends her time volunteering in the community.

Sr. Therese laughs as she recalls that

in the 1960s, when sisters were changing out of their habits, she rushed to Kmart, having been away from dress-shopping since the 1940s, only to purchase what she now realizes were unflattering styles.

Her self-assured elegance enables her to see life philosophically.

"It is a wonderful life and I would choose to do it all over again," she said. "I'm grateful and amazed at what I've been called to do. With God's good graces, I walk on, hoping for the best."

She is grateful to her parents who taught her to pray, love the Church, work hard and do her fair share.

"These values serve well in religious life," she said.

Founded in 1874, the School Sisters of St. Francis (SSSF) is an international community of Catholic sisters who unite with others to build a just and peaceful world.

The sisters and associates work to address the needs of those who are poor and marginalized by society.

The SSSF mission is thriving, with five provinces serving the United States, Europe, Latin America, India and Tanzania.

In message for World Sick Day, Pope calls for health care for all

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Praising those who help the sick and praying for those who are sick, Pope Francis called on Christians to practice what they preach, including by guar-

anteeing equal access to health care for all people.

"The current pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in our health care systems and exposed inefficiencies in the care of the sick," the pope wrote in his message for the 2021 World Day of

the Sick, which the Catholic Church marks Feb. 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it obvious to everyone that "elderly, weak and vulnerable people are not always granted access to care," at least not in an equitable way, he said. "This is the result of political decisions, resource management and a greater or lesser commitment on the part of those holding positions of responsibility."

"Investing resources in the care and assistance of the sick is a priority linked to the fundamental principle that health is a primary common good," Pope Francis wrote in his message, which was released by the Vatican Jan. 12.

The papal message, using Jesus' denunciation of hypocrisy in Matthew 23:1-12, insisted that real faith leads to real care for all who suffer from illness, poverty or injustice.

"When our faith is reduced to empty words, unconcerned with the lives and needs of others, the creed we profess proves inconsistent with the life we lead," the pope wrote. "The

danger is real."

When another person is suffering, he said, Jesus "asks us to stop and listen, to establish a direct and personal relationship with others, to feel empathy and compassion, and to let their suffering become our own as we seek to serve them."

Being sick makes one realize his or her "own vulnerability and innate need of others," the pope said. "It makes us feel all the more clearly that we are creatures dependent on God."

"When we are ill," he continued, "fear and even bewilderment can grip our minds and hearts; we find ourselves powerless, since our health does not depend on our abilities."

For many people, the pope said, "sickness raises the question of life's meaning," something Christians must "bring before God in faith. In seeking a new and deeper direction in our lives, we may not find an immediate answer. Nor are our relatives and friends always able to help us in this demanding quest."

Like Job in the Bible, people must stick with their prayers,

crying out to God for help, he said.

In the end, God "confirms that Job's suffering is not a punishment or a state of separation from God, much less as sign of God's indifference," he said. Job, "wounded and healed," confesses his faith in the Lord.

Pope Francis praised the "silent multitude of men and women," who, as the pandemic continues, do not look away, but help their patients or their neighbors.

"Such closeness is a precious balm that provides support and consolation to the sick in their suffering," he said. "As Christians, we experience that closeness as a sign of the love of Jesus Christ, the Good Samaritan, Who draws near with compassion to every man and woman wounded by sin."

Jesus' commandment to love one another also applies to a Christian's relationship with a person who is sick, the pope said. "A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love."

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Pope establishes World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Francis announced the establishment of a World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly as a reminder of the important role they play as a link between generations.

During his Sunday Angelus address Jan. 31, the pope said the day will be celebrated every year on the fourth Sunday of July to coincide with the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, Jesus' grandparents. The first celebration of this day will be July 25.

"It is important for grandparents to meet their grandchildren and for grandchildren to meet their grandparents because — as the prophet Joel says —

grandparents, before their grandchildren, will dream and have great desires, and young people — taking strength from their grandparents — will go forward and prophesy," he said.

Highlighting the Feb. 2 feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the pope said the recognition of Christ as the Messiah by the elderly Simeon and Anna is a reminder that "the Holy Spirit still stirs up thoughts and words of wisdom in the elderly today."

"Their voice is precious because it sings the praises of God and safeguards the roots of peoples," he said. "They remind us that old age is a gift and that grandparents are the link between generations, passing on the experience of life and faith to the young."

"Grandparents are often forgotten and we forget this

wealth of preserving roots and passing on," he added.

In a statement published shortly after the pope's announcement, Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, said the yearly event was "a gift to the whole Church" that emphasizes the pastoral care of the elderly as "a priority that can no longer be postponed by any Christian community."

"In the encyclical, *'Fratelli Tutti,'* the Holy Father reminds us that no one is saved alone. With this in mind, we must treasure the spiritual and human wealth that has been handed down from generation to generation," he said.

Cardinal Farrell added that "today, more than ever,

See GRANDPARENTS, page 18

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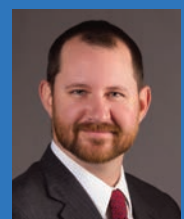
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Patience a key virtue in religious life, pope says

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Christian hope is rooted in the knowledge that God is patient with all his children, even when they stray from the path set before them, Pope Francis told consecrated men and women.

Celebrating the World Day for Consecrated Life Feb. 2, the pope told women and men religious that God's love is "not weighed in the balance of our human calculations, but unstintingly gives us the courage to start anew."

"This is the reason for our hope: that God never tires of waiting for us," he said. "When we turn away, He comes looking for us; when we fall, He lifts us to our feet; when we return to Him after losing our way, He waits for us with open arms."

About 150 religious men and women, all wearing masks, were in the socially distanced congregation for the celebration of Candlemas — the feast of the Presentation of the Lord — which also marks the Vatican celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life.

Led by several candle-bearing acolytes, Pope Francis processed toward the Altar of the Chair in a darkened St. Peter's Basilica, faintly lit by the congregation's candles as the choir proclaimed in song, "O radiant light, eternal splendor of the father, Christ the Lord



LEFT: Pope Francis holds a candle as he arrives to celebrate a Mass marking Candlemas and the World Day for Consecrated Life in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 2. RIGHT: Nuns hold candles as Pope Francis celebrates Mass marking Candlemas and the World Day for Consecrated Life in St. Peter's Basilica. — CNS photos by Andrew Medichini, Reuters pool

immortal."

In his homily at the Mass with religious, the pope reflected on the example of the elderly Simeon, who "patiently awaited the fulfilment of the Lord's promises" and the coming of the Messiah.

Simeon, he said, learned that God "does not come in extraordinary events," nor did he "grow weary with the passage of time" and lose hope.

"He trusted in the promise and did not let himself be consumed by regret for times past or by the sense of despondency that can come as we approach the twilight of our lives," the pope said.

This exemplary patience, he continued, was "born of prayer and the history of his people" who had always experienced a

merciful God that remained patient for centuries, "even in the face of rejection and infidelity."

"The patience of Simeon is thus a mirror of God's own patience," the pope said. "From prayer and the history of his people, Simeon had learned that God is indeed patient."

Drawing from the example of God and Simeon's patience, the pope urged religious men and women to reflect on what role patience plays in their lives and to realize that "it is not simply about tolerating difficulties or showing grim determination in the face of hardship."

"Patience is not a sign of weakness, but the strength of spirit that enables us to 'carry the burden' of personal and community problems, to accept others as different from



ourselves, to persevere in goodness when all seems lost, and to keep advancing even when overcome by fatigue and listlessness," he said.

Pope Francis also proposed "three settings" in religious life where patience can become a concrete reality, beginning with one's personal life.

While religious men and women at one point responded to God's call by offering their lives "with enthusiasm and generosity," the pope said there are times when hard work fails and eventually, "the ardor of our prayer cools and we are no longer immune to spiritual aridity."

"We have to be patient with ourselves and await in hope God's own times and places, for He remains ever faithful to His promises," the pope said. "Remembering this can help us retrace our steps and revive our dreams, rather than yielding to interior sadness and discouragement."

Community life, he continued, is another area where patience is needed, especially when conflicts arise with "no immediate solution" and only time can help "to preserve peace and to wait for a better

time to resolve situations in charity and in truth."

"Let us keep in mind that the Lord does not call us to be soloists, but to be part of a choir that can sometimes miss a note or two, but must always try to sing in unison," the pope said.

Lastly, religious men and women must show patience in their relationship with the world. The pope called on those in consecrated life to follow the example of Simeon and Anna, who "did not complain about how wrong things are, but patiently looked for the light shining in the darkness of history."

"We, too, need that kind of patience, so as not to fall into the trap of lamenting that 'the world no longer listens to us,' or 'we have no more vocations,' 'these are not easy times,'" Pope Francis said.

"These are real challenges for our consecrated life: We cannot remain stuck in nostalgia for the past or simply keep repeating the same old things. We need patience and courage in order to keep advancing, exploring new paths and responding to the promptings of the Holy Spirit," he said.

MARCH FOR LIFE

From page 4

ing in America."

Eighth-grader Easton Stiers said he was surprised at how many people attended the March, despite most of the observances being cancelled this year.

Eighth-grader Connor Manning said was encouraged by how many people his age were there.

Eighth-grader Daeden Hopkins's favorite part of the March was passing by the National Guard members on guard around the Capitol.

Eighth-grader William Manning took to heart a street preacher's prayer over him and his friends.

"He talked about how we're the future," he said.

Looking ahead

After the March, the Hermann group toured the National Museum of the Bible and planned

to attend Sunday Mass in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

This was the first March for Life for all four of the St. George eighth-graders.

They said they would like to return next year when the March is hopefully back in full force.

"I was very happy that they went," said Msgr. Higley. "A lot of unfortunate reversals of pro-life issues are about to take place."

He hopes the experienced reinforced the need to stand up for innocent, vulnerable human beings, "inside and outside the womb."

"That's part of the greatness of our nation," he stated. "This is not just our Church teaching. Our Constitution requires that of each and every one of us."

Contributing to this article in Washington was Kurt Jensen of Catholic News Service.

SCHOOLS

From page 1

It's a well-timed acknowledgement of God-driven sacrifice and dedication.

"Although they could make more money teaching someplace else, they do what they do because they believe in the mission," said Dr. Erin Vader, diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools.

"Amazing"

Angie Shelangoski, principal of St. Stanislaus School in Wardsville, said the surprise bonus "makes a direct impact on teachers and staff who are out there with the students."

"It's something that will definitely help staff feel appreciated," she said.

"The lengths these teachers have gone to — the creativity they've shown and supplemental materials they've found in making their lessons come alive through technology — it's nothing short of amazing," she stated.

She said the bonus and the bishop's heartfelt "thank you" couldn't come at a better time.

"Here in the midst of everything that's chaotic and unnerving right now, this brings a smile to everyone's face and causes us all to pause and say, 'Thank God,'" she stated.

Born to teach

Anthony Arnold, principal of St. Patrick School in Rolla, said this gift says to teachers and other school employees: "What you are doing is beyond measure, and there is no real way to repay you, but please note that we all see what you're doing and are so very grateful."

He noted that when the pandemic hit last spring, the teachers, staff and volunteers at St. Patrick resolved not just to

meet the highest standards but to exceed them.

"Our objective was to keep the kids engaged," he said. "We wanted to make sure they'd be ready to return in the fall and hit the ground running."

Teachers, staff and volunteers kept investing more of themselves in helping the students stay on track.

"They did this because they wanted to do it," said Mr. Arnold. "This is what they wanted to do for these kids. They love to teach. They love these kids and their families. It's what defines them."

Likewise, the teachers and staff have been largely responsible for keeping school in session throughout the first semester of the current school year.

"It's the result of a lot of hard work and going above and beyond, unbeknownst to many," he said.

The custodial staff has remained on high alert, keeping the building as clean and free of germs as humanly possible.

"They literally mopped the walls, they cleaned the floors, cleaned every surface, every day, several times a day," said Mr. Arnold.

The teachers have covered each other's study halls, lunch periods and recesses and helped satisfy the students' hunger for extracurricular activities.

"We do these things because we are a school family, and our teachers love each other and are trying to help each other," he said. "We pray a lot and try to support each other and live out our Catholic commitment in whatever ways we can."

He believes the real difference comes from being not a private school but a Catholic



Students of St. Patrick School in Rolla lock arms on the playground. "We're far from perfect, but what we're doing and how we are doing it is only possible because we are a Catholic school," Principal Anthony Arnold stated.

school.

"We're far from perfect, but what we're doing and how we are doing it is only possible because we are a Catholic school," he said.

"It's a beautiful thing to watch," he stated. "And it is everything Catholic schools are about."

"Phenomenally dedicated"

Mary McCoy, principal of St. Peter School in Marshall, said the timing for the gift is perfect.

"It will be very uplifting," she said.

She said St. Peter School's faculty and staff are "phenomenally dedicated."

"They give 110 percent, all the time," she stated. "The students always come first."

She marveled at the spirit of caring and cooperation among teachers, staff members, students and parents.

ally awesome, too."

Having previously taught elsewhere, she finds the Catholic school experience to be unique and all-encompassing.

"We watch our students come through here," she stated. "We see them grow, see them change. We try to give them the best tools available to them."

"I'm confident that when these children leave here, they'll have the foundation they'll need to make good choices."

With thanksgiving

Bishop McKnight said it's a blessing to have such generous support for the mission of the Catholic schools and for the people who put that mission into action.

"Our schools are an intrinsic part of the evangelization of our Church," he said. "The future of the Church, to a large degree, depends on the work done in our Catholic schools."

He encouraged everyone to remain true to their baptismal call to participate actively, gratefully and generously in the work of their parishes and Catholic schools.

"This mission belongs to all of us," he said. "There can be no weak links in answering the communal call to discipleship. Only by working together and giving to the best of our ability can we, with God's assistance, accomplish everything He has planned for us."

There are nearly 6,700 students enrolled in the 37 Catholic grade schools and three Catholic high schools in the diocese.

A complete list of the schools can be found at:

diojeffcity.org/schools

LENT

From page 1

"Good practice would be for the palms to be distributed by members of the faithful who are masked and wearing gloves," the Diocesan Liturgical Commission stated. "The palms could be sanitized once before distribution begins."

The Chrism Mass, during which the bishop blesses and consecrates the oils that will be used for sacraments throughout the diocese in the coming year will be celebrated the morning of March 30, the Tuesday of Holy Week.

This is because the Thursday before Holy

Week, the day on which the Mass is traditionally celebrated in this diocese, falls on March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation.

The Liturgical Commission recommended that due to the pandemic, the ceremonial Washing of Feet on Holy Thursday should be omitted this year.

The entire memorandum, including other liturgical directives for the communal and individual observance of Lent, can be found at:

diojeffcity.org/lenten-regulations

Called to love amidst intense division

Catholic News Service

Phoenix

In a time of intense division in the country, the Gospel calls us to love, Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo A. Nevares of Phoenix said in a virtual reflection for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan. 18-25.

"Let us all pray that the Holy Spirit be poured out

upon us and bring us greater love and unity among all the Christian churches," said the bishop. "There's so much turmoil, so much division, so much anxiety, so many terrible things going on in our world," Bishop Nevares said.

The Arizona Faith Network organized virtual activities for the week of prayer.



By Father Don Antweiler
ACROSS

1. This puzzle presents ____ but true characteristics about Mo. critters.
8. "By the cross we, the ____ of Christ, have been gathered into one flock," —St. Theodore the Studite, abbot, 759-826 A.D.
12. The opossum, common throughout Mo., is unique among all the mammals in North Am. Even though it's a well-known characteristic, it seems amazingly odd that its young are always born ____.
13. "The man called his wife Eve, because ____ became the mother of all the living," (Genesis 3:20).
14. Letters for a degree in electrical engineering.
15. A couple of mink traits: they can produce a stinky ____ that rivals that of skunk spray; also they are so at ease in water, they've been known to float down Mo. streams curled up in balls, apparently sound asleep.
16. An ____ doctor is technically called an otolaryngologist.
18. "Who have strife? Who have anxiety? Who have black ____? Those who linger long over wine," (Proverbs 23:29).
20. Tie-breaking period after regular play runs out (abbr.).
22. Letters for Associated Press (____); founded in 1846; its members are newspapers and broadcasters; it has earned 54 Pulitzer Prizes.
23. The responsibilities of Mo.'s Dept. of Social Services (____) include protecting children, rehabilitating youth and moving families to self-sufficiency.
24. Second year college student.
27. The last ____ was also the first Eucharist.

28. Are you ____ out? Either bet or fold! (2 wds.)
29. Adjective indicating a maiden or birth name.
30. Abbr. for Old English; spoken from 450-1150 A.D.
31. "He Who did not spare His ____ Son but handed Him over for us all," (Romans 8:32).
32. Letters for Sacred Scripture.
33. "High ____"; 1952 Oscar-winning classic Western starring Gary Cooper.
34. Car club (abbr.).
36. "My initial response was to ____ for defamation of character, but then I realized that I had no character," —Charles Barkley.
38. This is the only State in the nation without a House of Representatives. The members of the State Legislature are called Senators (abbr.).
39. Spuds.
42. Announcement has four of them.
43. The father of a JR.
44. "Missouri is my home; I love her for her woods and prairies; amid these let my grave ____ made," —Fr. John Joseph Hogan, the apostle of northern Mo., from his book, *On The Mission in Missouri*, 1857-1868.
45. ____ ho ho; from a pirate song.

DOWN

1. Among almost all creatures, leaders are at the front of the group. But, in a school of fish, the leaders are in the middle. A few fish in the center of a school direct the ____ and direction of the entire group.
2. 3 spots in cards.
3. Prefix for peat or pair.
4. Shepherd/prophet who warned the Israelites of the danger of hollow prosperity; around 780 -745 B.C.; 37th book of the Bible.
5. Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (that's a mouthful!) or, thankfully, simply ____, is a basic chemical compound in the body that seems to slow or even reverse aging.
6. Pontiac muscle car.
7. "What was called music in those days would probably not be considered as such in ____.
8. "I desired to linger a little while in this life, that I might ____ you a Catholic Christian before I died. God has granted this to me...What am I doing here?" —St. Monica to St. Augustine, Confessions, Bk. 9, ch. 10.
9. East in France.
10. "____, what's up, Doc?" said Bugs.
11. Hoo's got yellow eyes? When it comes to owls, nearly all of them. Of the nine species that live in or visit Mo., only two have brown eyes: barn owls and barred owls. All the rest have yellow ____.
17. I told my supervisor that I want to ____ my teammate on the factory line as employee of the year!
19. The Jewish sect believed to have written the Dead Sea scrolls.
21. Perhaps you knew that, like squirrels, Blue Jays gather acorns and hide them for winter. Perhaps you did not know that, unlike squirrels, their flexible ____ allows them to haul eight acorns at a time.
22. Sometimes after a funeral, a family member will make ____ out of pressed flowers from the funeral service (2 wds.).
24. In American and Ozark folk music, everyday objects such as washboards, jugs, and utensils like ____ are sometimes used as percussion instruments to keep time.
25. For many Cardinal fans in St. Louis, it is a long family tradition to be at the Cardinal's home ____ of the season.
26. ____ the count of three...
29. The tri-colored bat is one of the smallest in North Am., 3 inches from ____ to tail, weighing no more than a quarter. Unlike most other bats, they roost singly in caves throughout Mo.
35. Short for American Eagle, clothier.
37. Letters for the United Nations. It presently has 193 member States and 2 non-member Observer States, the Holy See (governing Vatican City) and Palestine (represented by the Palestine Liberation Org.).
40. Stomach muscle.
41. "It is well that war is ____ terrible, otherwise we should grow too fond of it," —Robert E. Lee at the massive Union loss of life at the Battle of Fredricksburg, VA.

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ANSWERS on page 19

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES

From page 3

“Integrating all of these under one roof will make it easier for us to make referrals, giving people access not just to healthy food but also immigration help or mental health or a flu shot,” said Mr. Lester.

Inside and outside

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed both the need and potential for other services, including mental health.

“This location would be ideal in that we’ll have space that could be used for group therapy and help for individuals and families,” said Mr. Lester.

Catholic Charities personnel are laying the groundwork to offer the same services remotely through a secure Internet connection.

“That would mean having a trained mental health provider in Jefferson City provide services to someone as far away as Knox or Clark or Hickory County,” said Mr. Lester.

That’s just one of numerous ways the building could be used to provide services far beyond its physical footprint.

“The more we can figure ways to do things remotely or provide delivery of services in the community, the better for the people we’re trying to serve in the long run,” said Mr. Lester.

“We visualize it being a hub of outreach in the diocese in a lot of different ways,” he said. “As eager as we are to use this space to offer services to people who come to us, we’re realizing how necessary it will be to find ways to take the help to people where they are.”

He hopes the integration of technology and a growing volunteer base will expand options for the food pantry — from online ordering and pick-up to at-home delivery to people who are elderly or homebound.

“We’ve had practice with the monthly senior food boxes,” he noted. “We’ve had volunteers from a number of faith-based groups and other groups who have been helping with delivery.”

Holy ground

Mr. Lester contacted the archivist for the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette, which built the former chapel and gymnasium in 1956 as part of a high school seminary it operated from 1948-69.

The archivist made digital images of scores of photos of the chapel and surrounding buildings in use by the seminarians and local Catholics who made retreats there each year.



Foundations are being poured for a 4,500-square-foot building addition that will include a warehouse for the new food pantry.

— Photo by Dan Lester

After the seminary closed, the property became part of a surrounding neighborhood built and maintained by the Jefferson City Housing Authority.

Mr. Lester is eager to incorporate artistic echoes of the building’s original use into its redevelopment.

He’s pleased about plans to include a small chapel in the area that once served as the building’s sanctuary.

“We anticipate making that available to people who come here as a place for silent reflection,” he said.

Good neighbors

Catholic Charities offers a variety of services to residents in need throughout the 38-counties of the diocese, providing care and creating hope through compassionate social services that respect the dignity of each person and engage the local community.

“There are lots of great things going on all over the diocese, and we’re really blessed to be a part of that,” said Mr. Lester.

Mr. Lester looks forward to Catholic Charities sponsoring events that draw the building’s

neighbors along with people from nearby Helias Catholic High School into fellowship.

“There will be opportunities for community-building as well as providing social services,” he said.

He believes the new headquarters will unite people from various walks of life in helping others while growing in their relationship with God.

“Bishop W. Shawn McKnight has really instilled within our whole diocese a sense that we are better when we’re working together,” Mr. Lester stated. “It is my prayer and my hope that this space will become a truly shining example of that ideal.”

To contribute to Catholic Charities’ “Open Hearts, Open Doors” renovation, visit ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/give or send a check payable to “CCCNMO” to P.O. Box 104626, Jefferson City, MO 65110-4626

For information about the ongoing renovations or to inquire about naming or donor recognition opportunities, contact Cristal Backer, CCCNMO’s director of development and outreach at 573-635-7719 or cbacker@cccnmo.org, or visit ccnmo.diojeffcity.org.

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	65-69	4.2-4.6%
	70-74	4.7-5.2%
	75-79	5.4-6.2%
	80-84	6.5-7.4%
	85-89	7.6-8.4%
	90+	8.6%

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DIocese of Jefferson City

Fundraisers & Social Events

Feb. 5

Westphalia, K of C drive thru fish fry, 4:30-7 pm

Feb. 6

VIRTUAL, St. Thomas the Apostle parish Winter Fantasy, 6:30-9:30 pm, for info visit stthomasapostle.net

Feb. 9

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate School "Give Back" night, 5-9 pm, Bellacino's Pizza & Grinders

Feb. 12

Eldon, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 5-7 pm, Eldon Catholic Center

Feb. 14

Belle, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am; **St. Anthony**, K of C carry-out breakfast, 7:30-11:30 am; **Westphalia**, Lions Club breakfast, 7-11:30 am

Feb. 19

Columbia, K of C 1529 drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, K

of C Hall; **Cuba**, Holy Cross Parish drive-thru fish & shrimp dinner, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Eldon**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 5-7 pm, Eldon Catholic Center; **Hannibal**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Holts Summit**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 3:30-7 pm, St. Andrew Parish's Veit Hall; **Jefferson City**, K of C 1054 drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, K of C Hall; **Jefferson City**, K of C 12992 drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph Undercroft; **Pilot Grove**, St. Joseph Home & School drive-thru fish fry, 5-7:30 pm, parish basement; **St. Martins**, St. Martin Home & School drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Taos**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm

Feb. 26

Cuba, Holy Cross Parish drive-thru fish & shrimp dinner, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Eldon**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 5-7 pm, Eldon Catholic Center; **Hannibal**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Holts Summit**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 3:30-7 pm, St. Andrew Parish's Veit Hall; **Jefferson City**, K of C 1054 drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, K of C Hall; **Jefferson City**, K of C 12992 drive-

thru fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph Undercroft; **St. Thomas**, St. Thomas/Meta K of C drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center; **Taos**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm

Feb. 27

VIRTUAL, Our Lady of Snows Parish fantasy night, 6-9 pm, for info visit ourladyofthesnows.diojeffcity.org

Mar. 11-14

Jefferson City, "Back to the 80s," Helias Catholic High School spring musical, evening performances Thurs, Fri, Sat at 7 pm, matinees Sat & Sun at 2 pm, Miller Performing Arts Center, for tickets call 573-635-6139

Meetings & Conferences

Feb. 10

VIRTUAL, Catholic Charities refugee resettlement program orientation, 5:30-6:30 pm, for info or to register, contact Di-

ana Twombly at 573-442-7568 or dtwombly@cccno.org

Feb. 17

Columbia, Opening rally for the 24th Columbia 40 Days for Life, with guest speaker Shawn Carney, 4-5 pm, sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood, 711 N. Providence, for info visit 40daysforlife.com/columbia

Feb. 25

VIRTUAL, Cursillo Grand Reunion, 7-8:15 pm, for info or to join Zoom meeting visit diojeffcity.org/cursillo

Apr. 14

VIRTUAL, Catholic Charities refugee resettlement program orientation, 5:30-6:30 pm, for info or to register, contact Diana Twombly at 573-442-7568 or dtwombly@cccno.org; **Jefferson City**, Midwest March for Life and Rally with keynote speaker Jeanne Mancini, President of National March For Life, 7:45 am-2 pm, Capitol South Lawn, for info visit midwestmarchforlife.com

Apr. 21

Jefferson City, "Purified" chastity presentation for teens & parents with Jason Evert, 6-8 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, for info or to register visit cathedral.diojeffcity.org/purified-tickets

Retreats & Spiritual Renewal

Feb. 13-14

Jefferson City, Marriage Encounter Weekend, Best Western Plus Capital Inn, for info or to register, email jeffcityme@gmail.com or visit jeffcityme.com

Youth & Young Adults

Feb. 16-18

Sedalia, Kindergarten readiness screenings for children who will be 5 years old by July 31, 2020, Sacred Heart School, call 660-827-3800 to schedule an appointment

FR. TOLTON

From page 10

Basilica;

- the former St. Joseph Mission in Quincy, where Fr. Tolton was first assigned, along with the mission's patron saint;
- a representation of his move to Chicago and the early construction of St. Monica Church there;
- captioned, "*Requiescat in Pace*," the solemn procession of Fr. Tolton's earthly remains back to Quincy after his death; and
- a portrait of Fr. Tolton and his statement, "The Catholic Church deplores a double slavery — that of the mind and that of the body. She endeavors to free us of both."

"True to his calling"

"Art has been in my blood forever," said Mr. Haubrich, who graduated from Benedictine College and the Kansas City Art Institute.

He created some of the Fr. Tolton illustrations by hand and incorporated photos and other elements by computer.

His image of the Lateran Cathedral was taken during his own pilgrimage to Rome.

"I'm so proud of Tim's artistic talent, and it is reflected in the panels," said Msgr. Enlow.

The priest believes the project will offer hope in the face of human weakness and reinforce the inalienable truth that God created all people in His own image and likeness.

It will also be a call to unconditional fidelity.

"In spite of the racism Fr. Tolton experienced, he stayed true to his calling to still serve Christ and His Church," Msgr. Enlow noted.

"He was first a human who suffered from the prejudice of people, whether Christian or not," Msgr. Enlow continued. "He was a priest who experienced the humanity of the Church with all of its imperfections and flaws.

"We pray that he is now a saint who will pray for us and intercede for us," he said.



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Planning an event?

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GRANDPARENTS

From page 13

we are committed to making every effort to dismantle the throwaway culture and to enhance the charisms of grandparents and the elderly."

The dicastery said Pope Francis will mark the first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly July 25 with an evening Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. However, the Mass will be "subject to sanitary regula-

tions in place at the time."

"Closer to the world day, the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life will announce any further initiatives that will mark the event," the statement said. "As of now, the dicastery is inviting parishes and dioceses around the world to celebrate this world day at the local level in ways that are suited to their pastoral context."

DOYLE

From page 8

But that is no longer true; the Church has grown wiser since then and now understands that grave psychological anxiety can sometimes mitigate — or even remove — a person's capacity to make decisions and his moral responsibility for those choices.

Based on that, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* now says, "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives" (No. 2283). This family, I believe, has found some comfort in knowing that.

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

Anniversaries

Argyle, St. Aloysius
Terry & Georgia Brunner, 55 years

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul
John & Donna King, 66 years
Jerome & Darlene Wirths, 61 years
Larry & Rosemary Leathers, 55 years
Danny & De Lammers, 50 years
Terry & Kim Wiemholt, 42 years
Joe & Dina Herzog, 38 years
Leonard & Nene Imhoff, 31 years
David & Cathy Maupin, 31 years
Kevin & Jennifer Roth, 27 years

Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels
Don & Marietta Brune, 48 years

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate
Bill & Penny Tiedemann, 54 years
Charles Lemley & Margaret Wilson, 33 years
Michael & Melissa Grgurich, 21 years

Marceline, St. Bonaventure
Robert & Ellen Beaver, 61 years
Jerry & Ester Chrisman, 61 years

Martinsburg, St. Joseph
Jim & Barb Welschmeyer, 50 years
Rodney & Carol Willingham, 40 years

Milan, St. Mary
Bill & Teresa Blair, 39 years
Roman Bahena & Josefina Pineda, 35 years
Victorino Gregorio & Yolanda Osorio, 16 years

Palmyra, St. Joseph
Franklin & Edna Tuley, 67 years
John & Jean Buckman, 56 years
Gary & Lenore Singleton, 51 years
David & Gable Lewis, 37 years
Kent & Vaness Rupp, 36 years

Russellville, St. Michael
David & Rendy Lepper, 52 years
Jeff & Kathy Wildhaber, 36 years

St. Patrick, Shrine of St. Patrick
John & Catherine Brennan, 32 years



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; or mailed to: *The Catholic Missourian*, 2207 West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914.

Deaths

Sister Therese Blecha, 79 — of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas, who taught at the former Ss. Peter and Paul High School in Boonville from 1965-69 — on Jan. 4. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Jan. 7 in Concordia, Kansas.

Norbert T. Juergensmeyer, 96 — sister of Sister Edith Juergensmeyer SSND — on Jan. 15. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Jan. 23 in St. Boniface Chapel in Koeltztown.

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Alice M. Templemire**

California, Annunciation — **Rita J. Miller**

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Tony Evanoski**

Chamois, Most Pure Heart of Mary — **Dennis Lamb**

Cuba, Holy Cross — **Leo Bogue Jr.**

Hermann, St. George — **Joseph Baumstark, Rita Weiser**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Donna L. Bentlage, Harriet M. Ochs**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Coralynne J. Halsey, Betty Lou Welschmeyer**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Roman A. Borgmeyer**

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **John Erhart**

Marshall, St. Peter — **Juana Castaneda, Juan Cortez, Hector Franco, Larry Gauldin, Norbert Melies, Connie Reichert, Eddie Taylor**

Meta, St. Cecilia — **Keith C. Juergensmeyer**

Moberly, St. Pius X — **Liz Cooper**

Palmyra, St. Joseph — **Gloria T. Baggett, Gilbert W. Hudson**

Russellville, St. Michael — **Lawrence P. Clarkston**

St. Elizabeth, St. Lawrence — **Alfred Doerhoff**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Rosaline C. Distler, Harold J. Meller**

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Rose Mary Buschjost**

Slater, St. Joseph — **Kenneth Pittman**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Oscar L. Branson**

Baptisms

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Allison Frost, Carter McKenzie**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Theodore and Vivien Green**, children of Jacob & Doris Anne Green; **Cayde Travis Maasen**, son of Ashton Maasen & Hayley Strope

Martinsburg, St. Joseph — **Aiden Allen Robinson**, son of Michael & Ashten Robinson

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Dale Ronald Massman**, son of Jonathan & Ashley Massman

Moberly, St. Pius X — **Reese Anne Hardwick**, daughter of Rhett & Eryn Hardwick

St. Elizabeth, St. Lawrence — **Kellen Anthony Libbert**, son of Dustin & Danyelle Libbert; **Charlotte Rae Schwartz**, daughter of Kenny & Myranda Schwartz

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Madyllann Dougherty**, daughter of Zachary & Shyra Dougherty

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **Lucas Hubert Luebbert**, son of Peter & Danielle Luebbert

Elections

California, Annunciation — **Evelyn Jobe**, president; **Josh Frank**, secretary, of the Parish Pastoral Council

Camdenton, St. Anthony — **Barb Anderson, Tim Hadfield, Maureen Weber**, new members; **Keith Schuster**, president; **Rhonda Franken**, vice president; **Miriam Borden**, secretary, of the Parish Pastoral Council

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Roger Schwartz**, president; **Jeff Russler**, vice president; **Christy Wobbe**, secretary, of the Parish Pastoral Council

Lake Ozark, Knights of Columbus Council 9273 — **John Akscin**, membership director; **Gary Kelly**, trustee

Birthdays

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Zita Tappel**, her 96th on Jan. 30; **Mary Wieberg**, her 90th on Feb. 3

California, Annunciation — **Dolores Bestgen**, her 99th

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Marie Skain**, her 96th on Feb. 9

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Alma Koetting**, her 98th on Feb. 15

Pilot Grove, St. Joseph — **Jane Twenter**, her 90th on Feb. 7

DIGNITY

From page 9

for the group.

"I ask all to continue to pray for the unborn who have died, for all those who have experienced the pain of abortion and for those who cannot understand our divine and steadfast calling to champion this cause," the bishop said.

Bishop Brennan's message of conciliation is the exact message the pro-life movement needs.

Bishop Ricken offered a similar message at the Disciples for Life Conference. "When you do pro-life work, you are doing prophetic work," he said. "It's out of love, not condemnation." The event's keynote speaker, Sister Magnificat Rose, a member of the Sisters of Life, told attendees that they must "fall in love with God and with everyone else whom God created."

"We can change the culture one person at a time," she said. "It is a matter of seeing Jesus in every person."

Anger and hostility are not the answer for converting hearts and minds to a respect for life. Personal witness, dialogue and a joyful disposition will make the march to uphold the dignity of life one that attracts and is inviting to others.

The views or positions presented in this or any guest editorial are those of the individual publication and do not necessarily represent the views of Catholic News Service or of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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Crossword puzzle answers

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S	R	E	L	V	E	N	E
V	A	V	A	N	O	N	O
S	N	W	O	E	E	E	N
R	O	N	I	R	E	P	U
E	R	E	M	O	H	P	S
J	A	O	L	O	S	E	X
E	L	N	E	O	D	O	E
H	S	R	R	U	V	R	R
P	H	S	R	E	G	N	V

In the warmth of God's light



Students of Holy Family School in Hannibal spend time in silent prayer in the sanctuary of Holy Family Church on Feb. 2. The children filled the church with luminaries adorned with names and prayer intentions. Each class spent time praying together, surrounded by the luminaries' light. They wore bright colors to remind them that they shine bright when they pray and show their love of Jesus.

— Photo from the Holy Family School – Hannibal Facebook page

Let us pray



Second-graders at Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School in Columbia begin working on understanding all the parts of the Mass in religion class on Jan. 29. “We are so happy we could kick-off Catholic Schools Week in-person by celebrating the Mass together as a school,” stated Principal Elaine Hassemer. “Being able to participate in Mass allows us to further our understanding and deepen our relationship with God. We are so blessed to learning in a faith-filled environment.”

— Photo by Rachel Porting

Happy hundredth!



Driven to help mothers and babies



ABOVE: The sixth-graders at St. George School in Hermann display the diapers they collected during the school-wide diaper drive they spearheaded under the guidance of their teacher, Mary Steiner. The parents and supporters of St. George School gave generously.

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

LEFT: Kindergarteners at St. Peter School in Marshall celebrate their 100th day of school on Jan. 29.

— Photo from the St. Peter School Facebook page

Jesus casts out spirits, heals the sick

By Joe Sarnicola
Catholic News Service

After Jesus had been baptized by John, He spent time in the desert. When He came out, He went to Galilee and began preaching for the people to repent. He also began healing people who were sick and casting out evil spirits. When He entered Capernaum, He met a man tormented by such a spirit.

The spirit cried out to Jesus, "What have You to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know Who You are — the Holy One of God!"

Jesus did not answer the spirit, but instead commanded, "Quiet! Come out of him!"

With shouting and groaning, the spirit came out of the



man. This miracle amazed the people who had seen it happen, and Jesus' reputation spread throughout the region.

Later, Jesus went to the home of Simon, whose moth-

er-in-law was very sick with a high fever. Jesus went to the woman's bedside, held her hand and helped her stand up. She was healed and was able to wait on her guests.

Later in the evening, many people gathered outside where Jesus was, hoping He would heal their sick family members and friends. And Jesus healed many people before going to bed. When He woke up early the next morning, He found a quiet place where He could be alone to pray.

Simon and the other apostles found Jesus and said, "Everyone is looking for You."

And Jesus answered, "Let us go on to the nearby village that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come."

One of the people who wanted to be healed by Jesus was a leper. The leper knelt before Jesus and said, "If You wish, You can make me clean."

Jesus felt compassion for the man. He reached out and

touched him and said, "I do will it. Be made clean."

The man was immediately healed. But Jesus added one request: "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

But the man was so excited and grateful that he could not help but tell everyone what had happened to him. This only made more crowds seek Jesus out for healing and other miracles.

Read more about it...

Mark 1

1. What did Jesus do for Simon's mother-in-law?

2. What did Jesus tell the leper to do after he was healed?

Bible Accent

The Gospel of Mark opens with the ministry of John the Baptist, who declared he was, "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord.'" Jesus came to John to be baptized, and immediately was driven into the desert where He was tempted by Satan and ministered to by angels.

When Jesus entered Galilee after His time in the desert, He proclaimed, "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and

believe in the gospel."

Jesus chose His first followers and began to heal the sick and perform other miracles. Not everyone was happy with the message of Jesus. The scribes and Pharisees often accused Him of disobeying the laws of Moses, and they often tried to trick Him into saying something they could criticize Him for.

Eventually Jesus was betrayed, arrested and sentenced to death. But even that did

not stop His ministry. He rose from the dead and sent the Holy Spirit to help us follow the example Jesus set for us.

Essay

If you were to write a fifth Gospel, what part of Jesus' life would you want to write about and why?

Puzzle

Fill in the blanks with the names from the list to make the statements true. Chapter numbers from the Gospel of Mark have been provided as hints:



Judas Bartimaeus Pilate Moses
Simon Andrew John the Baptist Jesus

1. _____ wore camel hair and a leather belt. (1)
2. Jesus said to _____ and _____, "Come after Me." (1)
3. The apostles saw _____ walking on the sea. (6)
4. Jesus spoke with Elijah and _____. (9)
5. Jesus healed _____, a blind man. (10)
6. _____ agreed to betray Jesus. (14)
7. The chief priests brought Jesus before _____. (15)



Answers: 1. John the Baptist; 2. Simon and Andrew; 3. Jesus; 4. Moses; 5. Bartimaeus; 6. Judas; 7. Pilate.



Saint Spotlight

Scholastica (480-543) was the sister of St. Benedict, and possibly also his twin. Like her brother, her faith was very important to her. She joined a religious order and eventually founded a nunnery not far from her brother's monastery in Italy. She and Benedict saw each other once a year. Since she was not permitted to enter the monastery, they would

meet at a house nearby. They would visit and spend time praying and praising God. On one particular visit, Scholastica asked her brother to remain one more day so they could see each other again. Benedict said he could not spend the night away from his monastery. She could not change his mind, so she prayed to God to help her. A terrible storm descended shortly after, and Benedict could not leave the house. He spent the next day with his sister, who died three days later. We remember her on Feb. 10.



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History of early American Catholics is late author's crowning achievement

Continental Achievement: Roman Catholics in the United States, Revolution and Early Republic, by Kevin Starr. Ignatius Press (San Francisco, 2020). 327 pp., \$27.95.

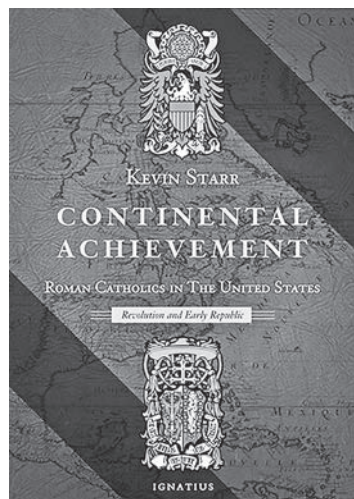
Reviewed by Nancy L. Roberts
Catholic News Service

This highly anticipated second volume in historian Kevin Starr's history of Catholics in the United States is nothing short of glorious.

Delving deeply into the story of how Catholics participated in the Revolutionary War and the early years of the new republic, Starr shows the same dedication to scrupulous research, thoughtful weighing of evidence and lively narrative style that distinguished his earlier volume, *Continental Ambition: Roman Catholics in North America*.

The American Revolution gave Catholics in North America's English colonies the opportunity "to earn a new and better place for themselves in an emergent American republic," Starr writes.

He casts a wide net, focusing both on Catholic leaders — such as John Carroll, "the founding bishop of Catholic America," and Mother Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton, the Church's first American-born saint, who founded the first American congregation of nuns, the Sisters of Charity — and the substantial



number of rank-and-file Catholics "who did their fair share of the fighting and dying" in the revolution.

The war's American deaths numbered more than 25,000 and the British deaths topped 15,000. Showing respect toward the suffering endured by both sides, Starr paints a grim picture of Valley Forge.

It was, he tells us, "a valley of shadows, death and betrayal ... harsh and cold." Shelter consisted of "little more than 14-by-16-foot split-slab huts housing 12 men to a cabin," only heated by clay fireplaces.

In characteristic detail, Starr adds: "An absence of rations for up to three days at a time was not uncommon in the first phases of the encampment.

The only food consisted of firecakes, thin bread made of flour and water and baked over

a campfire. Men died of hunger, as did some 500 horses.

No greatcoats were available for use against freezing temperatures. Men wrapped themselves in the blankets in which they slept at night, and many were forced to tie rags around disintegrating footwear or, worse, around their bare feet."

Starr also devotes attention to European Catholics who figured prominently in the Patriot victory, such as the Polish engineer Thaddeus Kosciuszko.

And he notes the singular Baron von Steuben of Prussia, a "Catholic-friendly Calvinist" educated by Jesuits who served as master drill sergeant for the army.

Von Steuben is credited with establishing the drilling norms that Patriot soldiers, who mostly viewed their bayonets as a cooking spit, desperately needed.

As he does with other figures throughout the book, Starr richly characterizes the baron. Clad in his full-dress uniform, von Steuben could swear in several languages — German, French, Russian and English.

"His multilingual profanity when his instructions were not carefully followed became a popular form of entertainment for enlisted men," Starr writes.

Von Steuben recognized the theatrical value of his cursing (and frequently feigned) temper tantrums, yet he maintained a Prussian-style distance from enlisted men, who could not speak to him directly un-

Movie Ratings



General Patronage

Gunda (G)



Adults

The Dig (PG-13)
Greenland (PG-13)
Herself (R)
The Little Things (R)
The Marksman (PG-13)
Monster Hunter (PG-13)
News of the World (PG-13)
Soul (PG)



Limited Adult Audience

Fatale (R)
The White Tiger (R)

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

less he spoke to them first."

After the war, there were hopeful signs that Catholics were more accepted in the United States. In fact, Starr notes that during the antebellum years of 1820 to 1850, "thousands of Americans" became Catholics.

Then a huge number of immigrants from Catholic Ireland arrived, and with it, a harsh and violent anti-Catholic nativism that lasted at least into the mid-19th century. Its low point came in 1844 when anti-Catholic rioting in the city of Philadelphia, led to the deaths of 20 and the burning of two churches.

At the same time, though, Catholic peoples in the United States grew increasingly diverse. For instance, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 ended the war with Mexico and brought Texas and California, with their large Catholic populations, officially into the United States.

Starr details the new Catholic dioceses that were created in the American West in the early years of the republic: Cincinnati (1821), St. Louis (1826), New Orleans (1826), Detroit (1833), Vincennes (1834), Nashville (1837), Milwaukee (1843) and Chicago (1843).

One of the most interesting sections of the book describes how Mother Seton, a penniless widow and mother of five, became a Catholic and estab-

lished the Sisters of Charity in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Starr greatly enriches our understanding of this influential woman. His nuanced analysis explains how her loss of her beloved husband and two of her young daughters represented a "ghastly harvest of loved ones" that made her "very motherhood, the bedrock of her earthly and spiritual identity," into "a source of pain and loss that tested her faith."

Continental Achievement includes a well-detailed index and extensive essay on sources.

The late Starr, who served as the city librarian of San Francisco and the state librarian of California, was a professor of history at the University of Southern California, where he also worked as director of the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies.

In the book's preface, his widow writes that *Continental Achievement* and its earlier companion, *Continental Ambition*, "remain his offering to the Church that raised him and sustained him throughout his life." *Continental Achievement* alone is a crowning achievement of this gifted historian.

Anyone who wishes to understand how Catholicism established itself as a leading religion in a Protestant republic will want to read this book.

Roberts is a professor of journalism at the State University of New York at Albany.

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BERNADETTE

From page 6

“I was in England visiting on vacation, and we flew over to France to visit some people we knew,” recalled Nora Lee (Mueller) Conrad, who had played one of Bernadette’s schoolmates.

She and her husband visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes. They saw the incorrupt earthly remains of St. Bernadette, which are at rest in a glass casket.

“It was a beautiful trip,” Mrs. Conrad recalled.

Having never left central Missouri throughout his childhood, Mr. Bernskoetter couldn’t imagine going to France when he was in high school.

Thirty years later, he and his wife Millie went to spend time with their daughter, who was attending school there.

“We were able to visit the shrine at Lourdes and saw a number of people on crutches, in wheelchairs or on gurneys with various ailments being escorted up to the grotto,” he recalled.

They were all seeking the Blessed Mother’s intercession for miraculous healing through God’s grace. Crutches and braces left behind by previous pilgrims testify to the efficacy of those prayers.

“It was great to see the faith they had in the curative powers of Our Lady of Lourdes,” said Mr. Bernskoetter.

Remembering what he had learned from acting in the play made the pilgrimage all the more meaningful to him, he said.

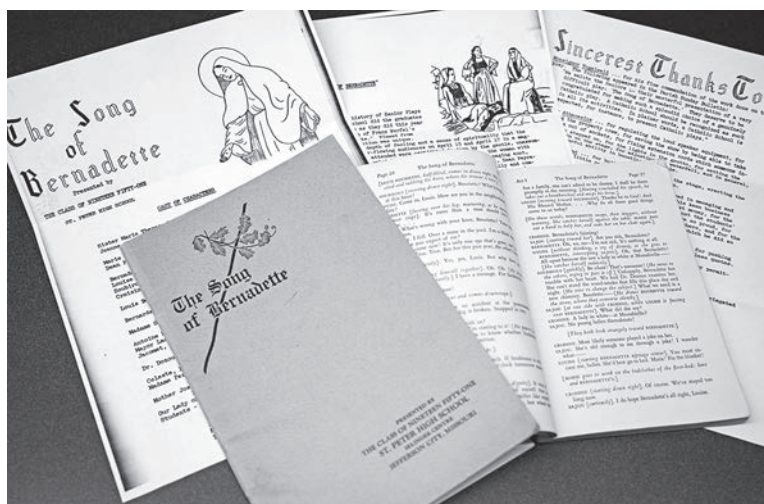
Such devoted sisters

The Class of 1951 was St. Peter High School’s largest graduating class, with at least 102 members.

Classmates remain proud of the four religious sisters and one religious brother who emerged from their ranks.

They include Sister Josetta Eveler and Sister Rose Mary Forck of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word; Sister Rose Ann Kaiser of Victory Knoll; Sister Eleanor Nentwig of the School Sisters of Notre Dame; and the late Brother David Schell of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Sr. Rose Mary, who now



Pages from the St. Peter High School’s 1951 yearbook, the program and a marked-up script are reminders of the senior class production of “The Song of Bernadette” 70 years ago this spring. The three-act play, based on a novel and motion picture of the same name, told the story of St. Bernadette and Our Lady’s miraculous apparitions to her near the town of Lourdes, France.

lives in San Antonio, portrayed the Blessed Mother in “The Song of Bernadette.”

She was also active in a high school group known as Mary’s Messengers. Members would visit blocks throughout the city and invite people to join them in invoking Our Lady’s powerful intercession.

“Jefferson City was very Catholic,” Sr. Rose Mary recalled. “I enjoyed going to various homes and praying the Rosary with people.”

She believes that experience, along with portraying Our Lady of Lourdes in her senior play, helped steer her toward religious life.

Answered prayers

“We salute the seniors for their masterful presentation of a very difficult play,” the late Monsignor Joseph A. Vogelweid PA, pastor of St. Peter Parish, wrote in his bulletin the weekend after the production. “They deserve to be congratulated for making such a splendid choice of a genuinely Catholic play.”

Sister Mary Alene of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who directed the play, wrote a personal note to the cast and crew the morning after the last performance.

“My prayer for you today is one of gratitude and affection,” she wrote. “My prayer for you in the days that are to come will be that everywhere and always, you may prove to be the ‘wonderful staff’ and the ‘can’t-be-beat individuals’ you were on April 15, 16 and 17 in the Year of Our Lord 1951.”

Mr. Meyer pointed out that although some of the cast members have now gone to be with God, the memories and friendships have endured for a solid 70 years.

Up to the COVID pandemic, the St. Peter High School Class of 1951 consistently held five-year reunions and quarterly dinners in Jefferson City for those who could attend.

“We’re looking forward to getting those started again,” said Mr. Bernskoetter.

Just like the visionary’s mother in “The Song of Berna-

Daily Readings

Sunday, Feb 7
FIFTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
Jb. 7:1-4, 6-7
Ps. 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
1 Cor. 9:16-19, 22-23
Mk. 1:29-39

Monday, Feb 8
St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, virgin
Gn. 1:1-19
Ps. 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c
Mk. 6:53-56

Tuesday, Feb 9
Gn. 1:20-2:4a
Ps. 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Mk. 7:1-13

Wednesday, Feb 10
St. Scholastica, virgin
Gn. 2:4b-9, 15-17
Ps. 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30
Mk. 7:14-23

Thursday, Feb 11
Our Lady of Lourdes
Gn. 2:18-25
Ps. 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30
Mk. 7:24-30

Friday, Feb 12
Gn. 3:1-8
Ps. 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7
Mk. 7:31-37

Saturday, Feb 13
Gn. 3:9-24
Ps. 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13
Mk. 8:1-10

Sunday, Feb 14
SIXTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
Lv. 13:1-2, 44-46
Ps. 32:1-2, 5, 11
1 Cor. 10:31-11:1
Mk. 1:40-45

Monday, Feb 15
Gn. 4:1-15, 25
Ps. 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21
Mk. 8:11-13

Tuesday, Feb 16
Gn. 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10
Ps. 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9c-10
Mk. 8:14-21

Wednesday, Feb 17
Ash Wednesday
Jl. 2:12-18
Ps. 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-14, 17
2 Cor. 5:20-6:2
Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday, Feb 18
Thursday after Ash Wednesday
Dt. 30:15-20
Ps. 1:1-2-4, 6
Lk. 9:22-25

Friday, Feb 19
Friday after Ash Wednesday
Is. 58:1-9a
Ps. 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19
Mt. 9:14-15

Saturday, Feb 20
Saturday after Ash Wednesday
Is. 58:9b-14
Ps. 86:1-6
Lk. 5:27-32

The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for February:

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

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dette,” Sr. Rose Mary is amazed you,” she said. “That’s a great at how quickly time goes by. thing for young people to re- “It sure does catch up with member.”

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Shawn Carney to keynote CoMo 40 Days for Life opening rally

DATE: February 17
TIME: 4 pm

Shawn Carney, president and CEO of the International 40 Days for Life organization, will be the keynote speaker at the opening rally of the Columbia 40 Days for Life Campaign on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17.

The event will start at 4 p.m. on the public right-of-way out-

side Planned Parenthood, 711 N. Providence Road in Columbia.

The local observance of the nationally observed period of prayer and fasting includes peaceful vigils from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day on the sidewalk outside the clinic.

The spring campaign will continue through March 28.

Mr. Carney is one of the most sought-after pro-life

speakers, addressing audiences coast-to-coast and internationally.

He helped lead the first-ever 40 Days for Life campaign while in college in Texas.

He has been instrumental in

growing 40 Days for Life nationally and then internationally.

He is coauthor of the No. 1 top-rated Christian book, *40 Days for Life: Discover What God Has Done ... Imagine What He Can Do*, and wrote the best-selling *The Beginning of the End of Abortion* and *To the Heart of the Matter*.

Abortions are no longer performed at Columbia Planned Parenthood, but women seeking abortions are given referrals there.

Mr. Carney will help celebrate that the Jefferson City diocese has been "abortion facility free" for two years.

He will also address the Missouri Miracle that a total of 39 babies were aborted in 2020, down from a high of more than 11,000 12 years ago.

Signs, pro-life literature and the latest 40 Days for Life books will be available at a reduced price, including Steve Karlen's first book, *This is When We Begin to Fight*.

Dress warmly for the outdoors.

To register to attend the rally or for more information about Columbia 40 Days for Life, contact Kathy Forck at 573-821-5130, or visit:

40daysforlife.com/columbiamo

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4:30-7 pm EVERY FRIDAY

\$8

Fried fish, coleslaw, baked beans, mac n cheese or potato salad

Feb 19 & 26
Mar 5, 12, 19 & 26
Apr 2

K of C Hall - HANNIBAL

Taos K of C Council #6430



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Mar. 12 & 26

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K of C Hall in TAOS

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March 5, 12 & 19

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