

St. Joseph in art

Many churches throughout the Jefferson City diocese display artwork inspired by St. Joseph, husband of Mary. We offer a collage of photos in honor of his feastday (March 19).

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

March 19, 2021 • Vol. 64 No. 19

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Missourians with ties to Iraq awed by pope's visit

See related article on Page 11



Pope Francis blesses a child as he greets people with disabilities during a visit to the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Qaraqosh, Iraq, March 7, 2021. — CNS photo/Vatican Media via Reuters

By Jay Nies

Indian Creek native Captain (CPT) Benedict J. Smith kissed his scapular and prayed an Act of Contrition before turning the key to start the Black Hawk helicopter he was piloting on Nov. 7, 2003.

Shortly thereafter, he and five other U.S. soldiers died instantly when a ground-to-air missile struck their helicopter near Tikrit in north-central Iraq.

“He told me he wasn’t afraid to die,” his mother, Kathy Smith, recently recalled. “He had offered himself up to God. He just hoped that if God took him, it would be while he was in his helicopter. He loved to fly.”

Memories filled Mrs. Smith’s heart and mind as she and her husband watched TV coverage of Pope Francis’s March 5-8 apostolic journey to Iraq, the land where their son entered eternal life.

“I was very excited and happy that the pope would go there and walk in the sand there, just as my son did,” she said.

Places damaged and ruined by war and sectarian violence formed a dramatic backdrop for many of the pope’s activities in the religiously and culturally-diverse Middle Eastern nation.

Again and again, the pontiff’s message was, “We are all one people with one God. Let us show love to our brothers and sisters.”

Mrs. Smith was amazed at the size of the crowds who gathered everywhere the pope stopped, including locales made famous by God’s interactions with His people in the Old Testament.

“It was beautiful that so many people were so excited and happy that he

See IRAQ, page 14

Dispensation continues, steps toward post-COVID parish life, under two new decrees

By Jay Nies

Parishes in the Jefferson City diocese are taking steps toward life after COVID-19, but vigilance remains necessary to prevent a new surge of infections.

Therefore, the dispensation from in-person attendance at Mass on Sundays and holydays remains in effect.

Those who do not attend Mass are to participate prayerfully in Mass by livestream, or meditate on the Sunday readings and pray the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet.

A Prayer for a Communion of Desire is published at the end of this article.

Meanwhile, Bibles, hymnals and prayer resources may be returned to church pews, and holy water may be returned to the fonts under a March 12 decree from Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

People who enter churches and chapels must still be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands frequently, and pews and other frequently touched surfaces shall be cleaned and disinfected at least daily.

Holy water fonts are to be emptied and cleaned at least daily. Social gatherings may take place on Church properties as early as June 1, with proper safeguards in place and in keeping with the directives of local health officials.

Parishes and schools are encouraged to delay such events until late summer to avoid the need to cancel them if local circumstances require it.

The full text of the March 12 decree can be found on Page 2.

See DECREES, page 18

Find us online at
CATHMO.COM

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@DIOJEFFCITY



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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NEW PARISH _____

OLD PARISH _____

03/19/21

President - Helias Catholic High School



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A demonstrated capacity for strategic planning and institutional leadership can be attained through various career paths, including education, non-profit management or work in the corporate or public sector.

Partners in Mission has been retained to conduct this nationwide search and qualified candidates are encouraged to contact Michael Furey, Partner, Partners in Mission School Leadership and Search Solutions, LLC, 124 Sycamore Drive, Westwood, MA 02090, Office (877) 738-4810, Mobile (570) 730-2655, email mikefurey@partnersinmission.com.

Position Openings - Chancery Office



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

Administrative Assistant — Opportunity for experienced, self-motivated, dependable and hardworking administrative assistant. This is a great fit for someone who enjoys variety within their work day, creative thinking and problem solving. Organization, team mindset and attention to detail is a must. Candidates are encouraged to apply through [indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) and complete Word and Excel assessments.

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.



Official Decree Emendation of Previous Decrees on Pastoral Activities in the Diocese of Jefferson City

Whereas guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Government advises: 1) the more frequently a surface is touched by multiple people, the more frequently it should be cleaned and then disinfected, and 2) frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at least daily; and

Whereas many local health authorities allow for social gatherings and events when the standard protocols of social distancing and the wearing of face masks are observed;

I therefore emend, as Diocesan Bishop, the DECREES of 21 August 2020, 11 November 2020, and 2 March 2021 according to the following:

1.) The Bible, hymnals, other liturgical aids or spiritual resources for the celebration of liturgies and devotions may be returned to the pews of churches and adoration chapels, effective immediately. Those who enter churches and chapels are to be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands frequently, and pews and other frequently touched surfaces shall be cleaned and disinfected at least daily.

2.) Holy Water may be returned to fonts with frequent changes of Holy Water, at least daily.

3.) Social gatherings may take place on parish properties as early as 1 June 2021, but only if local health authority directives are observed. Parishes and schools are encouraged, however, to delay such events until late summer

to avoid the need to cancel them if local circumstances require it.

This decree is effective immediately unless otherwise noted, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Jefferson City on this 12th day of March, 2021.

W. Shawn McKnight

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

Constance Schepers

Mrs. Constance Schepers
Chancellor

Chrism Mass to be offered during Holy Week

DATE: March 30
TIME: 10 am

This year, the Chrism Mass for the Diocese of Jefferson City will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on

March 30, the Tuesday of Holy Week, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

This is because the Thursday before Holy Thursday, when the Mass is usually celebrated in this diocese, falls on March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation, this year.

During the Mass, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight will bless the sacramental oils and consecrate the Oil of Chrism for use in sacraments throughout the diocese in the upcoming year.

The Chrism Mass will be livestreamed. Visit [diojeffcity.org](https://www.diojeffcity.org) for information and a link.

Part-time Secretary/Bookkeeper

St. Patrick Parish in Jonesburg is looking for a part-time secretary/bookkeeper, 12 hours a week. Duties would include accounts receivable/payable, recording parishioner donations and gathering info and preparing and printing the weekly bulletin. Knowledge of QuickBooks is necessary and experience with Microsoft Word and/or Publisher would be helpful. If interested, please call Fr. Hartley at 573-564-2375.

School Principal Opening

St. Joseph School in Salisbury, Mo. is seeking a new principal for the 2021/2022 school year. At least 3 years of teaching experience is required. A Masters in Administration is preferred, but not mandatory. The candidate must be a practicing Catholic who has a deep understanding of the love of Christ. Our school currently has 125 K-8 students and 20 preschoolers. Some teaching responsibilities will be expected, along with the work of being principal. We have a very strong and loving parish school community in which we are looking for the right candidate to continue our strong tradition of growing minds and hearts in the love of Christ. Applicants should file an application with the Diocese of Jefferson City at www.diojeffcity.org and send a letter of interest to Fr. Mike Murphy at saintjosephcatholicchurch@hotmail.com.

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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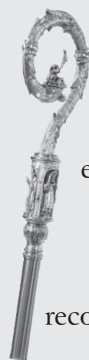
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Bishop McKnight's March prayer intention for our Local Church

Through the example and intercession of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary, may a gentle disposition rule our hearts and allow for charity, reconciliation, and mercy in our lives.



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

Que a través del ejemplo e intercesión de San José, esposo de María, reine en nuestros corazones una noble disposición que de paso a la caridad, reconciliación y misericordia en nuestras vidas.

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



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

The following appointments are tentative, depending on the pandemic.

MARCH

- Mar 19** Mass of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary, 8 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- Mar 20** Day of Prayer for Vocations Closing Mass, 5:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- Mar 21** Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Parish, Edina and St. John Parish, Memphis, 9 am, St. Joseph Church, Edina
- Mar 22** Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, Executive Committee Board Meeting, 1 pm, virtual
- Mar 23-25** Visit Pontifical College Josephinum Seminary, Columbus, Ohio
- Mar 28** Palm Sunday Mass, 10 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City; Missouri Province Bishops' Meeting, 5 pm, Archdiocese of St. Louis, St. Louis
- Mar 29** Missouri Catholic Conference Board Meeting, 9 am; Missouri Province Bishops' Meeting, 10 am, Archdiocese of St. Louis, St. Louis
- Mar 30** Chrism Mass, 10 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City; Jubilarian Priests' Luncheon, 11 am, Cathedral Undercroft, Jefferson City

APRIL

- Apr 1** Holy Thursday Mass, 7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- Apr 2** Good Friday Service, 7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- Apr 3** Easter Vigil, 8:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- Apr 4** Easter Mass, 10 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- Apr 7** Kenrick Glennon Seminary Formation Committee Meeting, 2 pm, virtual; Kenrick Glennon Seminary Board of Trustees Meeting, 3 pm, virtual
- Apr 8** Confirmation Ceremony, Immaculate Conception Parish, Loose Creek and St. Louis of France Parish, Bonnots Mill, 6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Church, Loose Creek

Bishop McKnight: Vaccines should be taken for the common good

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City is calling on Catholics to inoculate themselves from the coronavirus, using any vaccine provided by healthcare officials.

"In the current situation of a pandemic, Catholics may in good conscience utilize any of the vaccines currently available, even those derived in an

Stewardship mission in Sedalia

DATE: March 21-23
TIME: 6:30 - 7:30 pm

"The Call. The Response. The Life." will be the theme for St. Vincent de Paul Parish's March 21-23 parish mission in Sedalia.

Father Stephen Jones, diocesan director of stewardship, will give mission talks from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Sunday through Tuesday, in St. Patrick Chapel, 415 E. Fourth St.

Fr. Jones will discuss various aspects of pursuing a stewardship way of life.

Stewardship is the grateful response of recognizing our gifts as a blessing from God and sharing those gifts in love of God and neighbor.

"When we apply stewardship as a way of life, an incredible transformation takes place within ourselves and within our parish," the mission's organizers stated.

"Whether your parish and school involvement spans days or decades, you'll walk away with a deeper understanding of stewardship and your own personal God-given talents, and how to apply the joy of stewardship to your everyday life."

For more information, visit svdpparish.diojeffcity.org and click on "Parish Mission."

Pray for deceased priests

- Mar. 27 — **Fr. Patrick L. Pierceall**, St. Joseph, Palmyra (2016)
- Mar. 31 — **Fr. Joseph G. Lawlor**, Missionary Service, Peru (2011)

unethical manner, to protect themselves, as well as to avoid the serious risk to vulnerable persons and to society resulting from remaining unvaccinated," Bishop McKnight declared in a March 4 statement.

"If a person concludes he or she cannot be vaccinated, whether for health reasons or if their own moral analysis is different from the Church, they are morally obliged to do everything they can to prevent transmission of the coronavirus and avoid any risk to the health of those who cannot be vaccinated," Bishop McKnight added.

"As Pope Francis reminds us, in receiving these vaccines we are truly showing love for our neighbor and for God, which is the core teaching of our faith," he said.

Bishop McKnight said recent statements from some bishops of the Catholic Church and subsequent news stories on these statements have caused public confusion regarding the moral implications of Catholics using the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

"I affirm what the Holy See, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Missouri province of Catholic bishops and my own moral analysis have concluded, primarily based on our obligation to serve the common good," he stated.

The full statement, in English and Spanish, can be found by visiting diojeffcity.org. Click on the Bishop McKnight tab and select "Making Connections" from the drop-down menu.

Full-time Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Holy Family Catholic Church, in Hannibal, Mo., is seeking a full-time Coordinator of Youth Ministry. This key individual will organize and coordinate events and faith-building opportunities for students in grades K-12, heading up a wonderful group of volunteers already in place. Applicant should be a practicing Catholic and possess a love for and knowledge of the Catholic faith, as well as a strong commitment to the faith development of young people. Direct Inquiries to Fr. Matthew Flatley @ mflatley@diojeffcity.org or 573-221-1078. (Holy Family Catholic Church, 218 South Maple, Hannibal, MO 63401)



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Jason Evert to headline “Purified” event in Cathedral

DATE: April 21
TIME: 6 - 8 pm

Internationally acclaimed Catholic speaker Jason Evert, cofounder of *chastity.com* and best-selling author of 15 books, will lead a life-changing experience for teens and their parents on Wednesday, April 21 in Jefferson City.

The “Purified” event will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St.

“The innocence of the family is under attack like never before,” the event’s organizers stated. “Come and discover how to protect and heal yours.”

In an engaging presentation for people ages 13 to 100, Mr. Evert will offer insights into God’s plans for love while opening up opportunities to continue the discussion at home with resources that work.

Participants will “get answers to life’s tough questions about love, dating, and relationships and leave with a healthy sense of self-worth and the ability, if needed, to start again.”

The event will also include Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available for those who wish to receive it.

Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased online at cathedral.diojeffcity.org/purified-tickets.

Family discount tickets are available.

For college students

Also on April 21, Mr. Evert will give a presentation titled “Theology of Your Body” for college students at 9 p.m. at the St. Thomas More Newman Center, 602 Turner Ave. in Columbia.

He will talk about the meaning of sex, gender and the human body, and “how your body as a man or woman reveals your identity and calling.”

There will be no admission fee for the Newman Center event.

“Down to earth”

Mr. Evert has traveled to six continents to bring the message of purity to more than 1 million people over the past 20 years, including World Youth Days in Australia, Spain, Poland and Panama.

He has also presented at dozens of universities, including Harvard, Princeton, and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

He mixes humor with down-to-earth practicality, making the difficult conversations about love much easier.

He is author of such books as *Saint John Paul the Great; How to Find Your Soulmate without Losing Your Soul;* and *the curriculum YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body.*

He and his wife Crystalina are frequent guests on radio

programs throughout the country, and their television appearances include MSN-BC, Fox News, the BBC, and

EWTN.

Together, they run Chastity Project and its website, *chastity.com*, and lead an in-

ternational alliance of young people who promote purity in more than 40 countries.

Midwest March for Life to emphasize the power of unity

2 p.m. live performance of “Viable,” a play with the potential to change the world

DATE: April 14
TIME: 7:45 am - 3:30 pm

An astounding display of unity and affirmation of human life will be held on the grounds of the State Capitol on Wednesday, April 14.

This year’s Midwest March for Life and rally will unite people of faith under the theme, “Together Strong: Life Unites, Hold the Line.”

Featured presenters will include: Jeanne Mancini, president of the National March for Life; Eric Scheidler, executive director of the Pro-Life Action League and son of pro-life pioneer, the late Joseph Scheidler; Catherine Glenn Foster, president and CEO of Americans United for Life; Bridget Van Means, CEO and vision leader of ThriVe Nation; Susan Klein, executive director of Missouri Right to Life; and Reagan Barkledge, western regional director of Students for Life of America.

The entire event be held outdoors on the Capitol South Lawn.

The grounds will open at 7:45 a.m. with over 30 life-affirming exhibits.

A Capitol Prayer Walk will start at 8 a.m. in the first floor of the Capitol Rotunda, with prayer teams visiting state lawmakers’ and executives’ offices with encouragement and promises of prayer.

Also at 8 a.m., Father Anthony Viviano, moderator of pro-life ministry for the Jefferson City diocese, will lead the Rosary and Divine

Mercy Chaplet on the south steps of the Capitol.

A pre-rally will begin at 9:15 a.m. Speakers will include: Fr. Viviano, Brian Westbrook with Coalition for Life St. Louis; Angela Copenhaver with WeTeachThink; Catherine Glenn Foster; Lisa Rowe with Support After Abortion; Bridget Van Means; and Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki, chaplain of the Missouri House of Representatives.

The march along the streets of downtown Jefferson City will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude with a rally at 11 a.m. Speakers will include Reagan Barkledge; Eric Scheidler; Jay Ashcroft, Missouri Secretary of State; Susan Klein; Jeanne Mancini; and Dr. John Yates of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

A fundraiser lunch sponsored by the Fulton Knights of Columbus will take place after the rally.

Presentations on pro-life apologetics for adults will be held at 12:15, followed by Students for Life youth apologetics at 1 p.m.

“Viable,” a riveting, one-act play that follows one woman’s journey of finding hope after abortion, will be performed at 2 p.m.

The General Assembly will be in session.

Participants are encouraged to wear red and to pray for beautiful weather.

Visit midwestmarchforlife.com for information, including parking and shuttle services and a preview of “Viable.”

Text MWMARCH to 73075 to receive updates.

Beatley to headline Randolph County Right to Life banquet in Moberly

DATE: April 14
TIME: 7:45 am - 3:30 pm

Terry Beatley of Hosea Initiative will be the keynote presenter at the Randolph County Chapter of Missouri Right to Life’s second annual banquet.

The event will be held on Thursday, April 22, in the Moberly Municipal Auditorium, 201 W. Rollins St.

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m., with the event getting under way at 6 p.m.

“We decided to take the plunge and engage a top-notch speaker because we wanted this to be a worth-your-while edu-

cational event,” said Therese Sander, chapter chair of Randolph County Right to Life.

Ms. Beatley started Hosea Initiative after a rare interview with the regretful co-founder of NARAL, Dr. Bernard Nathanson, not long before his death.

During that interview, Ms. Beatley accepted the pro-life mantle from Dr. Nathanson, promising to equip Americans with the truth of how he used eight points of propaganda to deceive American citizens.

She will address the claim that abortion is women’s healthcare; how NARAL im-


plemented the “Catholic Strategy”; “the Negro Project”; and the unintended consequences of Dr. Nathanson’s pro-abortion advocacy.

Ms. Beatley has presented in over 25 states and was the keynote speaker at the 2018 West Coast March for Life.

Individual tickets are \$40, and sponsorship opportunities are available.

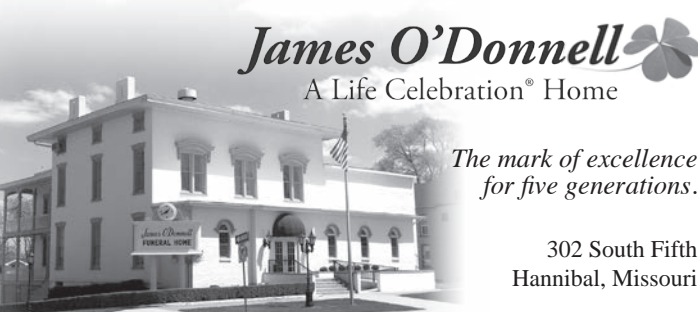
Proceeds will benefit the statewide organization, Missouri Right to Life.

Search “Missouri Right to Life - Randolph County Chapter” on Facebook to find a link to the RSVP form.



Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted His only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy
and courage, and defend us
from every evil. Amen.



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Rediscovery of St. Joseph novena prayer was not an accident

Original painting adorns prayer card to be given at Confirmation

By Jill Alberti and Jay Nies

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight opened his breviary up to the new volume for Lent and Easter, and out fell a crinkled piece of paper.

It was a copy of a St. Joseph novena he had used while serving as director of liturgy at his seminary alma mater, the Pontifical College Josephinum in Worthington, Ohio.

“Josephinum” is Latin for “House of Joseph.”

The prayer and the related daily readings point to Joseph’s role as a hardworking, God-fearing protector, provider and role model for Jesus, loving Him as if He were his own flesh and blood.

The bishop quickly realized that the timing of the discovery — during the Year of St. Joseph declared by Pope Francis, and close to March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary — was not a coincidence.

He understood that God wanted him to share the novena with the people of this diocese and invite them to join him in praying for the entire Church.

Comfort and love

The bishop searched for artwork to illustrate St. Joseph’s quiet strength.

He wanted the image to

draw people deeper into the cosmic reality that the Son of God was born into and grew up in a human family, thus making all families holy.

He hoped the image would reflect St. Joseph’s caring and righteous nature. He wanted Joseph to be seen as loving, gentle and fully committed to carrying-out the role God had chosen for him.

Bishop McKnight decided to commission Whitney Maloney, an artist from his home Diocese of Wichita, Kansas, to create an original artwork.

This was Mrs. Maloney’s first artistic rendering of St. Joseph other than a Nativity scene.

“Religious art has always spoken to me,” she stated. “I find meaning in paintings that words do not always convey.”

She had turned to spiritual painting while mourning for her first son, Michael, who died shortly after birth.

“I have always thought he looks like an angel,” she said

while looking at a picture of him.

Religious art inspired her to find meaning in his short life.

“My Catholic faith was strengthened through my love of painting and creating,” she said.

Mrs. Maloney felt very close to St. Joseph while creating this image and asked him for help whenever the project became difficult.

“I let go when I began to paint Joseph holding Jesus because I imagined Joseph holding my son in heaven for



me, until I get there,” she said.

“I kept thinking Joseph is a foster father to Jesus, to each of us, and to my son, and I felt comfort and love,” she stated.

Humility and trust

Bishop McKnight decided to have a full-color reproduction of the painting made into prayer cards that include the St. Joseph novena prayer.

He now presents one of the cards to each of

the young people he seals with the Holy Spirit in Confirmation this year.

The image of Joseph hold-

ing the child Jesus reflects the bedrock strength that came from Joseph’s fellowship with Christ and total reliance on God.

Joseph is holding three lilies, symbolic not only of the Holy Trinity but also the purity and integrity of the Holy Family.

The image also includes a dove, representing the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is seen holding a crown of thorns, pointing to the suffering and death He would accept as an adult, in obedience to His Heavenly Father and out of love for all people.

Until then, Joseph would provide for Jesus, teach Him and help prepare Him as He “advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man” (Luke 2:52).

The novena prayers and videos can be found at:

diojeffcity.org/year-st-joseph

and
diojeffcity.org/novena-en-honor-a-san-jose

“Go to Joseph”

“*Ite Ad Ioseph*” (“Go to Joseph”) reads the inscription above the image of St. Joseph in the ornate reredos above the Altar of Answered Prayers in the Shrine of St. Joseph, north of downtown St. Louis, site of a Vatican-authenticated miracle that led to the canonization of St. Peter Claver. There has been a Catholic church on the property since 1844, although the community of German-speaking Catholics it originally served started earlier with weekly Mass with Jesuit Father Ferdinand Helias in a chapel at Saint Louis University. The Altar of Answered Prayers was built in thanksgiving for parishioners being spared from a deadly cholera epidemic in the 1860s.

— Photo by Philip R. Nies



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Hannibal, Sedalia, Columbia parishioners among those who helped with emergency warming shelters

By Jay Nies

“We might be the only form of Jesus some people see.”

Richard and Libby Cody talked about why they volunteered to help staff a community warming center in the Holy Family School Gym in Hannibal during a recent ice storm.

“We just wanted to be there to share the love of God with anyone who walked through the doors needing assistance,” stated the couple, who are both members of Holy Family Parish in Hannibal.

Father Matthew Flatley, pastor of the Hannibal parish and of St. Joseph Parish in Palmyra, noted that Holy Family Church is located near one of the highest concentrations of poverty in the city.

“It was largely this area that was without heat for a few days, during a very cold spell,” he said.

Holy Family parishioner Emily Rose said she was very happy when Fr. Flatley sent out the call for help with the warming station.

“He saw a need and took steps to address it,” she said. “We were able to open our doors to our neighbors and of-

fer them help in their time of need.”

The parishioners who came to help that night “made my heart sing with joy,” she stated.

“None of us were there for recognition; we were there because of our love for God and our fellow man,” she said. “To help one another is what God calls us to do. I am blessed to be part of a faith community that stands up in times of need and asks what we can do to help.”

“We very much appreciated your willingness to help the most vulnerable among us,” Fr. Flatley told the volunteers.

Out of the cold

A dangerous dip in temperatures in Pettis County put the Sedalia Community Warming Center on 24-hour status for 13 days in a row in February.

This is the second year the center has been located in the downstairs fellowship hall of the St. Patrick Chapel of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia.

The Ministerial Alliance relies on volunteers to staff the warming center, which opens whenever the wind chill dips below 15 degrees or precipitation falls while the temperature is 32 degrees or lower.

St. Vincent de Paul parishioners comprised two of the six teams of volunteers this year.

“God is always watching, and these people are down on their luck, and it’s best to treat them right,” stated St. Vincent de Paul parishioner Matt Hageman, one of the volunteers.

He and another parishioner served on the 4 to 7 a.m. shift, when most people at the center were sleeping.

He said the people were mostly courteous and very



Parishioner JoAnn Martin, administrator of the Pettis County Health Center, presents a citation to Father Joseph Corel, pastor in soldium of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Pettis County, for the parish hosting the city’s emergency winter warming shelter for the past two winters.

— Photo by Deacon Turf Martin

grateful for any help they received.

A lifelong Sedalia resident, Mr. Hageman never realized how many people there don’t have a permanent place to live.

“You can never understand what some people are going through in a certain moment,” he stated. “Some people are really having problems.”

Seeing their circumstances and hearing some of their stories has made him more grateful for how blessed he has been.

The *Sedalia Democrat* newspaper reported that the shelter saw up to 22 people a day with the numbers increasing to 30 to 35 during the daylight hours.

Families with children and several couples with pregnancies, along with single individuals stayed at the shelter over those two weeks, the *Democrat* reported.

Shelter Coordinator Vicki Herrick said the outpouring of volunteers was “beautiful.”

St. Vincent de Paul parishioner Jim Rangitsch served on the midnight to 4 a.m. shift.

“A lot of guests need to spill their hearts out at that time,” he said. “I heard many stories of how people got into the situation they’re in.”

It was eye-opening to learn that most were ordinary people like him, but whose circumstances helped lead them down a dramatically different path.

“A lot of people will say they did it to themselves,” he

noted. “And in some cases, that’s true. But in a majority of cases, I would say, society has failed them as individuals at every phase, beginning with the breakdown of the nuclear family.”

Someone without a permanent address and without access to reliable transportation has trouble finding employment, especially if they have a prison record.

“Once you get into that cycle, it’s really hard to get out,” said Mr. Rangitsch. “Then you can’t afford anything. You’re stuck.”

These issues are not going away anytime soon, so people need to make themselves available to listen without judging and help people figure out how to get back on track.

“As Catholics, we need to be about reaching out to people who are in need,” said Mr. Rangitsch, who is discerning a possible call to the diaconate. “We can fall too easily into the routine of going to church every Sunday, receiving the Eucharist and going to Confession without having that open up our eyes and change us. So much needs to be done in our world to help others.”

He believes that for a Christian, volunteering is “where the rubber meets the road.”

“What one person does may be like a drop in the ocean,” he said. “But by listening to somebody and helping them find where to turn for help, you can

help that one person see a light at the end of the tunnel.”

Mr. Hageman believes an appropriate prayer would be for everybody to have a safe place to stay and food to eat, especially when it’s cold outside.

Things like the warming shelter are ways people can help God answer that prayer.

“This is what mercy looks like,” said Mr. Hageman. “They had a place to go and sleep, away from the bitter cold. And I think they felt safe.”

“Visible demonstration”

The Sedalia Warming Center is a ministry of the Sedalia Ministerial Alliance, with member churches throughout the community.

It started about five years ago after two people froze to death during a period of brutally frigid weather.

Sally Lockett, assistant director of the Open Door Service Center in Sedalia, and Open Door board member Kirk Martin wanted to make sure that never happened again.

They worked with churches and local organizations to find a location and volunteers for an emergency shelter.

St. Vincent de Paul parishioner JoAnn Martin, director of the Pettis County Health Center, provided “cots and encouragement.”

The warming center migrated to several locations before landing at St. Patrick two years ago, a few months after Father Joseph Corel and Father David Veit arrived as pastors *in solidum*.

Their predecessor, Precious Blood Father Mark Miller, had helped establish what is now the Open Door Service Center in 1986 as a food pantry in the fellowship hall of St. Patrick Chapel — where the warming center is now located.

Open Door is now a separate nonprofit organization. Students at Sacred Heart School regularly help with the Community Kitchen, although volunteers for the winter shelter must be 18 or older.

See SHELTERS, page 23




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Foundation honors Helias Catholic teacher, coach Zachary Rockers

Helias Catholic High School teacher and coach Zachary Rockers takes the school's mission very seriously.

"To me personally, building saints and scholars for Christ is why we're here — it's why Helias exists."

The Foundation for the Benefit of Helias Catholic High School is featuring Helias graduate and faculty member Zachary Rockers as the premiere Alumni Spotlight of 2021.

"Yes, we're here to educate kids," he stated. We've been blessed and entrusted with these young adults and it's our job to educate their minds, and what a beautiful thing that is. But more importantly than that, we're here to help build up their souls and help them discover what God's calling them to be in life."

Many will certainly remember Zach for his athletic prowess as a three-sport star for Crusaders a decade ago. But today's Crusaders know him in an entirely different role. To them, he's "Mr. Rockers" or "Coach Rockers."

He is proud to be a theology teacher at Helias Catholic.

Outside of the classroom, he also shares his athletic expertise and years of playing experience as both an assistant coach for the Helias basketball

team, as well as serving as the offensive coordinator for the school's state champion varsity football team.

Additionally, Mr. Rockers fills the role of advisor for the school's Fellowship of Christian Athletes student organization.

When asked what made him want to come back to teach at Helias, Mr. Rockers simply said, "Home. Helias is home."

After graduating from Helias Catholic in 2011, he went on to attend Columbia College, where he excelled as a member of the Cougars' basketball team.

In 2015, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He then went on to earn his master's degree in teaching.

After a brief tenure at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, he found his way back to his alma mater.

And boy did it look different from when he left.

"What they've done to this campus is absolutely amazing," said Mr. Rockers. "From the addition to the science wing and the administrative wing, to the athletic complex across the street — I always thought that would be nothing more than a hole in the ground."

"Now thanks to the generosity of so many people in

our community, they've turned that hole into some of the top athletic facilities in the state," he said. "It truly is remarkable."

His favorite addition is the new St. Pius X Chapel.

"Our chapel is an amazingly beautiful place, and it's really been a blessing to so many here," he said.

Such warmth for the house of the Lord is hardly surprising for a devout theology teacher such as Mr. Rockers. So, it should come as no surprise that he takes very seriously the mission he's chosen to accept in his role at Helias.

He believes his role and that of every Catholic educator is to bring out the very best in each student — becoming the best version of themselves, living the life they were made for, and living it abundantly.

"A lot of that is getting them to understand the precious creation that they are," he said. "Living the life God intended for you to have — that's what being a saint is all about."



Zachary Rockers celebrates the Helias Catholic High School Crusaders varsity football team's 2021 state championship with a member of the team.

— Photo from Facebook page for The Foundation for the Benefit of Helias Catholic High School

Mr. Rockers minces no words when he explains what Helias means to him and how it's helped to shape who he is today.

"The man I am today is largely based on all that Helias has given to me throughout the years," he said. "When I walk through those doors each day, there's a peace — a joy — there's a life and a love of life."

"It's hard to explain, but when you're here you just know what home feels like," he said. "And there are so many factors that make Helias feel that way;

it's the students, it's the faculty and the staff. But most importantly, I think it's because you can feel the presence of Christ alive and well here. That's why it feels like home to me."

Mr. Rockers also understands what Helias means to this community, and what the Helias community means to educators like him.

"The Helias community is part of what makes Helias so special," he said. "There are a lot of different people and different families who are invested in Helias and believe in the mission and vision of Helias Catholic High School. I know they probably don't hear that enough, but we are so thankful for them and we are so blessed because of them. What we do wouldn't be possible without the financial backing and support of so many people who

have stepped up because they believe in Helias.

"I think I speak for all of the faculty and staff and coaches here when I say that we believe in what our supporters believe in," he said. "That's why we're here. Not only do we feel blessed and privileged to be entrusted with their kids or grandkids, but we also feel a great responsibility and accountability to be the best that we can be — not only for the kids, but for the community that supports and entrusts us, as well."

How we pray at Mass: A plea from a mother of a child with Down syndrome

By Sue Goedde

I ponder two questions when I kneel and stand in church, reciting our prayers in unison with our fellow parishioners.

First, do we concentrate on what we are saying, putting our hearts into our "Lord, have mercy" and "I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof," etc.?

Are we actively and wholeheartedly feeling the shame and sorrowfulness that these words express, or are our minds wandering to the mis-spoken words of the person behind us, or what we forgot to do, or the misbehavior of our children, or some other human concern?

Do we mean the words that we say? Or is it the mere recitation of rote learning, similar to the default turning left like we do every morning as we drive to work, but we weren't going that way today?

Secondly, I wonder if we realize that our speed in the recitation of these wonderful prayers and

admissions are actually inhibiting the heartfelt sorrow and pleas to our Lord by those of us who are too old or are unable to speak with meaning our heartfelt conversation with God at the time-crunched velocity dictated by the majority?

My child knows the words — or at least used to know the words — before she became smothered by the speed and found she could not get the words out in time and just stopped saying them.

How many older people around you are silent in church during these times? It is probably easier for them to think the words at the drumming pace than to actually join us in our prayers and responses.

Now that you know some of us are having problems keeping up, won't you consciously and unitedly slow down and help us share our hearts and words with God as a united congregation?

Mrs. Goedde is a member of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City.

Jesuits pledge \$100 mil. to benefit descendants of enslaved people

Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

The Jesuit order is pledging to raise \$100 million for descendants of enslaved people once owned and sold by their order as a way to make reparations and also help the nation move toward racial healing.

The funds will be placed in a new partnership called Descendants Truth and Reconciliation Foundation formed by the Jesuit order and the GU272 Descendants Association — named after the 272 enslaved men, women and children who were sold by the

QUESTION CORNER

How are non-Catholics forgiven? / Divorce and Holy Communion

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Q. Catholics are blessed to have the sacrament of reconciliation. But what about other faiths? How do non-Catholics have their sins forgiven? (Honolulu)

A. The Catholic Church has a long history of the confession of sins. In the earliest centuries, confession was actually done in public, the thinking being that when we sin, we damage not only our own friendship with God but our relationships within the community of faith; but around the sixth century Irish monks began hearing confessions one on one, and that practice spread to the Church Universal.

Though most Catholics may not know this, there are types of individual confession in other religious groups as well. Eastern Orthodox priests, for example, hear confessions not in a confessional but in the main part of the church, before a Gospel book and an icon of Jesus Christ. (This serves as a reminder to the penitent that the confession is really made not to another human being but to God Himself.)

Lutherans have a form of confession known as “Holy Absolution,” that is done privately to a cleric upon request. After the penitent has confessed his or her sins, the minister declares: “In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

In the Anglican tradition, confession and absolution is usually done by an entire congregation as part of a eucharistic service, but certain Anglicans, particularly Anglo-Catholics, do practice private auricular confession.

The Catholic Church teaches that lesser sins can be forgiven by prayer and acts of charity, but it requires individual confession at least annually for grave (mortal) sins and encourages penitents to confess lesser (venial) sins also, as a way to grow in holiness.

It's noteworthy to mention that during the pandemic, in March 2020 the Apostolic Penitentiary (the Vatican tribunal that deals with matters of conscience) urged Catholic priests to remind the faithful that, when they find themselves with “the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution,” they can make an act of contrition directly to God in prayer. If they are sincere and promise to go to confession as soon as possible, said the Vatican tribunal, they “obtain the forgiveness of sins, even mortal sins.”

Q. I have a sister-in-law who thinks that she cannot receive Holy Communion after a divorce. This is the situation. She had been married for 28 years. She was married in a Catholic Church ceremony officiated both by a priest and a minister. (The man she married was a Protestant.) He breached the marriage vows, had an affair and wanted a divorce. My sister-in-law was faithful to her wedding vows and since her divorce, has drawn closer to the Lord and to her Catholic faith. She would love to be able to receive the Eucharist but thinks that she cannot since she is divorced. Can you clarify the Catholic teaching on this? (City and state withheld)

A. I am assuming — since you did not say differently — that your sister-in-law has not remarried. Had she done so, in a ceremony not approved by the Catholic Church, she would be correct in refraining from Holy Communion. More likely,

See DOYLE, page 18

Papal Audience

March 17, 2021



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our catechesis on Christian prayer, we have seen that through prayer we share in the life of the blessed Trinity, thanks to Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit in fact teaches us to pray, making Christ present and active in our lives and in our world. In the Spirit we are enabled to call God our Father, to live our vocation to holiness, and to carry out our baptismal mission as witnesses of Christ's redemptive and merciful love. Through prayer and works of charity we open our lives to the Spirit's gifts, following in the footsteps of countless saints who have gone before us. The *Catechism* tells us that there are as many paths of prayer as there are persons who pray, but it is the same Spirit acting in all and with all. In the communion of the Holy Spirit Christian prayer is prayer in the Church (cf. No. 2672). In our prayer, let us ask the Spirit to guide us in our daily lives, to draw us ever more fully into the life of the Blessed Trinity, and bestow upon the Church the richness of His gifts for the growth of our human family in unity and peace.

I cordially greet the English-speaking faithful. May our Lenten journey bring us to the joy of Easter with hearts purified and renewed by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Upon you and your families I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!

Pope names woman Scripture scholar as secretary of biblical commission

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Francis has named Sister Nuria Calduch-Benages, an Old Testament scholar and professor at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University, to be secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

The Spanish member of the Missionaries of the Holy Family of Nazareth is the first woman to hold the position, which involves coordinating the work of the 20 biblical scholars from around the world who study topics in Scrip-

ture studies and interpretation on behalf of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

According to the norms of the commission, as revised by St. Paul VI in 1971, the secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission also serves as a consultant to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Sister Calduch-Benages, who will celebrate her 64th birthday March 26, was born in Barcelona, Spain, and earned a bachelor's in theology

See COMMISSION, page 19

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A place called Gethsemane

By Deacon Christopher Wickern

The morning of the Feb. 25 began with planned blood tests and PET/CT Scans — a look to see what the effects of the treatment has had, good or bad.

I found myself with a growing nervousness as the time grew closer for these tests at the halfway point of treatment.

I know in my heart and mind that worry and concern would not change the outcome.

Still, the hope for good news or the possibility for bad news meant I did not sleep well the night before.

The results of the tests pointed out something quite different to me. The doctor who reviewed the scans was

stumped — no good news but no BAD news.

The rest of the scheduled treatment went as planned and uneventful.

All this takes me back to the night of Feb. 24, the night I lost so much sleep in anticipation and dread for the tests and possible results.

Have I been placing too much trust in treatments and tests?

It's the not knowing that drives us crazy, but isn't that always a part of our human condition?

Thank God He understands!

Jesus always shows us the way. As He was facing the ultimate trial of His life, He entered the Garden of Gethsemane and asked the apostles to sit and pray

for Him.

He entered and He wept. He asked if it was possible that this burden be lifted from Him, and accepting of the Fathers plan, He said your will be done.

I think this demonstrates Christ's true nature more than any other place in the Gospels. His two natures. Our Lord Who is fully divine AND our Lord Who is fully human.

As Jesus wept and cried in the Garden, He gave His suffering to the Father.

My treatments, testing, sleepless night, and concerns for things beyond my control are my suffering.

My prayers are joined with all of yours. They are placed into the hands

of the saints, who place into the arms of Mary. Our Mother places them at the feet of her Son.

My suffering, our sufferings, are joined with His suffering in the Garden and in His trials.

His great suffering brought about the greatest miracle the world has known since creation, our redemption.

Only He can take our suffering freely given and create a miraculous good.

Thank you for entering the Garden and praying with me.

And I continue to pray for you.

Deacon Wickern assists the pastor of St. Ann Parish in Warsaw and the Mission of Ss. Peter and Paul in Cole Camp.

Walk with Peter through Lent

By Effie Caldarola

Catholic News Service



My faith-sharing group decided that we would each describe a person who inspires us.

This could be a figure from the Gospels, perhaps a favorite saint or a figure from our

own lives. Someone even chose his mother-in-law.

But out of 10 people, three of us selected St. Peter. We agreed that of the many people who walk through the Gospels, Peter, besides Jesus Himself, is portrayed in the most thorough and three-dimensional way. Peter is a good figure to accompany our Lent.

If I were a Gospel author writing well over 50 years after the events, would I have portrayed Peter, this man who became the leader, in such an authentic way? Or would I have airbrushed out a few flaws? He's so accessible — we even get a glimpse of his mother-in-law.

And denying Christ three times? Those bitter tears of remorse?

That Peter in his imperfections and his deep humanity is portrayed so realistically strengthens my faith in the Gospel's own authenticity.

St. Ignatius of Loyola urges us to pray with our imagination, and it is easy for me to imagine Peter. I see him as big and barrel-chested, the tender-hearted and well-meaning bull in a china shop.

Peter is a fisherman, and we encounter him many times near the water. We also find him on the water — literally. Christ is walking on the water toward the boat, and Peter impetuously asks to do the same. He begins his tentative steps and then, fearful, begins to flail.

It's almost humorous, as if we saw

that coming. Peter, did you notice no one else left the boat?

We first encounter Peter with his brother Andrew, who is intrigued by John the Baptist.

Surely, he has filled Peter in on all the news among those waiting for the Messiah — the One Who is to come.

So perhaps it did not surprise Peter when Jesus called him, but Peter seems reluctant when told to take his boat out for a catch.

It won't be the only time that Peter admits he's been fishing all night and caught nothing. Was he a bad fisherman, or do these empty nets move the story along?

Nevertheless, at Christ's instruction, Peter puts out into the deep and the catch is so great his friends come over to salvage his burgeoning nets.

Peter, a man of excess, meets the God of excess. When Peter gets to shore, he falls to his knees dramatically. "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."

I find this scene incredibly moving. Peter knows he has encountered something, and someone, much bigger than he is. He's not feigning humility when he tells Jesus to leave him. He's genuinely overwhelmed: This man is too good for me.

And I am not good enough. What will he expect of me? Does Peter catch a glimpse of his own martyrdom?

And then there's Peter, coming fishless again to the shore after fishing on a morning after Easter. Spotting the Lord, he impulsively jumps off the boat, quickly grabbing his outer garment as he plunges into the water.

After breakfast on the seashore, those three requests: Do you love Me, Peter? And those three heartfelt and plaintive responses: "Lord, You know that I love You."

I love Peter because in him I recognize myself. His eagerness trumped by fear. His feelings of unworthiness, his

mistakes, his deep regret. His boyish enthusiasm, his desire to do right.

Ultimately, his complete commit-

ment compels me. If we walk with Peter during Lent, we'll find much solace for our own weary humanity there.

REFLECTION

Of praise and prose

By Mark Saucier

A friend died the other day.

He was a good man. My wife was his spiritual director and gave a beautiful eulogy at his funeral.

One thing she mentioned was his poetry. He was able to take the slightest, most forgettable moments of a day and penetrate them to the depth and breadth of life.

It could be an ocean wave, an unexpected interruption, or a rustling corn husk — the whispers of God were everywhere, inviting pause, reflection, and perhaps a change of course.

He was no Whitman or Wordsworth, and few outside his circle will read his verse, but I would daresay that his poetic confessions and insights have affected their lives more profoundly than the whole pantheon of poets.

Obviously, this friend was special, but isn't everyone? Doesn't everyone we care for, are attracted to, or want to be with, bring some special gift into our lives?

The sad thing is that it sometimes takes a eulogy to realize this. We have appreciated our friends for years, but have we named what it is that sets them apart, that makes them so dear?

I don't think we need to start their eulogies, but it wouldn't hurt to take the time to consider our friends and loved ones in light of what they give to us and to others.

We might have a friend we would call a warrior. I don't mean someone who is combative, but someone who stands up for what she believes, who is not afraid to upset the *status quo* for the sake of truth or the rights of another.

We may have a friend who is a natural servant — not inferior, but humble. His greatest concern is for the needs of others, and he will make personal sacrifices to meet them.

There are healers among us — friends to whom we readily go when we are hurt or wounded. They seem to instinctively know what to say and what not to say.

They may not remove the pain, but they are with us through it.

There are many other types — sages, jesters, artists, rebels — all with a dominant trait — a particular gift that we all need at some point in our lives.

My wife revealed another thing about our friend. He believed that we are saved, not as individuals, but as a community.

That can only happen through the gifts of others — from poetry to humor, from courage to care.

Vatican says no blessing gay unions, no negative judgment on gay people

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

While homosexual men and women must be respected, any form of blessing a same-sex union is "illicit," said the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The negative judgment is on the blessing of unions, not the people who may still receive a blessing as individuals, it said in a statement published March 15.

The statement was a response to a question or "*du-bium*" that came from priests and lay faithful "who require clarification and guidance concerning a controversial issue," said an official commentary accompanying the statement.

The response to the question, "Does the Church have the power to give the blessing to unions of persons of the same sex?" was "Negative."

"It is not licit to impart a blessing on relationships, or partnerships, even stable, that involve sexual activity outside of marriage — i.e., outside the

indissoluble union of a man and a woman open in itself to the transmission of life — as is the case of the unions between persons of the same sex," the doctrinal office said in an explanatory note accompanying the statement. Pope Francis approved both the statement and the note for publication.

"The Christian community and its pastors are called to welcome with respect and sensitivity persons with homosexual inclinations and will know how to find the most appropriate ways, consistent with Church teaching, to proclaim to them the Gospel in its fullness," the explanatory note said.

The clarification "does not preclude the blessings given to individual persons with homosexual inclinations, who manifest the will to live in fidelity to the revealed plans of God as proposed by Church teaching."

"Rather, it declares illicit any form of blessing that tends to acknowledge their unions as such. In this case, in fact,

the blessing would manifest not the intention to entrust such individual persons to the protection and help of God, in the sense mentioned above, but to approve and encourage a choice and a way of life that cannot be recognized as objectively ordered to the revealed plans of God," said the doctrinal office.

The statement came days before the launch March 19 of a

yearlong reflection on "*Amoris Laetitia*" that will focus on the family and conjugal love.

The date marks the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation "*Amoris Laetitia*" ("The Joy of Love"), which affirmed Church teaching on family life and marriage, but also underlined the importance of the Church meeting people where they are in order to help guide them on a path of discernment and making moral decisions.

The doctrinal congregation said in its note that some Church communities had promoted "plans and proposals for blessings of unions of persons of the same sex."

"Such projects are not infrequently motivated by a sincere desire to welcome and accompany homosexual persons, to whom are proposed paths of growth in faith," it said.

In fact, the question of blessing same-sex unions arose from this "sincere desire to welcome and accompany homosexual persons" as indicated by Pope Francis at the conclusion of the two synodal assemblies on the family, it said.

That invitation, it added, was for communities "to evaluate, with appropriate discernment, projects and pastoral proposals directed to this end," and in some cases, those proposals included blessings given to the unions of persons of the same sex.

The doctrinal congrega-

tion said the Church does not and cannot have the power to impart her blessing on such unions and, therefore, "any form of blessing that tends to

sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided."

As such, the doctrinal note makes a "fundamental and decisive distinction between persons and the union. This is so that the negative judgment on the blessing of unions of persons of the same sex does not imply a judgment on persons," it said.

Such blessings are illicit

for three reasons, it said:

•In addition to such a blessing implying "a certain imitation or analogue of the nuptial blessing" imparted to a man and a woman united in the sacrament of matrimony, there is the nature and value of blessings.

•Blessings belong to "sacramentals, which are 'liturgical actions of the Church' that require consonance of life with what they signify and generate," so "a blessing on a human relationship requires that it be ordered to both receive and express the good that is pronounced and given by the blessing."

•And, "the order that makes one fit to receive the gift is given by the 'designs of God inscribed in creation, and fully revealed by Christ the Lord.'" The Church does not have power over God's designs nor is she "the arbiter of these designs and the truths they express, but their faithful interpreter and witness."

"God Himself never ceases to bless each of His pilgrim children in this world, because for Him 'we are more important to God than all of the sins that we can commit,'" the congregation said. "But He does not and cannot bless sin: He blesses sinful man, so that he may recognize that he is part of His plan of love and allow himself to be changed by Him. He in fact 'takes us as we are, but never leaves us as we are.'"

"God Himself never ceases to bless each of His pilgrim children in this world, because for Him 'we are more important to God than all of the sins that we can commit.' But He does not and cannot bless sin: He blesses sinful man, so that he may recognize that he is part of His plan of love and allow himself to be changed by Him. He in fact 'takes us as we are, but never leaves us as we are.'"

— Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

acknowledge their unions as such" is illicit.

That is because a blessing "would constitute a certain imitation or analogue of the nuptial blessing invoked on the man and woman united in the sacrament of matrimony," it said, citing paragraph 251 of "*Amoris Laetitia*," which reiterated the synod members' conclusion that "there are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God's plan for marriage and family."

"Only those realities which are in themselves ordered to serve those ends are congruent with the essence of the blessing imparted by the Church," it said.

As such, it is illicit to bless any relationship or partnership that is outside the indissoluble union of a man and a woman open to the transmission of life, it added.

Declaring "the unlawfulness of blessings of unions between persons of the same sex is not therefore, and is not intended to be, a form of unjust discrimination, but rather a reminder of the truth of the liturgical rite and of the very nature of the sacramentals, as the Church understands them," the doctrinal office said.

The Church teaches that "men and women with homosexual tendencies 'must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity. Every



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Faith amid the ruins: Pope calls Iraqis to affirm kinship under one God

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Francis summarized his “pilgrimage of faith and penitence” to Iraq in a prayer:

“If God is the God of life — for so He is — then it is wrong for us to kill our brothers and sisters in His name.

“If God is the God of peace — for so He is — then it is wrong for us to wage war in His name.

“If God is the God of love — for so He is — then it is wrong for us to hate our brothers and sisters.”

Pope Francis’ visit began March 5 in Baghdad, where he met with government officials in the opulent presidential palace, once home to Saddam Hussein and then the headquarters of the U.S.-led coalition forces that invaded the country in 2003.

With the dictates of protocol handled in less than three hours, the pope moved to the heart of his pilgrimage: visiting places of faith and suffering, bowing in tribute to the innocents who died and embracing survivors.

He put the blame for the death and destruction squarely on the sinful human inclination to define some people as “us” and others as “them.”

That inclination, which all believers must resist, explains why he told government officials and civic leaders March 5, “I come as a penitent, asking forgiveness of heaven and my brothers and sisters for so much destruction and cruelty. I come as a pilgrim of peace in the name of Christ, the Prince of Peace.”

During the trip, Pope Francis did not mention the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and the toppling of the government. And, while he spoke of “terrorism” and war in reference to the 2014-2017 destruction wrought by Islamic State (IS) militants, he did not name the group until he was on the plane returning to Rome.

Even then, his point was not to condemn IS, but to honor the Christians, Yazidis and Muslims who resisted their efforts to set up a twisted, narrow vision of an Islamic caliphate.

“The life of Christians in Iraq is a difficult life, but not just the life of Christians. I just talked about the Yazidis and other religions that did not submit to the power of Daesh,” he told reporters, using the militants’ Arabic-language acronym.

The resistance, he said, “gave them a very great strength.”

The strength to move forward, to rebuild and to restore relationships of kinship and respect across religious and ethnic boundaries was a constant refrain during Pope Francis’ trip.

The refrain was loudest amid ruins.

With representatives of Muslim, Christian, Yazidi, Mandaean and other religious communities, Pope Francis made a pilgrimage March 6 to Ur, an archaeological dig on a dusty desert plain about 10 miles from modern-day Nasiriyah.

There, at the birthplace of the patriarch Abraham, the first person to believe in the one God and Father of all, the pope called all believers to demonstrate their faith by treating one another as the brothers and sisters they are.

“From this place, where faith was born, from the land of our father Abraham, let us affirm that God is merciful and that the greatest blasphemy is to profane His name by hating our brothers and sisters,” the pope said.

“Hostility, extremism and violence are not born of a religious heart: They are betrayals of religion,” he insisted.

The journey of peace, he said, begins with “the decision not to have enemies.”

Standing in Mosul March 7 amid the ruins of four churches that Islamic State fighters had turned to a massive pile of rubble, Pope Francis did not name an enemy but pointed to the “tragic consequences of war and hostility.”

With Islamic State gone and work underway to restore Mosul’s damaged churches and mosques, Pope Francis proclaimed that today “we reaffirm our conviction that fraternity



Pope Francis arrives to visit the community at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Qaraqosh, Iraq, March 7. — CNS photo/Paul Haring

is more durable than fratricide, that hope is more powerful than hatred, that peace more powerful than war.”

“This conviction speaks with greater eloquence than the passing voices of hatred and violence,” he said, “and it can never be silenced by the blood spilled by those who pervert the name of God to pursue paths of destruction.”

Returning to Rome, he told reporters he had seen photos of the site beforehand but was not prepared for the reality of being there.

“I stopped in front of the destroyed church and I just didn’t have any words. It is something you cannot believe, you can’t believe it,” he said. “It is just unbelievable our human cruelty.”

The first evening of the trip, the pope had met the Iraqi bishops and representatives of the country’s priests and religious in the restored Syriac Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady of Deliverance, sometimes referred to as Our Lady of Salvation.

It is a church, he said, “hallowed by the blood of our brothers and sisters” murdered in a terrorist attack that shook the world. Forty-eight members of the church, including two priests and a 3-year-old child, died Oct. 31, 2010, when militants belonging to a group linked to al-Qaida interrupted a service, detonating explosives and shooting people.

Bells pealed in Qaraqosh March 7 to welcome the pope to another Syriac Catholic parish, the Church of the Immaculate Conception, desecrated during its use as a base by Islamic State fighters, who turned the courtyard into a shooting range.

While much of the town still needs to be rebuilt, Pope Francis said the presence of the jubilant crowds inside and outside the church “shows that terrorism and death never have the last word.”

“The last word belongs to God and to His Son, the conqueror of sin and death,” the pope said.

“Even amid the ravages of terrorism and war, we can see, with the eyes of faith, the triumph of life over death.”

With Muslim and Yazidi guests joining Catholics in the church, Pope Francis told the people that “this is the time to restore not just buildings but also the bonds of community that unite communities and families, the young and the old together.”

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St. Joseph:

a sampling of artwork from around the Jefferson City diocese



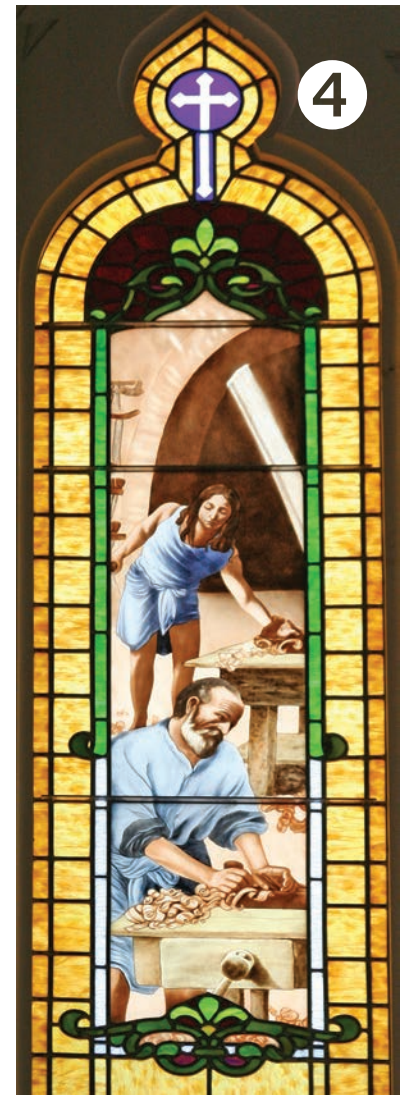
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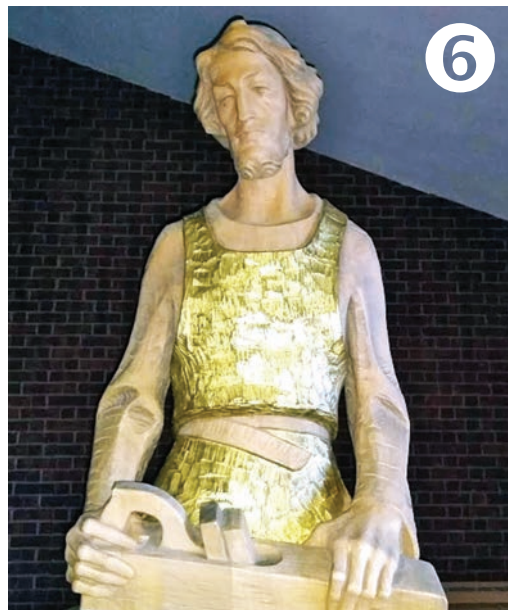
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IRAQ

From page 1

was there," she said. "My heart was filled with joy as I watched it all unfold on TV."

She noted that her son loved God, loved his country and loved the people he was sent to help protect in Iraq.

"He pretty much stayed underground in a bunker there most of the time," said Mrs. Smith. "But every once in a while, he'd come out and play sports with the teenagers from a nearby village and barbecue for them. They'd have a ball."

Thinking about how the people in Iraq have suffered brings Mrs. Smith to tears.

"I pray for God to give them peace of mind and fill them with a deeper desire for Himself after now being blessed by Pope Francis coming there," she said.

"A day of peace"

Seventeen-year-old Hussein Al Hraishawi was mesmerized to watch TV images of Pope Francis shaking hands and sitting down for a visit with Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, one of Shiite Islam's most authoritative leaders.

"This was a peace moment for all people," said Hussein, who moved from Iraq to Columbia a little over three years ago.

"Trust me, when they sit together, Christian and Muslim, that moment means a lot," he said.

Born in Basra, Iraq, Hussein

moved to central Missouri with his parents and eight siblings when he was 14.

They came to the United States with a special refugee status known as Special Immigrant Visa (SIV), which is predominantly for people who helped the U.S. government during the Iraq War or in its aftermath.

They came here with help from Refugee Resettlement Services of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri.

His father had a good job in Iraq, working as an electrical engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"Leaving was hard," said Hussein, "because you're moving away from your grandma and grandpa and people you know, and going far away from your own country."

But it was also happy.

"It's a better life here," he said. "Where I lived, it was tribes always fighting each other. From morning to night, you'd see the bullets jumping in the sky."

He hopes the pope's visit brings greater attention not only to the region's problems but also the beautiful, hospitable culture of the Iraqi people.

"I'm so proud and grateful to be from Iraq," he said. "There are a lot of good things to see there and a lot of really good people. No matter who you are, no matter where you



Pope Francis participates in a memorial prayer for the victims of the war at Hosh al-Bieaa, the church square, in Mosul, Iraq, March 7, 2021.
— CNS photo/Paul Haring

come from, they welcome you."

"Let me tell you, in Iraq, there's more than one culture," he stated. "But people don't ask you if you're Muslim or Christian or Jewish or any other kind of religion in Iraq. They invite you in and offer you something to eat and something to drink."

Many Iraqis are on edge because of the poverty and instability.

Some feared for the pope's life when he announced he was going to visit there.

"But if you go there, you see how nice the people are," said Hussein. "From south to north, people came out to welcome the pope. They were so happy to see him."

"It felt good for me, too, to hear about how good the people of Iraq were to the pope, how they welcomed him, how happy they were to have him there," he added.

Hussein pointed to messages Iraq Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi sent out over Twitter during the pope's visit, calling for a standing forum for dialogue among the nation's religious groups.

The pope's "message of peace, human solidarity with Iraq inspires us to persevere toward a better future for the people of Iraq and the wider region," the prime minister tweeted.

Hussein believes historians will point to this visit as a major turning point for Iraq.

"Several hundred years from now, people will look back on this time as a moment in history," said Hussein. "We will re-

member this as a day of peace."

That peace must start with helping the people who are most in need.

"When people have their rights and their basic needs met, Iraq will be a truly great nation," said Hussein. "Until then, we have to do whatever we can to help them."

He hopes to return to Iraq to visit sometime, "but this is home now. I have a future here."

He hopes people will join him in praying for the people of Iraq, including members of his own family.

"For peace. No more war," he said. "That's what we want."

"Hope and peace"

Dale and Sandra Deraps, members of Annunciation Parish in California, began praying for Pope Francis's safety the moment they heard he would be traveling to Iraq.

Their youngest son, U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Leon Deraps, died in action in 2006 in the Al Anbar Province, near the height of the Iraq War.

The pope's visit helped them learn more about the Iraqi people.

"I now realize that the country has many Catholics," said Mrs. Deraps. "I'm so pleased that our pope was brave enough to visit and encourage the whole country to spread hope and peace."

She will never forget the images of Pope Francis praying in the restored Baghdad cathedral that had been bombed and desecrated by terrorists who were fixed on eradicating

Christianity from the region.

She noted that it is part of the mission of Catholic Christianity to pray for and forgive those who threaten violence in the name of religion.

"Let us pray that the people of Iraq and will follow the pope's example to live in forgiveness and peace," she said.

A lamb and a puppy

Several days before CPT Smith's funeral, his mother received a purple velvet drawstring bag.

It contained the three possessions found on CPT Smith's person at the time of his death: his wedding ring, a brown scapular and a prayer card with a consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

His mother gave him the holy card nine years before he died.

"I asked him to try to keep it as long as he could," she said. "He had it in his pocket when he crashed. I can't believe he still had it with him."

About two weeks later, Mrs. Smith had a vivid dream.

"Ben came to me and he was just beautiful," she said. "He was all in white. And he was holding a baby lamb. I knew that it was the Lamb of God."

The next morning, she called to tell her son's widow, whom she had sponsored at Confirmation, about the dream.

Before she could say anything, the younger Mrs. Smith told her, "Mom! Ben came to me last night! And he was dressed in white and was holding a white puppy."

"I said, 'Maggie, he came to me holding a lamb. But maybe he came to you with a puppy because he knew you like puppies,'" she said.

CPT Smith's mother has cancer and has received the Last Rites twice in the past six months.

"I was supposed to have died about three years ago, but I didn't," she said. "I keep living one day at a time. I know God keeps me alive for some reason."

"I know Ben was not afraid of death," she said. "I'm not afraid of it, either."

Images of St. Joseph

Page 12: 1—Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City; 2—St. Joseph Church, Pilot Grove; 3—Bishop's vestry, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City; 4—St. Joseph Church, Palmyra; 5—St. Thomas the Apostle Church, St. Thomas; 6—Our Lady of the Lake Church, Lake Ozark*; 7—Road to St. Joseph Church, Hurricane Branch; 8—Holy Family Church, Freeburg; 9—Sacred Heart Church, Rich Fountain; 10—Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Columbia; 11—St. Pius X Church, Moberly

Page 13: 1—St. Joseph Church, Hurricane Branch; 2—St. Joseph Church, Salisbury; 3—St. Joseph Cathedral School, Jefferson City; 4—St. Joseph Church, Westphalia; 5—St. Joseph Church, Louisiana; 6—St. Joseph Church, Pilot Grove; 7—St. Peter Church, Jefferson City; 8—outside St. Joseph Church, Martinsburg; 9—Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, Jefferson City (from the former St. Martha Church, Wayland); 10—Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, Starkenburg

*courtesy, Our Lady of the Lake Church, Lake Ozark

*courtesy, Holy Family Parish, Freeburg

*photo by Father William Debo

All other photos by Jay Nies



Decree

Lent, Holy Week and the Easter Triduum, 2021

Whereas the common good demands that the public health requirements and recommendations of the state are to be observed whenever possible; and

Whereas the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has issued a NOTE (N. 96/21) renewing the mandate given in the previous year to guide Diocesan Bishops in their task of providing for the spiritual welfare of pastors and faithful for the celebrations surrounding Holy Week;

I therefore decree, as the Diocesan Bishop, the following:

1.) All dispensations, obligations and guidance of the previous DECREE of 21 August 2020, as modified by the DECREE of 11 November 2020, remain in effect except for the following:

2.) Parish communal penance services and other seasonal services (e.g., Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration, rosaries and novenas) may be celebrated while following all the normal protocols for social distancing and/or the wearing of face coverings.

3.) The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation continues for all the faithful of the Diocese of Jefferson City and those who are present in the territory of the Diocese, provided that for days of precept they do one of the following:

a.) Prayerfully participate in the Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation Mass live streamed from their parish church or chapel, the Cathedral, the Vatican, or of any Mass of the day celebrated in communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

b.) Prayerfully read and meditate on the readings of the Mass for the Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation, and recite the rosary or Divine Mercy chaplet.

4.) The faithful still have the obligation to keep the Lord's Day holy and

“to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship owed to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, the performance of the works of mercy, and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2185)

5.) Parishes are highly encouraged to live stream Masses for Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation, and Holy Week liturgies to maintain a pastoral connection with their parishioners during and after the pandemic.

7.) The Chrism Mass will be live streamed from the Cathedral on Tuesday March 30 at 10:00 am, with clergy participating. Any faithful unable to attend are encouraged to participate spiritually by watching the live stream of this Mass which celebrates our unity as a priestly people. Priests of the diocese will renew their priestly promises at this Mass.

8.) On Palm Sunday, the commemoration of the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem is to be celebrated. Parish priests will use their pastoral judgment in choosing whether the second form (solemn entrance) or third form (simple entrance) as given in the Roman Missal is to be adopted. Blessed palms may be made available this year for the benefit of the faithful. Care should be taken that this distribution is done with safety precautions.

9.) For the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the washing of feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted. At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the procession with the Blessed Sacrament may take place (the use of a monstrance is strictly prohibited), but the place of reservation of the Blessed Sacrament after the procession should be the normal place where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved throughout the year (no special altar of repose). On this day the faculty to celebrate Mass in the parish church or a chapel, without the presence of the people, is exceptionally

granted to all priests.

On Good Friday, the addition of the following intention is to be added:

XI. For an end to the pandemic
Let us pray, dearly beloved, for a swift end to the coronavirus pandemic that afflicts our world, that our God and Father will heal the sick, strengthen those who care for them, and help us all to persevere in faith.

Prayer in silence. Then the Celebrant says:

Almighty and merciful God, source of all life, health and healing, look with compassion on our world, brought low by disease; protect us in the midst of the grave challenges that assail us and in your fatherly providence grant recovery to the stricken, strength to those who care for them, and success to those working to eradicate this scourge. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

10.) The adoration of the Cross by a kiss shall be limited solely to the celebrant. The faithful who come forward to adore may individually genuflect or bow to the Cross (which may be a crucifix).

11.) The Easter Vigil is to be celebrated only in the Cathedral and parish churches. A simplified *lucernarium* may take place with the blessing of the fire and the candle inside the church; or a representative group of the faithful (for the purpose of social distancing) may join the celebrant outside for the blessing of the fire, lighting of the candle, and procession into the church.

The incensation of the paschal candle and chanting of the *Exsultet* follow. For the “Baptismal Liturgy,” each Baptism should be done using a fresh pouring of water (not by dipping into the font). When confirming, the ministering Priest shall sanitize his thumb after each Confirmation. Holy Communion for those initiated may be given under both species only if there is a small enough number to accommodate a separate chalice for each one. Pastoral judgment should be used. For the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, the rite as presented in the Roman Missal may be used.

12.) Congregational singing is allowed only at the permission of the Pastor, taking into account the safety of the faithful and the capacity for having adequate safeguards in place in accord with local health directives.

13.) Persons, whether Catechumens or not, who are in danger of death but are not at the point of death and so are able to hear and answer the questions involved, may be baptized with the shorter rite in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (cf. “Christian Initiation of a Person in Danger of Death”). If they are at the point of death, “Christian Initiation for the Dying” in the *Pastoral Care of the Sick* is to be observed (cf. no. 277). Candidates for full communion who are in danger of death may be received into full communion, confirmed and given First Communion immediately, even outside of Mass, with the celebration of the Rite of Penance beforehand.

This decree is effective from 5 March 2021 and until further notice, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Jefferson City on this 5th day of March 2021.

Shawn McKnight

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

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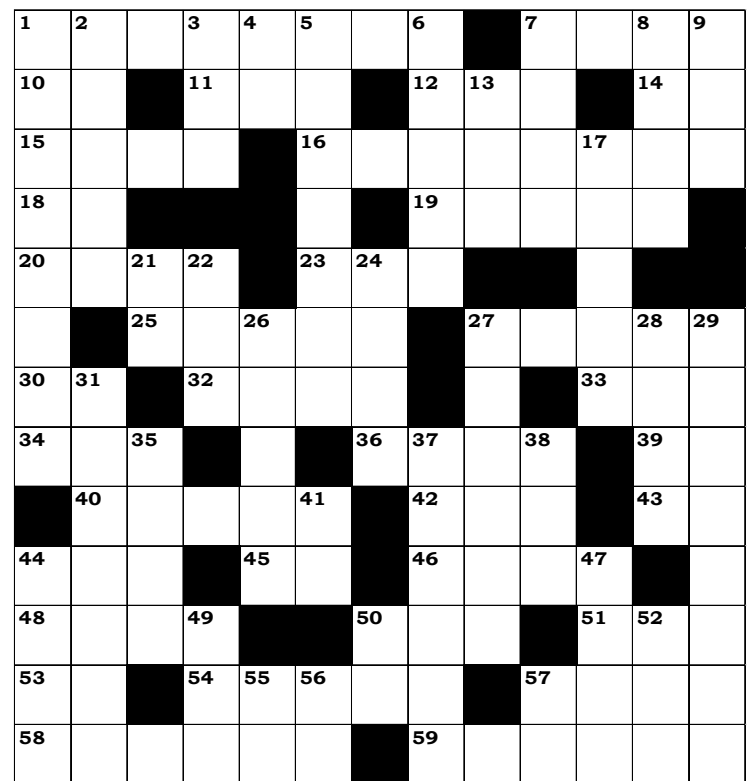
ACROSS

- This puzzle presents some of Mo.'s most notorious outlaws who _____ before, during and after the Civil War (CW) and are buried in our State.
- The little Osage Co. town that is the home base of Diamond dog food.
- Letters for a Physical Ed. class in high school.
- To bring a law suit.
- An extra wide shoe size.
- Sullivan or Asner.
- Direction the Magi came from.
- Wm. "Bloody Bill" Anderson, the most notorious and deadliest guerilla, became a dangerous bushwhacker joining Quantrell after a Unionist judge killed his father. When his two sisters were _____ and then maimed & killed when the jail collapsed, he swore revenge. Took a leading role in the Lawrence, KS massacre & the Baxter Springs massacre (103 Union soldiers killed) & led the Centralia, Mo. massacre (22 unarmed Union soldiers & then 125 pursuing, all killed). Bodies were scalped & mutilated. Seen as a psychopathic killer in a time of desperation & lawlessness. Killed in 1864, buried in Pioneer Cem., Richmond, Mo.
- A brand of cola.
- Electric shaver brand.
- Prefix for dynamic or nautical.
- Cow chow.
- The most famous outlaw is Jesse James who joined the Confederate bands of Quantrell & Bill Anderson during the CW. Allegedly shot at while trying to surrender, he embarked upon
- 10+ years of bank and train robberies and murders until murdered by one of his own gang for reward _____ in St. Joseph, Mo. Interred in Mt. Olivet Cem. in Kearney, Mo.
- The _____ is in the pudding, as the old saying goes.
- Cream _____ Wheat has been a breakfast staple since 1893.
- "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to _____ laborers for his vineyard," (Matthew 20:1).
- To regret.
- "The memory of the just will be blessed, but the name of the wicked will _____," (Proverbs 10:7).
- "If you are willing to _____ the pot, you better be willing to eat what comes out of it," —Wes Fesler.
- Mt. Rushmore president (abbr.).
- "The _____ back to sanity is to acknowledge your insanity," —Steven Magee.
- _____ Wed. is the beginning of Lent.
- One translation of the word Amen is "it is _____."
- He pounded in a _____ for the tent rope.
- "God rest _____ merry gentlemen..."
- In chess, a castle is called a _____.
- Letters denoting great urgency.
- Original, for ex.
- Here, in Paris.
- Letters for physical therapy.
- Moses used this to split the sea in two (Exodus 14:16).
- Many police forces have trained _____ (special weapons and tactics) teams for special assault or suppression situations.
- Francis of _____.
- Another lesser-known outlaw is Sam Hildebrand who allegedly killed over 100 men during the CW in retaliation for Union soldiers killing a brother and Union soldiers targeting his _____. He was in the Big River area of St. Francois County in eastern Mo. Killed in 1872,

buried in Hampton Cem., Park Hills, Mo.

DOWN

- The second most famous outlaw in Mo. history is Frank James, Jesse's older soldier brother & whom Jesse followed into Quantrell's band. After Jesse was killed, Frank turned himself in to the Governor in Jeff. City. Prosecutors could never get a conviction. He became a shoe salesman, telegraph _____, a tour guide at the James farm. He died a respectable citizen in 1915. Buried in Park Hill Cem. in Independence, Mo.
- The first words Jesus spoke to His apostles after His Resurrection was "_____ be with you," (John 20:19).
- Q-U.
- Periodic table letters for gold.
- Wm. Quantrill was a gambler turned school _____. In 1860, in reaction to violent anti-slavery activity in Kansas, he sided with Confederates at the battles of Wilson's Creek and Lexington, Mo. He most infamously led 450 guerillas to sack and burn the abolitionist town of Lawrence, KS killing 160-190 men & boys. Shot to death in 1863, he is buried at the Old Confederate Veteran's Home cemetery in Higginsville, Mo.
- The Kentucky _____, inaugurated in 1875, has been dubbed by some as "The most exciting two minutes in sports."
- _____ Verde Nat. Park in New Mexico is famous for its 600 cliff dwellings of ancestral Pueblo people.
- Lesser known outlaw Clell Miller, who as a _____ joined dif. guerilla bands, was captured while riding with Bill Anderson's group. After a year in jail, he joined the James-Younger gang & was killed in the failed Northfield MN raid in 1876. He is buried in the Muddy Fork Cem. in Kearney, Mo.
- "Then _____ pasta to the boiling water..." said the recipe.
- Suffix for auction.
- He was encouraged when the tests showed his _____



- was operable.
- In real estate, abbr. for room.
- _____ -la-la!
- It was a close vote but the _____ have it!
- Let's get down to the _____-gritty of the matter.
- Cole Younger, & his brothers, were leaders in the James-Younger gang. Though Cole's father was pro-Union, his father was shot dead by "red leg" units of Kansas federal soldiers who had a reputation for ruthlessness. Seeking revenge, he rode with Quantrell on the Lawrence, KS raid. Later, as part of Archie Clement's gang, engaged in bank, stage coach & train robberies. Fleeing the failed Northfield MN bank raid, Cole & brothers were wounded, captured & sentenced to life in _____. Bob died there. Jim committed suicide. Cole was paroled, wrote a memoir, lectured and toured, became a Christian & repented of his past crimes. Died in 1916 & buried in his hometown cemetery in Lee's Summit, Mo.
- There are three _____ allowed in an MLB inning.
- Archie Clement, trusted lieutenant of Bloody Bill Anderson, was known for his _____ in scalping and mutilating Union corpses. Never surrendering, he became leader of a band of bank robbers, leading the first peacetime daylight bank robbery in US history in Liberty, Mo. Jesse James was part of this gang. Shot to death in a Union ambush in 1866. Buried in the Arnold Cem. near Napoleon, Mo.
- The deciduous _____ of Mo. consist predominantly of oak trees.
- Roman wear.
- A special tax on imports or exports.
- The Greek letters Chi (X) and _____ (P) are the first two letters of the word Christ in Greek (CH and R in English); when superimposed over each other, they are one of the earliest liturgical symbols for Christ.
- A popular degree at Mo. S&T in Rolla.
- "Someone's been eating my porridge," growled the _____ bear," —from "Goldilocks & the Three Bears."
- A small green fruit with a light brown skin, also called a Chinese gooseberry.
- Letters on the side of a tire.
- Letters for the City by the Bay.
- Calvin Coolidge, our 30th President, was a man of few words and was known as "Silent _____."
- _____ Elliot; born in St. Louis, considered one of the 20th century's major poets.
- Letters for artificial intelligence.
- International country code for San Marino, one of the world's oldest republics.

Top Knight says group is 'force for good,' bolsters faith, families

Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

Patrick Kelly's installation

as the 14th Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus is still off in the indefinite fu-

ture because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but he officially began his new job March 1 at the

Knights' headquarters in New Haven, Connecticut.

Kelly was elected by the

board of directors Feb. 5 to succeed Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, who held the post for over two decades and retired Feb. 28.

"The Knights have always been good at reading the signs of the times," Kelly said. "I think there's a crisis in fatherhood today and I think the Catholic family is under a lot of strain. I think the Knights have to be there for that man and help him grapple with the larger questions."



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Fundraisers & Social Events

Mar. 19

Boonville, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Church parking lot; **Camdenton**, K of C carry-out fish fry, 5-7 pm; **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; **Fulton**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 4-7 pm, St. Peter Parish; **Glasgow**, K of C carry-out fish fry, 5-7:30 pm; **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; **Laurie**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, St. Patrick Church; **Mary's Home**, K of C drive-thru fish & shrimp dinner, 6-7:30 pm; **Moberly**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm, Immaculate Conception parish hall; **St. Martins**, St. Martin Home & School drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7 pm

Mar. 21

Marceline, St. Anne's Altar Society St. Patrick's Day drive thru chicken dinner, 11:30 am-1 pm, Fr. McCartan Memorial School; **Westphalia**, St. Joseph Parish drive-thru chicken dinner, 11 am-6 pm

Mar. 26

Boonville, K of C drive-thru Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Church parking lot; **Camdenton**, K of C carry-out fish fry, 5-7 pm; **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; **Fayette**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Fulton**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 4-7 pm, St. Peter Parish; **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; **Koeltztown**, AK Crusaders Relay for Life drive-thru fish fry, 4-7:30 pm, St. Boniface Center; **Laurie**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, St. Patrick Church; **Macon**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Marceline**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Mary's Home**, K of C drive-thru fish & shrimp dinner, 6-7:30 pm;

Pilot Grove, St. Joseph Home & School drive-thru fish fry, 5-7:30 pm, parish basement; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm, Immaculate Conception parish hall; **Salisbury**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 4-7 pm; **Sedalia**, K of C drive-thru Fish Fryday, 3-6:30 pm; **Taos**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Vienna**, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 5-7 pm

Mar. 27

Bonnots Mill, St. Louis of France Parish chicken dinner, 3-8 pm

Mar. 28

Argyle, St. Aloysius & St. Boniface parishes drive-thru fried chicken & baked ham dinner, 11:30 am-5:30 pm, Argyle VFW Hall

Apr. 2

Boonville, K of C drive-thru Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Church parking lot; **Hannibal**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm

Apr. 10

VIRTUAL, St. George Parish in Linn "Spring Fling" fundraiser, 7:30-9:30 pm via Facebook at [facebook.com/stgeorgeparishlinn](https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeparishlinn)

Apr. 11

Belle, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am; **Brinktown**, Holy Guardian Angels Parish drive-thru/carry-out chicken dinner, 11 am-5 pm

Apr. 13

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

Meetings & Conferences

Mar. 25

VIRTUAL, National Association of Pastoral Musicians Jefferson City Diocese Chapter "Chat & Chew," noon-1 pm, for the Zoom link email npmjeffcitydio@gmail.com

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, for 6-8 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, for info or to register visit cathedral.diojeffcity.org/purified-tickets

Apr. 22

Moberly, Randolph County Right to Life "Be The One" celebration of life banquet, featuring speaker Terry Beatley, Moberly Municipal Auditorium, for tickets call Therese Sander 660-651-9748 or Sarah Mefford 660-651-8327

Retreats & Spiritual Renewal

Mar. 21-23

Sedalia, "The Call. The Response. The Life." Parish mission on Stewardship, with Fr. Stephen Jones, 6:30-7:30 pm each evening, St. Patrick Chapel, for info visit svdpparish.diojeffcity.org

Apr. 11

Linn, Divine Mercy Sunday event with Donna Cori, with Adoration, Confession, music, Chaplet and reflections, 5-7 pm, St. George Church

Youth & Young Adults

Apr. 21

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

Jul. 18-22

Henley, Camp Siena for high school girls, for info visit diojeffcity.org/campsiena

Health & Wellness

Mar. 23

Loose Creek, Blood drive, 1-6 pm, Community Center

Apr. 25

Jefferson City, Blood drive, 8 am-noon, Immaculate Conception Parish's Kertz Hall

FR. DOYLE

From page 8

though, she is under the common misimpression that a civil divorce, in and by itself, disqualifies a Catholic from the Eucharist.

That is simply not so, as explained by the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: "If civil divorce remains the only possible way of ensuring certain legal rights, the care of the children, or the protection of inheritance, it can be tolerated and does not constitute a moral offense" (No. 2383).

Sometimes a divorce can occur with little, or even no, responsibility on the part of one of the spouses; and even a spouse who bears major responsibility for the breakup of a marriage can go to confession and be absolved.

Catholics who are separated or divorced, and who have not remarried outside of the Church, are in good standing in the Church and can receive all of the sacraments, including Holy Communion. They are encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of parish life and are invited to serve in any ministries including lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and catechists.

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

DECREES

From page 1

Holy Week and Easter

Bishop McKnight also promulgated a decree March 5 regarding the observance of Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

In it, he extends all previous dispensations, obligations and guidance of his decrees of Aug. 21 and Nov. 11, 2020, with several exceptions.

Parish communal penance services and other seasonal services may be celebrated while following all the normal protocols for social distancing and/or the wearing of face coverings.

Blessed palms may be distributed on Palm Sunday as part of the commemoration of the Lord's entrance into Jerusa-

lem. Care should be taken that this distribution is done with safety precautions.

The ceremonial Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday is to be omitted this year, as is the kissing of the cross by anyone but the priest on Good Friday.

A special prayer for an end to the pandemic should be prayed as part of the Solemn Intercessions on Good Friday.

The full text of the March 5 decree, including more specific directives, can be found on Page 15.

Prayer for a Communion of Desire

My Jesus, I believe You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, renew my heart now with the power of Your Spirit. I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You. Unite me more closely to Your Body, the Church. And never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.


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Anniversaries

Bishop John Leibrecht, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau in southern Missouri, his 65th priestly anniversary on Mar. 17

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul
Oscar & Arlene Friedrich, 67 years
Randy & Nancy Smith, 47 years
Chris & Celeste Bowman, 43 years
Dave & Debbie Richerson, 42 years
James & Mary Wooldridge, 39 years
Randy & Lauralyn Fry, 36 years
Jeffery & Alicia Cotton, 28 years

Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels
Paul & Theresa Branson, 23 years

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception
David & Peggy Cassity, 50 years
Fred & Michelle Lewis, 22 years

Camdenton, St. Anthony
Darin & Krista Shackelford, 36 years
Wayne & Kathy Compton, 30 years
Joe & Jennifer Eblen, 24 years

Eldon, Sacred Heart
Joe & Betty Lilley, 45 years

Freeburg, Holy Family
Gary & Pam Storey, 43 years
Dale & Kaitlin Struempfler, 10 years

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate
Patrick & Susan Boren, 35 years

Koeltztown, St. Boniface
Michael & Leanne Schaben, 46 years

Marceline, St. Bonaventure
Leroy & Barbara Stallo, 50 years
Chris & Jeri Uhlik, 25 years

Martinsburg, St. Joseph
David & Sharon Welschmeyer, 41 years
Michelle & Darren Hombs, 27 years

Marshall, St. Peter
Richard & Jeanie Lawless, 50 years

Milan, St. Mary
Audel & Lilia Arellano, 39 years

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart
Dennis & Virginia Fick, 48 years
Rick & Peggy Brune, 39 years
Troy & Beth Boehm, 23 years
Patrick & Dana Bexten, 22 years
Tony & Tina Sesti, 15 years

Vienna, Visitation
Ken & Carol Menges, 33 years

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels
Ches & Peggy Niemeier, 61 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.

Baptisms

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Kyler Rapp**, son of Jacob Rapp & Jessica Shadwick; **Payton Rapp**, son of Philip & Danielle Rapp

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Jaxson Dunlap, Zachary Francis, Owen Karnia, Scarlett Karnia, Clare Platt, Dawson Shaw**

Holts Summit, St. Andrew — **Bryson Grant Raithel**, son of Lindsey Bish

Macon, Immaculate Conception — **Hallie Joan and Levi Francis Watson**, children of Charles & Lauren Watson

Monroe City, Holy Rosary — **Phelicity Noel Shively**, daughter of Brett & Dana Shively

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart — **Lennie Rose Mebruer**, daughter of Bryce & Brittany Mebruer

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Calvin Thomas Shikles, Landry Charles Talken**

Initiations

Bowling Green, Northeast Missouri Correctional Center — **Eddie Bernard Shepherd** received the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion, and **Marcus Lynn Wright** received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion, on Jan. 21

JESUITS

From page 7

Jesuit owners of Georgetown University to plantation owners in Louisiana in 1838. *The New York Times* first announced this foundation March 15.

A news release about the partnership said it was the “first of its kind” between

Deaths

Earl Wayne Salmons Jr., 55 — an assistant girls basketball coach at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia — on Mar. 3

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **James Eckerle**

California, Annunciation — **Andrea Lizeth Hurtado**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Fern Anderson, Georgette Nork**

Holts Summit, St. Andrew — **Donald Manson**

Linn, St. George — **Bernard “Ben” A. Luechtefeld**

Moberly, St. Pius X — **Rex Dunwoody**

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul — **George Bain Jr., Virginia Stone**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Melba A. Weavers**

Elections

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Gail Dobbs**, president; **Linda Dowell**, vice president; **Joni Henry**, treasurer; **Brenda Kehl**, secretary, of the St. Anne Sodality

Birthdays

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Bernice Schmitz**, her 98th on Mar. 21

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception — **Doris Dennis**, her 97th on Mar. 22; **Sybil Schreiner**, her 93rd on Mar. 29

Canton, St. Joseph — **Mildred Whiston**, her 100th on Mar. 20

Pilot Grove, St. Joseph — **Earl Twenter**, his 95th on Mar. 29

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart — **Clarence Mebruer**, his 92nd on Mar. 10

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Agnes Distler**, her 90th on Mar. 14

Honors

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Danielle Bennett**, with the St. Anne Stewardship Award for her service to the Church, from the parish’s St. Anne Sodality

Departure

Deacon Alan Sims, who assisted the pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in Wardsville and St. Margaret of Antioch Parish in Osage Bend and served in nursing home ministry and as diocesan director of Catholic cemeteries, moving to Atlanta to be closer to his family

At your service ...



For a Lenten service project, Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City’s candidates, catechumens, families, sponsors and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) team take advantage of the warm, sunny weather on March 8 to pick up trash at Ellis-Porter Riverside Park in Jefferson City. — Photo from the Immaculate Conception Catholic Parish Facebook page

the descendants of enslaved persons and the descendants of their enslavers.

“Our shameful history of Jesuit slaveholding in the United States has been taken off the dusty shelf, and it can never be put back,” said Jesuit Fa-

ther Tim Kesicki, president of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States.

COMMISSION

From page 8

from the Pontifical Urbanian University in Rome.

She earned her license and doctorate in sacred Scripture from Rome’s Pontifical Biblical Institute and has taught at the Gregorian University since 1991.

Crossword puzzle answers

X	T	I	M	V	A	E	I	S	S	S	S	A
L	V	W	S	E	F	V	L	S	L	J	D	S
I	C	I	N	I	S	A	V	S	V	S	A	V
C	K	O	O	R	E	L	E	G	E	G	E	D
O	S	H	S	A	L	U	L	R	O	R	O	R
R	I	R	I	T	S	T	L	I	O	L	R	O
E	U	E	R	E	R	E	R	E	H	E	F	O
E	R	O	R	O	R	O	Y	E	N	O	M	J
M	V	A	V	A	V	O	O	R	E	R	A	V
N	U	R	A	R	C	C	C	C	R	C	R	S
D	E	L	S	R	E	R	A	V	L	S	V	E
D	E	E	E	E	E	E	U	S	U	E	E	D
V	L	E	M	E	E	L	V	A	E	E	P	O

Cool cats in funny hats



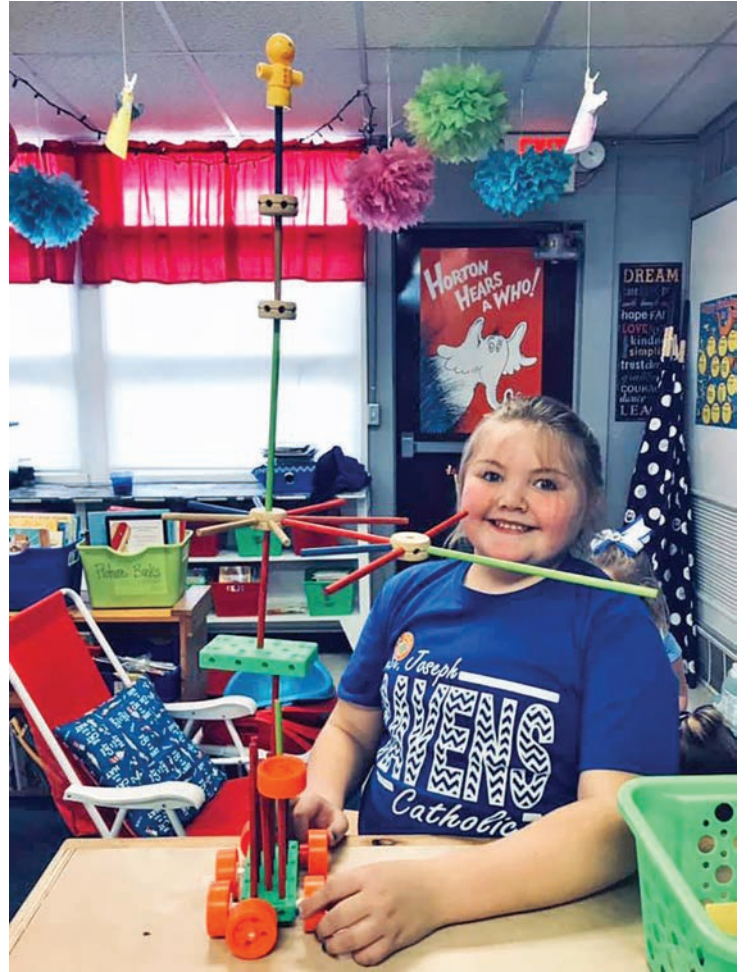
Fifth-graders at Holy Family School in Hannibal celebrate Read Across America Day March 6. They did a “Seusstastic” job on their writing and sporting “Thingy” blue hair.
— Photo from the Holy Family School – Hannibal Facebook page



Principal Zach Stobart reads to pre-kindergartners at St. George School in Hermann as part of their celebration of Dr. Seuss’s birthday March 2.
— Photo from the St. George Catholic School - Hermann, MO Facebook page

10-times-10

Students at St. Joseph School in Salisbury figure out what they can build with 100 pieces during their STEM rotations on their 100th day of school in the middle of Catholic Schools Week.
— Photos from the St. Joseph School-Salisbury Facebook page



Learning well by doing good



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LEFT: Seventh- and eighth-graders in the St. Mary of the Angels Parish School of Religion in Wien spend some class time helping at the parish’s Share and Care ministry on March 5. They did some heavy lifting and carried items up the stairs to help the adults.
— Photo from the St. Mary’s-Wien, MO Facebook page

Jesus enters Jerusalem riding a colt

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

Jesus and the apostles traveled to Jerusalem so they could celebrate the Passover feast.

As they traveled along, Jesus told His friends what was about to happen to Him.

“The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death and hand Him over to the gentiles, who will mock Him, spit upon Him, scourge Him and put Him to death, but after three days He will rise,” Jesus said.

When the men reached Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, not far from Jerusalem, Jesus sent two of the apostles on an errand.

“Go into the village opposite



you, and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat,” Jesus said. “Untie it and bring it here. If anyone should

say to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ reply, ‘The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.’”

The two apostles went to

the village and found the colt tethered at a gate outside on the street. As they untied the colt, some bystanders questioned them.

“What are you doing, untying the colt?” they demanded to know.

The apostles answered the bystanders exactly as Jesus had instructed, and the bystanders did not give them any trouble as they led the colt away.

They brought the colt to Jesus and placed their cloaks upon the animal. Jesus then sat on the colt.

As Jesus rode the colt toward Jerusalem, people who saw Him along the way recognized Him. They spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut

from the fields.

The people who preceded Jesus repeatedly cried out:

“Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!”

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple area. He looked around at everything and, since it was already late, went out to Bethany with the apostles.

Read more about it...
Mark 10 & 11

1. Where did Jesus and the apostles stop just before entering Jerusalem?

2. What animal did Jesus tell two of His apostles to get for Him?

Bible Accent

In Mark 10, not long before Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, two of His apostles came up to Him.

“Grant that in Your glory we may sit one at Your right and the other at Your left,” said James and John, the sons of Zebedee.

Jesus had just finished explaining to His friends that He was going to be arrested and condemned to death. He asked James and John if they could suffer the same fate.

The two men said yes.

“The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized,

you will be baptized; but to sit at My right or at My left is not Mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared,” Jesus told them.

After Jesus’ death and resurrection, the original apostles traveled many places to spread the word of God and Jesus. It was a dangerous time, because Christians were being persecuted. But this did not stop Jesus’ friends.

According to the New Testament and early Christian history, 10 of the 11 original apostles who preached after Jesus’ death and resurrection met the same fate as the Lord.

Many of them were even put to death by crucifixion. James was the first to be killed for his faith. His brother, John, is said to have escaped martyrdom and lived to be an old man.

Trivia

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus healed a blind man. What was his name? (Hint: Mark 10:46)

Answer: Bartimaeus

Saint Spotlight

St. Stanislaus of Krakow was born to noble parents in Poland in 1030. When he grew up, he became a priest and canon at Krakow Cathedral. He was elected Krakow’s bishop in 1072. After becoming bishop, he and King Boleslaus II were at odds over the king’s immorality and injustice. Stanislaus rebuked the king several times and then excommunicated him. The king retaliated by executing Stanislaus himself in 1079. We remember Stanislaus on April 11.



Puzzle

Using the hints provided from Mark 11, put a T next to the sentences that are true and an F next to the ones that are false.

1. ___ Jesus cursed a pomegranate tree. (verse 13)
2. ___ Jesus drove out those selling and buying in the Temple area. (verse 15)
3. ___ Jesus told the apostles that when they prayed, they should forgive others. (verse 25)
4. ___ Jesus asked if John’s baptism was of heavenly or human origin. (verse 30)



Answers: 1. F, 2. T, 3. T, 4. T.

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Woman honors Year of St. Joseph with new book on Jesus' foster father

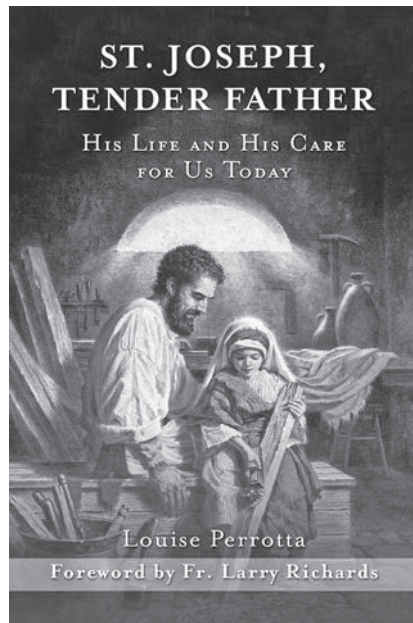
By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

With Pope Francis having declared this the Year of St. Joseph through Dec. 8, fresh interest has been generated in the foster father of Jesus.

Louise Perrotta is putting the finishing touches on a new book on the saint that she says her publisher, The Word Among Us Press, hopes to make available by May 1, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

Perrotta, who can remember adding "JM" for "Jesus, Mary, Joseph" after her own name on schoolwork in grade and high school, said *St. Joseph, Tender Father: His Life and His Care for Us* will be full of enlightening details about the man some refer to as "the silent saint" as he is not quoted



in any of the Gospels.

One of 11 children, Perrotta grew up in a French-Canadian family in Maine.

"French-Canadians have a real devotion to St. Joseph," she

told Catholic News Service (CNS) in a March 11 phone interview from her home in Ann Arbor, Michigan. "All of my brothers have Joseph as their middle name."

St. Joseph, Tender Father includes the tale of St. Andre Bessette, the Canadian Holy Cross brother who wanted to build a memorial to St. Joseph. He succeeded grandly with the Oratory of St. Joseph in Montreal, which Perrotta has visited.

"The devotion to Joseph really took off with Teresa of Avila. Until then, Joseph was downplayed in the Church, I think," Perrotta said, noting that "in the early days of the Church," there were heresies denying Christ's divinity and the virgin birth. "It wasn't seen as wise by the early Church fathers to talk about Jesus' earthly father so much."

St. Joseph, she added, was "portrayed in art as old, bald and much older than Mary" prior to St. Teresa of Avila.

"Teresa really had a really loving relationship with St. Joseph. She saw herself as part of the holy family," Perrotta said. "Teresa's mother died when she

Movie Ratings



General Patronage

The House That Rob Built (not rated)
Tom & Jerry (PG)



Adults and Adolescents

Raya and the Last Dragon (PG)



Adults

Blithe Spirit (PG-13)
Boogie (R)
Chaos Walking (PG-13)
Coming 2 America (PG-13)
Judas and the Black Messiah (R)
Land (PG-13)
The Mauritanian (R)
Minari (PG-13)
Nomadland (R)
Our Friend (R)

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

was 11. In her 20s, she had a debilitating illness and she experienced healing through the intercession of St. Joseph. She took Mary as her mother and Joseph as her father when she was healed."

Perrotta, despite her upbringing, said she let her own devotion fade until her husband did some digging in the yard and uncovered a small plastic St. Joseph statue no more than 4 inches tall — probably buried by the previous owners who likely did so to sell the house — one of today's urban legends.

But after reflection, Perrotta saw the similarities in her life and that of St. Joseph.

She had married a widower with six children. St. Joseph, guided by the visitation of angels in dreams — nobody in biblical literature appears to have had more than him — accepted the pregnant Mary, with the Christ Child conceived by the Holy Spirit in her womb — as his wife, fled to Egypt under cover of darkness with Mary and the infant, and chose an unfamiliar Nazareth as the place to raise the family, watching the mystery of a Redeemer in his household slowly unfold until his dying days.

"There's no script for stepmoms. I really wanted to play my part in the family," Perrotta told CNS. "I love the kids

and I love my husband, but very often I felt overwhelmed and not knowing what to do. One day when I was looking at that St. Joseph statue, it dawned on me that he must have felt the same way."

Perrotta lists a who's who of Catholics with a devotion to St. Joseph.

"(St.) John XXIII had a tremendous devotion to St. Joseph and also talks about it in his journal. I think (St.) John Paul II also had a devotion to St. Joseph. (Pope) Benedict (XVI) pointed out his middle name was Joseph and talks about Joseph's fatherhood and his interior life in various homilies and audiences. And certainly Pope Francis seems to have a great love for Joseph."

She added, "As far as saints go, the standouts are St. Francis de Sales, who loved thinking about Joseph and Mary together. He likes to think Joseph and Mary visited Elizabeth together."

And what might Perrotta herself be doing March 19, St. Joseph's feast day?

"I don't know," she answered. "I'll probably go to church. We're still sheltering in place. I might bake something. There are traditional St. Joseph foods, but mostly my husband and I will turn to St. Joseph and thank him for just being with us."

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SHELTERS

From page 6

Mrs. Martin's husband, Deacon Turf Martin, and Fr. Corel helped recruit volunteers for the warming center from the parish and Knights of Columbus Council 831.

"We're holding down the fort through the grace of God," said Fr. Corel, who also spent many hours helping organize the fellowship hall.

Military cots came from the American Red Cross, with bedding from several other sources.

A local hotel provided laundry services for the bedding.

The Open Door Community Kitchen and local churches provided hot meals.

Kirk Martin, a member of the First United Methodist Church of Sedalia, invited people from the warming center to the congregation's Celebration Center so they could have a shower.

In response to an article in the local newspaper, 40 volunteers stepped forward to keep the center open all day throughout the 13-day and 15-night arctic cold snap.

"Overall, it was pretty amazing to find 40 people who were comfortable to come out during a pandemic, and be in a space with people they didn't know for extended periods of time," said Mrs. Martin. "The community really pulled together to meet a serious need."

"It truly has been an amazing, ecumenical, very visible demonstration of charity and mercy," Deacon Martin stated.

St. Vincent de Paul parishioner Bill Turner, immediate past president of the Open Door Board of Directors, has been a powerful driving force for the Community Kitchen.

He's now working with the Ministerial Alliance, its member congregations and Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri to develop an all-year shelter and one-stop resource center for people in Sedalia who are homeless.

It will be called the Mercy Rest Stop.

"The idea is for people to be able to come to get all the services they need in one location that's close to them," said Deacon Martin.

"A resonance"

God has blessed Miriam Hankins with being comfortable in the company of people who are on the margins of society.

"I've felt called to this sort of thing for most of my adult life," said Mrs. Hankins, a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia. "It's just something I've always done."

Each winter, volunteers from several Columbia congregations help staff the Room at the Inn (RATI) overnight emergency winter shelter.

Mrs. Hankins has volunteered there for several years.

"I consider it a gift to be able to do that," she said.

RATI operated in two locations this winter,

in a way that cut down on COVID risks for the volunteers.

Mrs. Hankins served on the 9 to 11 p.m. shifts.

She said that while most of the shelter's clients are pleasant, being truly welcoming to everyone requires an understanding heart.

"You have to have an openness within yourself," she said. "I think you just learn that as you get older."

She lamented the lack of stability that prevents many people from finding jobs and holding onto them.

"Sometimes, they're too wasted mentally," she said. "I don't know what you do for someone like that."

Nonetheless, she's never afraid to be at the shelter.

"I don't think about it much, to tell you the truth," she said. "After a while, you recognize the faces. I have a name tag on and people call me by my name."

She's happy to be part of a downtown parish that cooperates with some of the larger congregations in the area to help people in need.

"We're a small parish, but I think we're still a very important niche in the social services in Columbia," she stated.

She's noticed that it's often the members of the various congregations who get things started.

"It's amazing — the tough issues they are not afraid to tackle," she said. "I feel a resonance with them, being in that community."

No regrets

St. Thomas More Newman Center parishioner Mary Tribble volunteered frequently at Room at the Inn this winter.

A recently retired nurse, she has been helping homeless people for a long time.

"There's so much need, and right now with COVID, there's so few volunteers," she noted.

She realizes that access to emotional and behavioral services is crucial to breaking the homeless cycle for many people.

"We're talking about people who are really struggling, and there are so few opportunities for them to get help," she said. "With some people, you wonder how they get through the day."

She calls on God to help her whenever she encounters someone who's acting out or having a hard time.

"You do sometimes just stop and say, 'God, please help me see You in this person,'" she said.

She said many people who are homeless and in need are not comfortable seeking help.

"You never understand mental illness, and just be thankful that you don't have to," she added.

She offered a tip for people who feel drawn toward ministering to people who are homeless: "Just let God lead you. You won't regret it if you take that step."



Sister Francine Koehler SSND, director of faith formation at Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia, assists with a meal at Room at the Inn, where she was a frequent volunteer this winter.

— Photo by Mary Tribble

Daily Readings

Sunday, Mar 21

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jer. 31:31-34

Ps. 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15

Heb. 5:7-9

Jn. 12:20-33

Monday, Mar 22

Dn. 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62

or 13:41c-62

Ps. 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Jn. 8:1-11

Tuesday, Mar 23

St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop

Nm. 21:4-9

Ps. 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21

Jn. 8:21-30

Wednesday, Mar 24

Dn. 3:14-20, 91-92, 95

(Ps.) Dn. 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56

Jn. 8:31-42

Thursday, Mar 25

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Is. 7:10-14; 8:10

Ps. 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11

Heb. 10:4-10

Lk. 1:26-38

Friday, Mar 26

Jer. 20:10-13

Ps. 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7

Jn. 10:31-42

Saturday, Mar 27

Ez. 37:21-28

(Ps.) Jer. 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13

Jn. 11:45-56

Sunday, Mar 28

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Mk. 11:1-10 or Jn. 12:12-16

Is. 50:4-7

Ps. 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

Phil. 2:6-11

Mk. 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

Monday, Mar 29

Monday of Holy Week

Is. 42:1-7

Ps. 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14

Jn. 12:1-11

Tuesday, Mar 30

Tuesday of Holy Week

Is. 49:1-6

Ps. 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15, 17

Jn. 13:21-33, 36-38

Chism Mass:

Is. 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9

Ps. 89:21-22, 25, 27

Rv. 1:5-8

Lk. 4:16-21

Wednesday, Mar 31

Wednesday of Holy Week

Is. 50:4-9a

Ps. 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34

Mt. 26:14-25

Thursday, Apr 1

Holy Thursday

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper:

Ex. 12:1-8, 11-14

Ps. 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18

1 Cor. 11:23-26

Jn. 13:1-15

Friday, Apr 2

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

Is. 52:13-53:12

Ps. 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25

Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Jn. 18:1-19:42

Saturday, Apr 3

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil:

Gn. 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a

Ps. 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24,

35, or Ps. 33:4-7, 12-13, 20, 22

Gn. 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-

13, 15-18

Ps. 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11

Ex. 14:15-15:1

(Ps.) Ex. 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18

Is. 54:5-14

Ps. 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

Is. 55:1-11

(Ps.) Is. 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

Bar. 3:9-15, 32-4:4

Ps. 19:8, 9, 10, 11

Ez. 36:16-17a, 18-28

Ps. 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 or (Ps.) Is.

12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps.

51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19

Rom. 6:3-11

Mk. 16:1-7

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for March:

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for April:

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

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JEFFERSON CITY

Divine Mercy concert in Linn

DATE: April 11
TIME: 5 pm

Catholic author, singer and inspirational speaker Donna

Cori will give a free concert for the Solemnity of Divine Mercy on Sunday, April 11, in Linn. It will be at 5 p.m. in St. George Church, 613 E. Main

St. (U.S. 50).

It will include Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, a sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy, an explanation of the feastday and Divine Mercy, and great music.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available.

For information, call 573-897-2293 or visit DonnaCori.com.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph!



Father William Debo, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Freeburg and Sacred Heart Parish in Rich Fountain, leads the students of Holy Family School in prayer for the first day of the Novena in honor of St. Joseph at the end of Mass in Holy Family Church. He also invited students to bring gifts of food for the poor to the Altar of St. Joseph.

— Photos by Debbie Reinkemeyer



“Be The One”
Randolph County Celebration of Life Banquet

Featured Speaker:
Terry Beatley



Thursday, April 22
6 pm

Moberly Municipal Auditorium
201 West Rollins
MOBERLY, MO

Tickets \$40 ~ To register, call Therese Sander 660-651-9748 or Sarah Mefford 660-651-8327




St. Louis of France Parish
Bonnots Mill

CHICKEN DINNER

from 3-8 pm
Saturday, March 27

Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,
Green Beans, Corn and Dessert
—Meals \$12 each—
Outside seating available or take your food to go!

SILENT AUCTION
on Facebook — search St. Louis of France Bonnots Mill
from noon March 21 — noon March 28

DRIVE-THRU ONLY

FISH FRY

MACON

Immaculate Conception Church
(East side)

\$10 A TICKET
Crappie, Catfish, Garlic Slaw & Cheesy Potatoes

MARCH 26
4:30-7 PM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IMMACULATA COUNCIL 3769



Spring Chicken Dinner

Holy Guardian Angels CATHOLIC CHURCH

BRINKTOWN, Mo.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11 — 11 am to 5 pm
Drive-thru & Carry-out ONLY
\$11 per plate

FRESH FRIED CHICKEN >>> Mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, corn, coleslaw, applesauce & dessert

Hannibal Knights of Columbus 907

FISH FRY

4:30-7 pm
EVERY FRIDAY

\$8

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

Mar 19 & 26
Apr 2

K of C Hall — HANNIBAL

St. Andrew K of C Council 8400

HOLTS SUMMIT

Fish Fry Dinners

Fridays—March 19 & 26

DRIVE-THRU ONLY

Served 3:30-7 pm

\$12 per meal

USA FARM-RAISED CATFISH

Fried catfish, spaghetti, baked beans, french fries, slaw, applesauce, cornbread & dessert

LADIES SODALITY QUILT DRAWING
MAR. 19 & 26

ST. ANDREW CHURCH — Use Center Street exit and follow signs



St. Aloysius Church Argyle

St. Boniface Chapel Koeltztown

SPRING Dinner

Fried Chicken & Baked Ham Dinner with mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw & applesauce

Sunday, March 28

DRIVE-THRU ONLY — \$12 per meal
11:30am-5:30pm

Argyle VFW Hall
36776 Hwy. T - Argyle MO

Taos K of C Council #6430



FISH FRY

DRIVE-THRU ONLY

Friday
March 26

Fried fish or boiled shrimp plus sides
\$12

4:30-7:30 pm
K of C Hall in TAOS