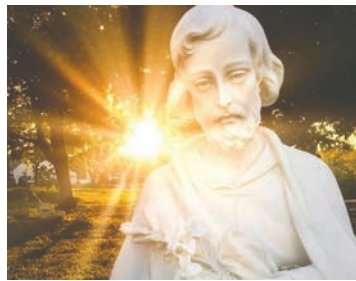


St. Joseph, family man

Monsignor David Cox, pastor of Mary Immaculate Parish in Kirksville and the Mission of St. Rose of Lima in Novinger, shares insights into St. Joseph and his relationship with Mary and Jesus.
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Lift high the cross. Page 3

Healing after abuse. Page 4

Journey of Faith Page 5

Prokup: Pandemic lessons . Page 8

Witness on the sidewalk. . Page 11

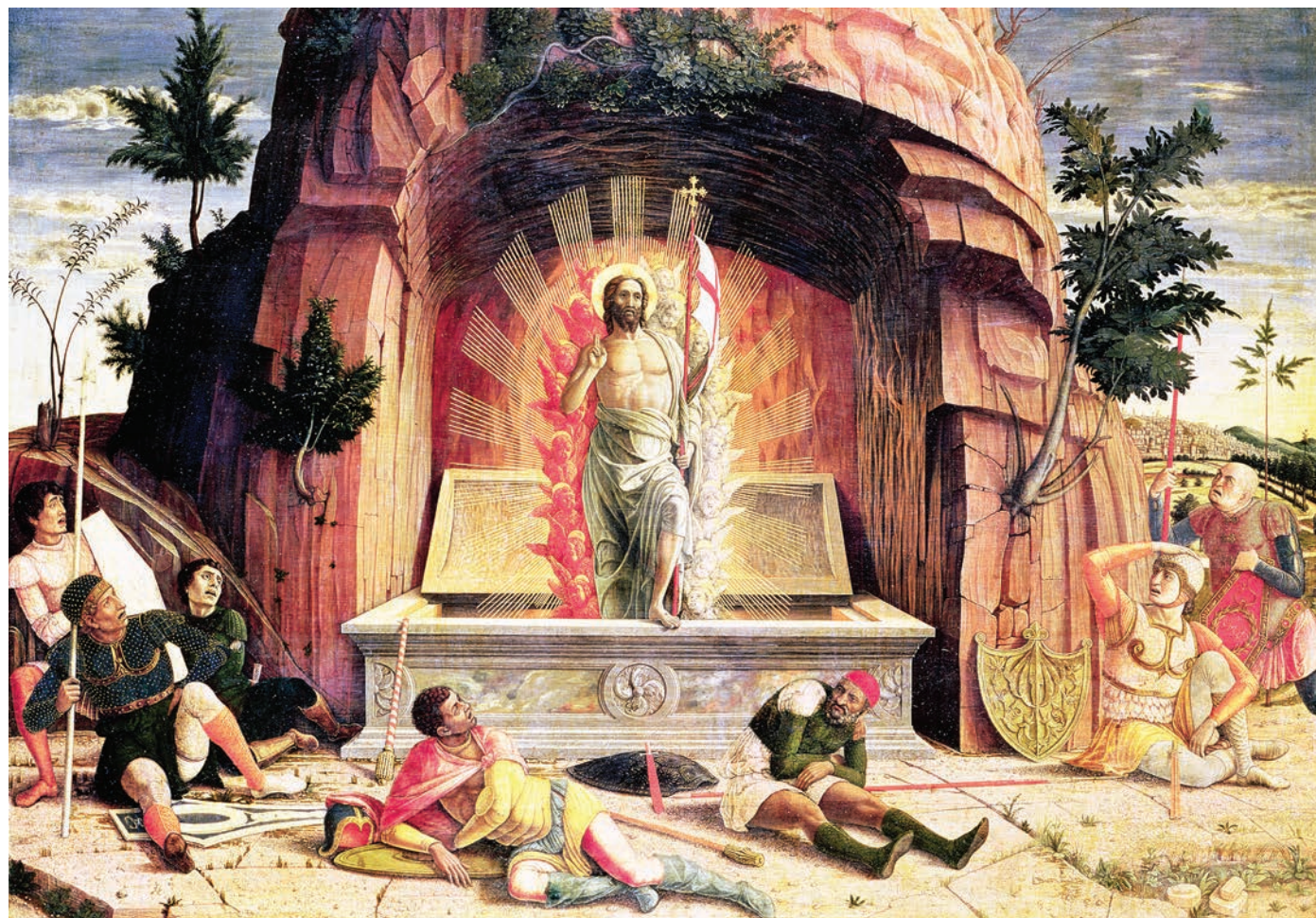
Scattering seeds . . . Pages 12-13

The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

April 2, 2021 • Vol. 64 No. 20

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Christ's victory over death brings joy to all nations



This 15th-century painting from the Royal Library of Turin in Italy shows an empty tomb depicting the Resurrection. Easter, the chief feast in the liturgical calendars of all Christian churches, commemorates Christ's resurrection from the dead.

— CNS photo/Bridgeman Images

Bishop at Chrism Mass: Powerful anointing needed for the people, mission of the diocese

By Jay Nies

Jesus preached and taught with power and authority because as the Messiah — God's Anointed One — He was filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

So are the people He came to save.

"My brothers and sisters in Christ," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, "we, too, have been anointed with the power of the Holy Spirit. We have been consecrated to continue the mission of Jesus to 'bring glad tidings to the poor,'" (Luke 4:18).

Bishop McKnight presided and preached the homily at the Chrism Mass the morning of March 30, the Tuesday of Holy Week.

There, in anticipation of Holy Thursday, he blessed all the sacramental oils and consecrated the Sacred Chrism that will be used in administering the sacraments throughout the dio-

cese this year.

With him at the altar were priests of the diocese and Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos, all of whom joined him in renewing the promises they made at their priestly ordinations.

Honored jubilarians included: Father Clarence E. Wiederholt, who noted his 65th priestly anniversary last year; Father Patrick Dolan and Father John Groner, who are observing their 50th priestly anniversaries this year; Father Gerald Kaimann and Father Michael Quinn, who noted their 50th priestly anniversaries last year; Father Mark Smith, who is observing his 25th priestly anniversary this year; and Father Christopher Cordes and Father William Debo, who noted their 25th priestly anniversaries last year.

See CHRISM MASS, page 15

By Jay Nies

Celebrating Easter taps into the universal human longing for joy and resurrection to win out over sadness, fear and death.

And whether proclaimed in Latin, English, Hindi, Swahili or any other language of dialect, the angel's words, "He is risen, just as He said!" (Matthew 28:6) animate the soul and turn hope into reality.

This is true throughout the world, with the Church's Holy Week and Easter celebrations sending powerful waves through every nation and culture.

Here are some examples from nations represented among priests serving in the Jefferson City diocese:

Out in the open

Public reenactments of Jesus's triumphant arrival in Jerusalem set off the Holy Week and Easter observances in Ghana, with sweet Hosannas ringing through every city and town.

The weather is generally mild, so the liturgies for Palm Sunday and Good Friday usually start outside the church and move inside, according to Father Henry Ussher.

Fr. Ussher, administrator of St. Clement Parish in St. Clement, Sacred Heart Parish in Vandalia and the Mission of St. John in Laddonia, is a priest of the Diocese of Wiawso, Ghana.

He said the people in his part of Ghana gather on Palm Sunday in the center of town or in a large open area on the outskirts.

Priests or catechists distribute blessed palms and then lead the congregants in procession through the main street of the town.

The people sing "Hosanna to the King!" accompanied by traditional

See EASTER JOY, page 14

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

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OLD PARISH _____

04/02/21

Fr. Tolton Celebration Mass in Columbia

DATE: April 18
TIME: 11 am

Deacon William Seibert, who assists the pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, will preach the homily at the Fr. Tolton Legacy Society's sixth annual Fr. Tolton Celebration Mass

It will be at 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 18, in the St. Thomas More Newman Center Chapel, 602 Turner Ave. in Columbia.

The event honors the diversity of one of God's faithful servants, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, who went from a childhood of slavery in Missouri to becoming the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

A guest vocalist and instrumentalist will lead the singing.

Chamois, Morrison Mass times

Beginning April 10-11, Saturday Vigil Masses will be offered at 6 p.m. in Most Pure Heart of Mary Church in Chamois.

The 8 a.m. Sunday morning Mass will be at Assumption Church in Morrison.

cathmo.com

The Catholic Missourian

Official newspaper — Diocese of Jefferson City
Mailing address: 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Phone: 573-635-9127

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

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
Publisher

Helen Osman, Dir. of Diocesan Communications
hosman@diojeffcity.org

Jay Nies, Editor
editor@diojeffcity.org

Kelly Martin, Advertising
advertize@diojeffcity.org

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Pray for deceased priests

Apr. 7 — **Fr. Robert J. Chenoweth**, St. Louis (2003)
Apr. 8 — **Fr. Bernard H. Mers**, Holy Guardian Angels, Brinktown (1984); **Fr. Richard Cronin**, Immaculate Conception, Loose Creek (2019)
Apr. 10 — **Fr. William F. Flanagan**, Holy Rosary, Monroe City and St. Stephen, Indian Creek (2014)
Apr. 15 — **Fr. Edwin A. Schmidt**, St. Martin, St. Martins (2017)
Apr. 17 — **Fr. Blase J. Scheffer**, Annunciation, California (1969)

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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Immaculate Conception School, Jefferson City, MO

Principal - Helias Catholic High School



Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City, Mo., a four-year co-educational diocesan high school serving more than 750 students, is seeking a dynamic, mission-driven leader to become its next Principal.

Helias Catholic has a solid college preparatory track, enhanced by an Accommodation Program, to address the unique learning requirements of students with special needs.

The Principal collaborates with the school President in decisions pertaining to school facilities, marketing, and community relations. The Principal is directly responsible to the School President and the Superintendent of Catholic Schools. The ideal candidate is a practicing Catholic who is a proficient and organized administrator with strong skills in faculty development, evaluation and management; a minimum five years teaching experience and two years administrative experience; master's degree in Educational Administration; Missouri Administrator Certification; and Catechetical Certification.

Candidate is expected to assume the responsibilities of the position in July 2021. To apply, visit diojeffcity.org/employment-opportunities-in-our-catholic-schools.

Assistant Principal Needed



Sacred Heart School is a Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade Catholic school located in Sedalia, Mo. Established in 1882, our vision is to provide Extraordinary Catholic Education, Through Christ, For All. Sacred Heart School offers a high-quality Catholic education to willing students of all faiths and economic backgrounds.

The school is seeking a highly effective Assistant Principal for the 2021-2022 academic year to assist in driving change and continuing to build our academic culture. The selected candidate will have a proven track record of increasing and accelerating student achievement, evaluating and implementing effective curriculum, and will be prepared to lead students, staff, and the community toward success.

The Assistant Principal is part of a three-person leadership team, with the School President, Principal, and Assistant Principal collaborating in a comprehensive educational agenda. Some teaching responsibilities (not to exceed 3 hours per day) will accompany this position.

Candidates must be active practicing Catholics. Letters of application and resumes should be directed to Dr. Mark Register at mregister@gogremlins.com.

President - Helias Catholic High School



Since 1956, Helias High School in Jefferson City, Missouri has been committed to excellence in Catholic education. The successful candidate for President of Helias Catholic High School will be passionate in advancing the mission of Catholic education, by delivering excellence through the school's spiritual, academic and co-curricular activities. Experience in business financial management and confidence in leading the school's philanthropic efforts will be essential. The President leverages external and internal influence for the long-term viability of the school. The President serves on and is supported by an Advisory Council and reports directly to the Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

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.

Gilded cross lifted high onto historical St. Peter Church in J.C.

By Jay Nies

The crowd's spontaneous reaction was much like that of the Solar Eclipse in the summer of 2017.

People cheered and gazed up in wonder and delight as workers lifted St. Peter Church's gilded new steeple cross into place and it began reflecting the radiant sunlight.

The old rugged cross that had stood atop the 150-foot-tall steeple since 1883 was damaged beyond repair in a hailstorm a year ago.

The new cross is part of an extensive restoration of the church's roof and the weather-worn stonework capping the 138-year-old walls and bell tower.

Hundreds of spectators, including the students and teachers of St. Peter Inter-parish School, gathered on the South Lawn of the nearby State Capitol to watch the festivities.

It was March 29, the Monday of Holy Week.

Joining them were lifelong St. Peter parishioner Edith Vogel, who donated the money to have the cross gilded in 24-karat gold, giving it remarkable power to capture sunlight.

Fr. Secrist blessed the cross with holy water and addressed the people from the steps of St. Peter Church.

Also present were Jeff Castle of Renaissance Roofing, Missouri Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe, Jefferson City Mayor Carrie Tergin, and Brad Copeland, diocesan director of building and properties.

Fr. Secrist said they weren't there to "put up a decoration" but to give prominent witness to the preeminent sign of God's mercy.

"As we look upon the cross, let us call to mind that on it, Christ brought to completion the sacrament of His love for the Church," Fr. Secrist stated.

He prayed for God to send down His blessing on the new cross.

"May the cross be our comfort in trouble, our refuge in the face of danger, our safeguard to life's journey, until You welcome us into our heavenly home," he prayed.

He asked God to help everyone who passes by "grasp the mystery of the cross more clearly and experience its power more deeply."

"As we venerate the cross, let us reflect that we ourselves as Christ's disciples must follow Him, willingly taking up our cross each day," Fr. Secrist



Father Jeremy Secrist blesses with holy water the new steeple cross at St. Peter Church in Jefferson City before it is lifted into place on March 29.

which could be heard outside as the crane operator began lifting the cross into place.

Truly timeless

The cross and its copper pedestal are a little taller than their successors.

The cross-raising took place on what would have been the 104th birthday of Miss Vogel's mother, the late Rose Mary Vogel.

Jefferson City artist and historian Jim Dyke noted on Facebook that Miss Vogel is the great-great-granddaughter of G.H. Dulle, whose home still stands at 800 St. Mary's Blvd., overlooking downtown Jefferson City.

Mr. Dulle donated the 800,000 bricks to build the

See CROSS, page 18



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

The following appointments are tentative, depending on the pandemic.

APRIL

- 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. 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
- Apr. 10** Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, 10 am, Virtual
- Apr. 11** Confirmation Mass, Immaculate Conception Parish, 2 pm, Jefferson City
- Apr. 13** Very Reverend Deans Meeting, 11 am, Catholic Center, Jefferson City; Presbyteral Council Meeting, 1 pm, Catholic Center, Jefferson City; Confirmation Ceremony, Holy Family Parish, Hannibal and St. Joseph Parish, Palmyra, 6:30 pm, Holy Family Church, Hannibal
- Apr. 14** Helias Board of Directors Meeting, 10 am, Catholic Center, Jefferson City; Confirmation Ceremony, St. Aloysius Parish, Argyle, Visitation Parish, Vienna, Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Brinktown, and St. Boniface Chapel, Koelztown, 6:30 pm, St. Aloysius Church, Argyle
- Apr. 15** Priests Mutual Benefit Society Meeting, 1 pm, Catholic Center, Jefferson City; Confirmation Ceremony, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, St. Thomas and St. Cecilia Parish, Meta, 6:30 pm, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, St. Thomas
- Apr. 17** Confirmation Mass, Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, 5:30 pm, Jefferson City
- Apr. 18** Confirmation Mass, St. Andrew Parish, 9:30 am, Holts Summit; Confirmation Mass, Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, 2 pm, Jefferson City
- Apr. 20** Priests' Personnel Board Meeting, 2 pm, Catholic Center, Jefferson City; Confirmation Ceremony, St. Francis Xavier Parish, 6:30 pm, Taos
- Apr. 21** National Association of Diaconate Directors Annual Conference, Keynote Address, 10 am, St. Louis; Confirmation Ceremony, St. Martin Parish, 6:30 pm, St. Martins
- Apr. 22** Finance Council Meeting, 11 am, Catholic Center, Jefferson City; Confirmation Ceremony, Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Lake Ozark, and the Mission of St. Philip Benizi, 6:30 pm, Our Lady of the Lake Church, Lake Ozark

prayed.

Parish Music Director Lisa Fender played a triumphant rendition of "Lift High the Cross" on the church's organ,

Bishop McKnight's April prayer intention for our Local Church

Let us pray for a renewed understanding of our baptismal dignity as sons and daughters of God the Father, and a commitment to living in peace with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

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

Oremos por una renovación de nuestro entendimiento de nuestra dignidad bautismal como hijos e hija de Dios Padre y por nuestro compromiso de vivir en paz con nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Cristo.

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

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.

Photos from this event will be posted in *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition, cathmo.com. Select "Photo Galleries" from the "Multimedia" tab on the menu bar.

Survivor of clerical sex-abuse believes now is a great evangelical moment for the Church

By Jay Nies

"I'm convinced that there's a lot more hope than people dare to feel."

Teresa Pitt Green spoke of experiencing unbridled Easter joy despite her own history of sex-abuse as a child by agents of the Church.

"If I can turn all the suffering and darkness of my life into a testimony that even in that place, Jesus was there and Jesus heals me, then that's not such a bad way to use having been abused," said Ms. Pitt Green.

She is cofounder of Spirit Fire, a Christian Restorative Justice initiative and fellowship of survivors of abuse in the Church.

People who associate with Spirit Fire call themselves survivors and friends.

They find healing by integrating their therapies with their efforts to grow in their relationship with God. They share wisdom, experience and faith with all others who are seeking healing, growth and reconciliation.

They work with Church

leaders to deepen pastoral care for survivors, their family members and all Catholics, including priests, deacons, consecrated and religious persons.

"There is simply no darkness where you're not going to find light," Ms. Pitt Green insisted. "Not because there's a lamp, but because of Jesus."

She and the other Spirit Fire survivors are committed to holding the entire Church — hierarchy, clergy and laity — accountable for protecting its most vulnerable people, and for tragic failures to do so in the past.

"Anger isn't a bad thing as long as you don't let it define you," she said.

Survivors and friends are also committed to helping all Catholics — priests, laypeople, victims and bystanders — find healing and reconciliation in this life and the fullness thereof in the next.

"Even after His resurrection, Jesus still had His wounds," Ms. Pitt Green noted. "We also still have our wounds, but they are different — transformed by

the new life that He offers us after His own suffering."

"I don't have to wait until eternity for that," she said. "I can have that now!"

"Can't go back"

Ms. Pitt Green grew up in a devout, Irish-Catholic family in the Northeast.

Her mother started working in the parish rectory when young Teresa was 5 or 6.

Her father drove 40 miles each day so she could attend a Catholic school.

The family regularly entertained priests as guests in their home.

The couple had no idea that priests they knew and trusted were abusing their daughter.

"I had no safe place," she recalled.

She wasn't abused every day, "but once you're under the spell of being intimidated and dominated, you spend your life in that time between each instance of abuse."

The trauma affected her physically, emotionally and spiritually. Symptoms of what is now known as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) persist to this day.

She took to reading poetry and literature by World War I veterans who had found words to describe a life permanently altered by trauma.

She read and reread *Night*, Elie Weisel's haunting memoir of his time in Nazi concentration camps during World War II.

"I got to where I could recite whole pages of it," she said.

She finally left home at age 19, losing access to her parents and everyone she knew, and never returned.

"Something that is"

She wandered around New York City for a number of years, trying various group programs and forms of alternative medicine, searching in vain for

someone or something to make the pain go away.

"I knew I needed a savior," she

"At least I felt that I could be close to the Eucharist," she said.

The lingering trauma affected her career, because she couldn't bear to be in a room with anyone who had power over her.

Her health suffered.

At age 25, still thinking the abuse was her fault, she turned to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and confessed everything to a priest.

"He would have none of that!" she recalled. "He said, 'What happened to you is not a sin on your part. Now let's talk about getting you the help you need.'"

"He's the judge"

That desperately needed affirmation set her on a grueling road to healing.

"I had to realize I'm innocent but that I'm still accountable for how I manage this," she stated.

She eventually went about reconciling with her family.

"You can't go back to the old relationships," she noted. "Those are busted. They're gone."

Rather, they worked to create new relationships, "and our lives are now so much richer for our having done that," she said.

She acknowledged that a survivor's journey is never easy.

"Healing, itself, hurts," she said.

"You spend your lifetime with this," she added. "One of the reasons I can be happy is that I've accepted I will always feel the pain I feel. I just have to manage it."

She emphasized that everyone is different, and there's no set timetable for healing.

"If I could be over it by now, you better believe I would be," she said.

She pointed out that the peace she has found has not come from forgiving her abusers — something she's still working on.

"Rather, I've survived by turning it over to Jesus," she

noted. "And there's only one Savior."

Being separated from the Church hurt deeply.

"Through all those terrible years, at Mass every week, even with my abusers saying (the Mass), I knew the Eucharist was real," she said.

While wandering, she would spend time alone with the Most Blessed Sacrament.

"I remember just sitting for hours in Adoration," she said. "It was the only safety I knew."

She believes that anyone who doesn't "get" the Eucharist is missing out.

"It's not something we believe; it's something that is," she said. "You either get it or you don't, but it doesn't need us to believe for it to be."

She would return to Mass many times over the years, only to leave again. Her therapist viewed this as a "repetition complex" — a failure to heal.

"She wanted me to stop going to Mass," Ms. Pitt Green said. "I knew it was really painful, yet I was still drawn there."

One Sunday morning, she sat in her car on the church parking lot, with a Sunday Missal and two dogs — "a companion dog and an attack dog."



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See SPIRIT FIRE, page 23

Journey of Faith: saying 'yes' to life and to so much more

A version of this article was originally published in the January 2021 edition of Columbia, magazine of the Knights of Columbus.

By Jay Nies

Faith received Holy Communion, returned to her pew and tried to settle her soul.

God had revealed that becoming Catholic would bring her closer not only to Him but to the man she would marry.

"It's been a few months," she prayed silently, "and I have yet to meet my husband."

Her little boy was fidgeting. A young man who had seen Faith launch from reluctant pregnancy into radiant motherhood offered to take him to the back of church so she could receive Holy Communion in peace.

After Mass, she found them both kneeling and praying in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

"I saw it as a miracle moment," she recalled. "My son never behaved this way."

Joe and Jane Dalton, directors of the Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) of Rolla had been like parents to Faith, helping her embrace life for little Noah and a hopeful future for herself.

In due time, they had also sponsored her and Noah into the Catholic Church.

Gabe is Joe and Jane's son.

"I'd sat next to Gabe so many times at Mass," Faith recalled. "My eyes were suddenly open and I knew he was the one."

Truth to power

Almost four years ago, Faith was engaged to be married when she found out she was pregnant.

Still in college but nonetheless excited to be a mother, she came to the PRC for a free ultrasound.

The not-for-profit center, founded by members of Knights of Columbus St. Patrick Council 2627 in Rolla, offers a wide range of services to women who are pregnant and in crisis or need.

She came back about two weeks later, crestfallen. Her fiancé had broken up with her because she insisted on giving birth to the baby.

"I felt betrayed, alone, con-

fused, discouraged, hopeless," she recalled.

She was working a low-paying part-time job and had nowhere to live.

Jane Dalton, the PRC's client services director, listened to Faith, then asked her what she wanted.

Faith wanted to give her baby life — and a good one, at that.

She wanted to finish her degree, become financially self-sufficient and raise her baby to have a better life than she had had so far.

Jane told her: "You can, and we can help you."

The Rolla PRC employs certified, professional life-skills coaches who meet one-on-one with each client to help her ask the right questions and make decisions based on her own needs.

"They convinced me I was not alone, that whatever I needed, they would help me get," Faith recounted. "And that's exactly what they did."

There was room for Faith at what is now the PRC Maternity Home, a temporary residence for women who are pregnant and in need of a supportive community.

The staff offers long-term help, structure and life coaching to women who choose life for their babies.

Jane developed the Bridges curriculum to help the PRC clients reach their full potential.

The goal is to break the cycle of poverty by helping them develop the skills and habits necessary to become self-sufficient, and then pass those skills on to their children.

Before long, Faith was excelling in her college studies and soaring through the life-skills program, aptly titled "My Ridiculously Amazing Life."

She finished her degree in 2017, began her career as a cosmetologist and gave birth to Noah.

What's more, she accepted Christ back into her life.

"God really used my crisis to bring me closer to Him," she said. "And He continues to do that."

In January 2019, Faith got an invitation to Washington, D.C., to share her story with federal lawmakers as part of



Joe, Jane, Noah, Faith and Gabe Dalton are members of St. Patrick Parish in Rolla. Faith and Gabe were married June 27, 2020, in St. Patrick Church. Their daughter is due to be born in August.

— Photo by Alyssa Jean Studios

Heartbeat International's Babies Go to Congress event during the March for Life.

There, she met then-Vice President Mike Pence and members of his staff in his office near the White House.

"I got to tell him how I started out as a homeless, pregnant, part-time waitress and went from that to being a mom, a college graduate employed in my field of study with a 401k, and had started a business," she said.

"If that's not a story of God's miraculous way of turning things around, I don't know what is."

Five Catholic bishops blessed her and Noah that day, and a group of Sisters of Life surrounded them and listened in awe to their story.

Faith started recognizing something different about the Catholics around her.

"I noticed that Catholic people forgive and love and give differently from what I learned to live like before," she said.

The Daltons' answers to her questions on the flight back to Missouri gave her peace and clarity.

"What I learned set well with my soul," she said. "I asked God what all of this meant, and

Noah was 2.

As she became close with Joe and Jane, she got to know the rest of the family, including their son Gabe.

Gabe, 21, who had helped her move in, also helped her move to the home they would eventually share as husband and wife.

Both admired each other from afar but knew that a relationship would not be appropriate while Faith was a client of the PRC.

"She later told me she thought I was trying to ignore her," Gabe recalled. "In reality, I was trying not to stare too much."

Gabe completed a welding course and accepted a job in Minnesota.

He came back to visit, "and I saw him in a totally different light," Faith recalled. "He was really mature and had a definite confidence about him."

She didn't want to risk ruining her friendship with his parents, so she patiently prayed and waited.

Finally, confident that she already had God's blessing, she invited Joe and Jane over for Sunday lunch and asked for permission to get to know their son better.

"We were surprised and delighted," Jane recalled.

Gabe called Faith that evening. They went on their first date the following day.

Not long thereafter, Gabe asked Noah for permission to marry his mother.

Noah said yes, and so did Faith.

The couple were united in

See LIFE, page 17



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Cross Catholic Outreach Plans Major Water Projects to Help Poor Families in Ghana, Africa

“We are meant to share God’s love with as many people as we can.... A Christian is not a Christian for himself or herself, but to reach out and share that love, especially to the poor.”

The wise words, delivered by Bishop Richard Kuuia Baawobr of the Diocese of Wa, were ringing in James Cavnar’s ears when his mission team reviewed plans for a major water project to serve struggling families in the community of Sorbelle in northern Ghana, Africa. Like many of the small rural communities in the northern part of that country, Sorbelle’s people were suffering for lack of clean water. [see story on opposite page]

“We had encountered this before, and we understood the terrible impact water scarcity was having in the Diocese of Wa,” said James Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a leading Catholic charity involved in international relief and development work. “Beyond the dangers and hardships people faced collecting water from remote and unreliable sources like old wells and muddy rivers, we were aware contamination was a critical issue. People forced to collect water contaminated with pesticides, animal waste, parasites and other things were getting very sick. Some were at risk of losing their lives.”

Working with the Diocese of Wa, Cavnar’s team sought solutions and developed a concrete plan to provide safe water — something the mission routinely does when it encounters problems like these.

To address the water and sanitation issues plaguing the Diocese of Wa, Cross Catholic Outreach has helped develop a sustainable plan capable of empowering these communities to overcome their challenges. If American Catholics can be inspired to support work — and Cavnar is working to generate those donations

now — Cross Catholic Outreach intends to finance the labor and materials necessary to install wells, build sanitation blocks and provide vital training to equip communities for greater self-sustenance.

“The professionally dug and equipped wells are obviously a critical part of this project because they will create a dramatic improvement in the lives of the people,” Cavnar said. “These poor families have been scrambling to get water from either shallow, unproductive boreholes or natural water sources like ponds and streams. By conducting geological surveys and drilling between 60 and 80 meters into the earth with professional rigs, we can ensure these wells provide an abundant source of safe, clean water for years to come. That’s where this outreach starts.”

In addition to meeting families’ daily needs, these wells will also provide enough water for schools and other vital facilities. For example, 297 students at Nasato Primary School will finally be able to access water during their school day, and a new mechanized well in Funsu, Ghana, will help serve St. John’s Health Clinic. At present, nurses and orderlies must leave work to gather water from their homes or distant boreholes so patients can take their medication. The gift of a new well will make it much easier for them to provide quality care.

According to Cavnar, this project will yield major benefits in community sanitation too.

“In this case, we’ll be replacing crumbling pit latrines with more modern facilities, in part to protect the wells from contamination. These sources of clean water might otherwise be at risk,” he said. “Some remote communities in rural Ghana are still practicing open defecation or using crumbling latrines that can contaminate the environment and serve



Women in Babile, Ghana, gather water at a shallow well. It does not provide enough water for their community, and the last families in line often collect brown water from the bottom of the well. A new hand-pump well would help resolve these issues.

as a breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes. With support from American Catholics, we can provide the materials needed to build sanitary latrines. This will help restore health and dignity, as well as empower community members to protect the integrity of their water supply. As before, the location of these facilities will directly benefit other Catholic mission programs too. For example, the sanitation block in Yezu Tang will serve both the local community and a Catholic youth retreat center intended for critical faith formation.”

Now that the project has been identified and the plan to handle its technical challenges has been addressed, Cross Catholic Outreach will be undertaking its U.S. fundraising drive to fund the important work. It is an appeal Cavnar is confident American Catholics will eagerly embrace, as they have in the past.

“Most people are eager to help the poor is they know their gift will have a tangible and meaningful impact,” he said, “and that is the case here. Every gift, large or small, will make a big difference, blessing the poor, transforming their lives for the better.”

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach water projects and other outreaches to the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01649, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner or write “Monthly Mission Partner” on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.

Cross Catholic Outreach Endorsed by More Than 100 Bishops, Archbishops

Cross Catholic Outreach’s range of relief work to help the poor overseas continues to be recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

“We’ve received more than 100 endorsements from bishops and archbishops,” explained James Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. “They’re moved by the fact that we’ve launched outreaches in almost 40 countries and have undertaken a variety of projects — everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless

to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor. The bishops have also been impressed by Cross Catholic Outreach’s direct and meaningful responses to emergency situations, most recently by providing food, medicines and other resources to partners in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala impacted by natural disasters.”

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, supports this mission. He writes, “What a joy it is to

be part of the Lord’s redemptive work and to manifest his mercy on earth by caring for our neighbors in need.”

In addition to praising CCO’s accomplishments, many of the bishops and archbishops are encouraged that pontifical canonical status was conferred on the charity in September 2015, granting it approval as an official Catholic organization. This allows CCO to participate in the mission of the Church and to give a concrete witness to Gospel charity, in collaboration with the

Holy Father.

“Your work with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is a strong endorsement of your partnership with the work of the Universal Church,” Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco said. “By providing hope to the faithful overseas by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, delivering medical relief to the sick and shelter to the homeless, and through self-help projects, you are embodying the papal encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Families Suffer Effects of Water Scarcity in Africa — But Church Seeks to Help End Crisis

Alice Basin is a secondary school student in Sorbelle, a small community situated within the Diocese of Wa in Ghana, Africa. Each day, she is tasked with making sure there is enough water for her family to drink and for cooking and cleaning. She checks the supply regularly, and when the container's level drops low, Alice faces a second daunting chore: She must collect more.

While there is a well about 45 minutes from Alice's home, obtaining and transporting the water her family needs is much more challenging than it may seem. Lines of women and girls typically are long and form early, so she must be prepared to leave home at 5 a.m. if she is to get the water that she will need for the day. Even then, the process could take several hours, meaning she would likely miss school.

On this day, she chooses a different option — to visit a nearby dam with a reservoir that is easier to access, but is

to school because of the water," Alice states decidedly. "Any time that I use for [collecting] water, I would rather use to study my books."

In addition to this burden of lost time, other difficulties and dangers arise. Snakes and scorpions sometimes bite villagers as they collect water at the dam.

"I think most Americans would be shocked to learn what these people go through to obtain a single bucket of well or river water, and they would be even more appalled to discover how unsafe that water is for them to drink. What they collect is often filthy, but they drink it anyway because they have no other option. Water is essential to life, and they can't survive without it," confirmed James Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a major Catholic development ministry working to find solutions to water scarcity issues like these in Africa. "It's most tragic when the tainted water causes the children to get sick. That only



Alice is tasked with collecting water for her family in Ghana, Africa. Not only is this task challenging, but it also has serious medical risks because the water she and most other families rely on is often contaminated.



also known to contain contaminants. Saving time, but risking her family's health, she collects that murky water, praying it will not make her family sick.

"The water from the dam, as we all know, is not good," Alice admitted. "It is yellow, but we have nothing else to do than to fetch it like that."

Water is surprisingly heavy, so in order to collect enough water for her family to drink, and for cooking and bathing, Alice must sometimes walk to the dam three or more times in one day. Alice often feels that she is spending her entire day on water collection, and she dreams of what she could accomplish if the task were easier.

"If I'm not to fetch water, I will use that time to be reading my books because there are some days I didn't go

adds to their misery."

In Alice's case, there is hope, thanks in part to Cross Catholic Outreach's partnerships with local Catholic leaders to provide a more reliable source of safe water. In the Diocese of Wa in Ghana, this will mean taking on a large-scale water project with funding from Catholic donors in the U.S. — an approach Cross Catholic Outreach has used successfully in many other parts of the world. [see story on opposite page]

Their plan involves several stages, but the first will install four hand-pump wells and one mechanized well in the Diocese of Wa and four hand-pump wells in the Diocese of Karonga. These wells in Wa will serve 3,714 people living in 10 communities, while the two smaller communities in Karonga will share one well.

"The impact of this project will be dramatic, forever changing the lives of girls like Alice and blessing her family with better health for years to come," Cavnar said. "It will be a challenging task, but we know it can be achieved if Catholic donors in the U.S. will join us in funding the work. Church leaders in the Diocese of Wa are eager to get this project underway, so we're making a big push for public support and funding right now."

Those who do contribute, Cavnar said,

will know the joy of making a major, tangible and specific change in people's lives.

"Giving to a project like this can be incredibly satisfying, because you know exactly what your gift is doing — it is transforming the lives of families in a significant way," he said. "I'm sure many of us feel blessed by God to have sufficient food, shelter and safe water in our own lives. This is our chance to give back, to provide for the poor."

How to Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach's effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01649, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

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



QUESTION CORNER

**Burial in non-Catholic cemetery/
Anxious as death draws near**

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Q. Years ago, my parents purchased burial plots for my family in the local small-town cemetery where we lived. My family is not Catholic, and I wasn't at that time either — so the cemetery is Christian, but not Catholic. I have since happily converted to Catholicism and am wondering if there is a way I can still use my plot. Can it be blessed by a Catholic priest (or whatever ritual is required)? I would prefer to be buried with the rest of my family if at all possible and not have to purchase a plot in a Catholic cemetery. (Wichita, Kansas)

A. Not to worry. You can be buried in your family plot, even though it is not in a Catholic cemetery. And you should be; I can imagine that your relatives might well be offended if you were to choose otherwise, and the Church has no interest in separating families at death.

The *Code of Canon Law*, in fact, speaks directly to your question. Canon 1180 says, "Everyone ... is permitted to choose the cemetery of burial."

As your question suggests, when a Catholic is interred in a non-Catholic plot, the priest who officiates at the committal says a prayer, which blesses that gravesite and reads in part: "Lord Jesus Christ, by Your own three days in the tomb, You hallowed the graves of all who believe in You and so made the grave a sign of hope that promises resurrection even as it claims our mortal bodies."

If given the choice, my own preference, of course, would be for a Catholic burial ground so that the deceased would have the benefit of the Masses and prayers offered regularly for those who are buried there — but there is no Church rule that requires this.

In your own case, I think that staying with your family's choice ensures that your loved ones will visit your grave regularly, take care of it and continue to remember you in prayer.

Q. I was a fallen-away Catholic for 20 years, but I finally made it to confession. I had been unfaithful to my marriage, and my question is this: How can God forgive me for so much sin, and did I tell the priest everything that I should have told him when I went to confession? I am nearing death now, and I have a lot of concerns. (Louisville, Kentucky)

A. I've found one of the hardest challenges in the Priesthood is to convince people that God loves them. And yet the testimony to that is spread broadly across the pages of the Scriptures.

It happened that, on the day I opened your letter, the Gospel reading for that morning's Mass (Matthew 7:7-12) had been the passage where Jesus invites us to "ask and it will be given to you." In those same verses, Matthew compares it to asking your father for some bread.

What father, says Matthew, would give his son a stone instead — and think how much more God loves you! St. Peter tells us in his first letter (2:9) that we are "a chosen race ... a people of His own," and John's Gospel (3:16) says that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life."

So there's no need to fear. God created us out of love. He

See FR. DOYLE, page 17

**Papal
Audience
March 31, 2021**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Tomorrow, we begin the Easter Triduum and our celebration of the saving mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. On Maundy Thursday, in the Mass of the Lord's Supper, we commemorate Christ's washing the disciples' feet, His new commandment of love, and His institution of the Eucharist as the abiding memorial of the sacrifice of His Body and Blood for the salvation of all. On Good Friday, we celebrate Jesus' redemptive sufferings and death through the solemn reading of the Passion, the Universal Prayer offered for the needs of the Church and the world, and the veneration of the wood of the cross. In this way, we bring before the crucified Lord our suffering brothers and sisters, and all victims of war, violence and injustice. On Holy Saturday, a day of profound silence, we join Mary in her sorrow at her Son's death, and her trusting expectation of the fulfilment of God's promises. At the Easter Vigil, the light of the paschal candle and solemn chant of the Alleluia joyfully announce Christ's victory over sin and death. In this time of pandemic, may our celebration of the paschal mystery proclaim the cross of Christ as a light shining in the darkness and an enduring sign of hope in God's promise of new life.

I cordially greet the English-speaking faithful. May this Holy Week lead us to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with hearts purified and renewed by the grace of the Holy Spirit. God bless you!

**Walking through the pandemic,
toward the peace of the resurrection**

The following reflection is by a fifth-generation member of the Mission of Sacred Heart in Bevier. Diagnosed with autism at age 9, he communicates solely through writing.

By Antonio Edward Adams
Prokup

Walking through the year 2020 for most of us was a struggle, and most people considered this an extreme inconvenience. Some of us even felt it was an infringement on our rights as free citizens of this country.

I personally had a different experience. My family is involved in everything and always on the go.

During the pandemic, we were, of course, forced to take things slowly, enjoy the solitude of outside activities, and appreciate each other just a little bit more.

I have sat many hours wondering what God wanted us to derive from these "hardships," and I have come up with a few possibilities.

During the pandemic, we discovered material possessions and money have little importance toward gaining happiness.

Because so many of us were denied the opportunity to see our loved ones, especially those in the nursing homes, we realized how much our families mean to us.

We ached to be in their presence and prayed for the day we would be united. Those family ties can never and should never be taken for granted, and just maybe we have learned that over this past year.

Secondly, we as a family, community, coun-



Antonio Prokup visits the Mission of Sacred Heart in Bevier.

— Photo by Janet Prokup

try and world started thinking of and praying for each other just a little bit more.

Because all of us found ourselves on common ground, we were connected. We were aware of and prayed for the people all over the world suffering from this terrible virus.

We, for once in our lives, were thinking of others in not only our daily thoughts but in every waking moment.

Do you think God was telling us something?

And lastly, I believe we learned how badly we need our Church family and the privilege of attending Mass.

Yes, it is a privilege we should never cast away lightly. The Church community and daily or weekly Masses keep us connected and grounded in our faith.

Luckily, with today's technology, we were all given the opportunity to participate in Mass from our home, but the actual feeling of community was lost.

So, what have we learned from this past year of pandemic?

I have learned to love. Love my family, others, and my Church with a love of gratitude. To be without each of these in my life would be a real tragedy.

At this time during Holy Week, we are walking with Jesus through His experiences when He was on this earth.

His journey led to a Heavenly peace.

My wish for us is that this past year will lead us that much closer to our peace.

The Easter explosion

By George Weigel



Let me adapt to recent circumstances a thought-experiment theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar proposed decades ago:

Imagine that a friend contracts a severe case of COVID-19 and medicine can do no more for him. The doctors inform his widowed mother and us, so we gather with her for the final scene in the drama of this life. The ventilator is removed; the man grows weaker from lack of breath and whispers his final farewells. We hear the death-rattle. Then he expires and takes on the pallor of death.

The mortician prepares the body for burial. With appropriate prayers, we consign our friend to the earth and, taking a cue from our Jewish friends, toss a clod of earth onto his coffin as it lies deep in the open grave. The grave is then closed and we leave for our homes, saddened, perhaps a bit disoriented, re-

membering our friend's past and unsure about our own futures.

Then two days later, our friend suddenly stands before us, like one just returned from a brief but important journey. He greets us by name. Physical barriers like doors mean nothing to him.

What would happen to us?

We would be stunned, incapable of knowing the appropriate reaction: shock, fear, overwhelming joy? What is happening shatters the boundaries of experience and strains emotion's limits to the breaking point. Reality itself seems to be detonating around us. We wonder: Can this be real? Then our friend shows himself to us again and again, whole and renewed. He explains things as he used to do, eats with us, challenges us to be greater than we typically think we can be. He now seems to live in another dimension of existence — thoroughly human, but radiantly more so.

By placing ourselves imaginatively in that situation today, we begin to get some idea of what the friends of Jesus experienced on Easter Sunday and in the period between that explosive day and

His leave-taking, 40 days later. But there is more. For slowly and haltingly, those who met the Risen One, and those who believed what His closest friends said about Him, came to understand that the now transfigured Rabbi Jesus of Nazareth "truly was the Son of God" (Mark 15:39).

A man had returned from a journey to the realm of the dead. Death, relentless in its finality, no longer had the last word about the human condition. What God had had in mind for humanity "in the beginning" (Genesis 1:1) had been reclaimed by the Son of God for all who believed in Him and bound themselves to His cause.

So history now seemed quite different to those first believers. History was no longer an arena of ultimate personal defeat. History, and our personal stories, they came to understand, played to a divine melody: everlasting communion with the Creator, disclosed in the Resurrection.

What happened on Easter Sunday was the most explosive experience in human history, shattering all previous expectations of human destiny. Before Easter, some of the philosophically inclined imagined an immortal human soul; certain Jews expected what they called the resurrection of the dead at the end of history. But no one expected *this*. For the Risen One was not a disembodied spirit ("...handle me and see, for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see I have" (Luke 23:39)), and the Risen One was alive *in* history, such that history continued in a transformed key.

The first witnesses to the Resurrection were all Jewish and the dramatic ways in which these early Christians changed bear eloquent witness to the explosive nature of their experience of the Risen One. The Sabbath had been sacrosanct; now there was a new "Lord's Day," the Day of Resurrection. They once expect-

See WEIGEL, page 19

Imbibing in awe

By Father Eugene Hemerick
Catholic News Service



Spring's awesomeness has arrived. In Washington, D.C., forsythia, daffodils and tulips adorn front yards, with azaleas and dogwoods to follow.

The stunning colors are splendid, and equally marvelous is experiencing Mother Nature give birth and dormant soil produce life.

Synonyms for "awesome" are "amazing," "astonishing," "breathtaking" and "remarkable." Within each of these concepts is the spirit of standing in the presence of wonderment. What is the cause of this awesomeness ultimately?

It is God, Who is goodness, beauty and truth.

In Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees," he celebrates God's amazing creation of the tree:

"A tree that looks at God all day/
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;/ A tree that may in summer wear/ A nest of robins in her hair;/ Upon whose bosom snow has lain;/ Who intimately lives with rain./ Poems are made by fools like me,/ But only God can make a tree."

Inspiring thoughts like this reveal life's better side. Why is it then that many of today's people do not enjoy real awe, a feeling that radiates with the heavenly?

One reason is we live in a technical, secular culture in which a sense of being God's creature living in God's awesome creation is missing. A sense that we are a holy creation of God and are surrounded by God's astonishing creation is absent.

It is true that people experience awesomeness, but often it is superficial ersatz emotion — excitement, that, though momentarily strong, is neither fruitful nor lasting. Take for example, movies filled with awesome feats and tender love that quickly fade once the sensations die. How then is lasting, godly awesome cultivated?

In German, "*wahrnehmen*" means to receive the truth — to receive into oneself, to submit to the influence of things, to place oneself within their grasp, to see and perceive.

In the Canticle of Daniel, we are invited to practice "*wahrnehmen*": "Everything growing on earth, bless the Lord. ... Seas and rivers, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever."

The awesome list of God's creations invites us to enter into God's awesomeness, to grasp it and submit to how blessed we are to participate in it, to experience awesome holiness.

Equally important, when we enter into God's astounding creation, we are elevated to an exhilarating level of wonderment.

Father Eugene Hemerick writes the Catholic News Service column "The Human Side."

REFLECTION

Merciful Shepherd

By Mark Saucier

In his book, *Hope for Judas*, Jesuit Father Christoph Wrembeck has a picture from a 12th-century church in France.

Carved into the block of stone atop one of the towering columns, there are two depictions of Judas Iscariot.

The first shows an agonized Judas hanging himself as the Gospel of Matthew reports. The other is the Good Shepherd, but instead of carrying the lost sheep across His shoulders, Jesus is bearing the body of Judas.

Spending time with that image, one can easily conclude that, more than just a lifeless corpse, it was Judas at peace.

He even had the slightest smile.

I couldn't get that image of Jesus carrying Judas home out of my head. It disturbed me in the old sense of that word — caused confusion, tumult, disorder.

I had always been taught that Judas betrayed Jesus, sold Him out for 30 pieces of silver, and then in despair, killed himself. In one horrible night, he moved from the path of the Lord to the express lane to hell.

But then there is this Good Shepherd. It was a parable in stone that showed the love, the mercy and the endless forgiveness of God more vividly than any lost sheep, lost coin or lost son.

Jesus had to see something in Judas from the very beginning. He chose him as one of the Twelve, and I'd bet it wasn't because the Lord thought he would make a great traitor.

Either Jesus or His fellow disciples selected him to hold the community purse. He must have been trusted.

Certainly, Judas didn't understand the kingdom Jesus announced, but neither did James and John, or any of the others who were concerned about the seating around an earthly throne.

Judas probably saw a messiah like most people did — a temporal king, liberator of the Jews, conqueror of the Romans and ruler of the world.

Jesus wasn't supposed to die. He was the invincible One. Judas just wanted to get the revolution rolling.

He was wrong, dead wrong. He had handed over the man Who called him "Friend." He was haunted by what he had done. Only a rope and a tree could relieve him from the searing grief and remorse.

Then, in the darkness of death, comes his Friend, bursting warm and glorious from His grave. He picks up the body of Judas and gently places it across His saving shoulders and carries him toward the light.

Judas finally understands and smiles in gratitude.

Msgr. Cox speaks of St. Joseph's role in a most unusual family

Also recalls Venerable Fr. Tolton's courageous return to Missouri

By Jay Nies

In some ways, it had to be awkward to be married to the Blessed Mother, who was conceived without sin, and to help her raise Jesus, the Son of God.

"Joseph was the only sinner in the house!" Monsignor David Cox reminded the people of St. Joseph Parish in Edina on their parish feastday.

"He had to rely on God's help to overcome the temptations that all of us are subject to by virtue of our being human," the priest stated. "He was able to do that with great virtue."

Msgr. Cox is pastor of Mary Immaculate Parish in Kirksville and the Mission of St. Rose of Lima in Novinger. He gave a reflection on St. Joseph during a parish holy hour and reconciliation service that coincided with a retreat for confirmation candidates.

Father Simeon Etonu, pastor of the Edina parish, St. John Parish in Memphis and the St. Aloysius Mission in Baring and chaplain of the Kirksville Newman Center, organized the event.

Msgr. Cox's remarks were given in the context of the Church-wide Year of St. Joseph declared by Pope Francis and the fifth anniversary of "The Joy of Love," the pope's apostolic exhortation on love in the family.

"The Holy Family was by no means an ordinary family," Msgr. Cox said of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. "But it was a family united in love."

He preached from the same sanctuary from which Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, a former slave who became the

Roman Catholic Church's first African American priest, preached a sermon on St. Joseph on the same date in 1889.

To do so, Fr. Tolton had to cross back into Missouri, from where he and his family had escaped from slavery when he was a child.

"It was like St. Patrick going back to Ireland! To the people who enslaved him," Msgr. Cox noted. "Only a saint can have that kind of forgiveness in their heart."

Msgr. Cox talked about the intensely personal relationship St. Joseph had as the foster father of Jesus.

"He lived in that house with the Son of God," the priest stated. "And that house would have been filled with holiness and prayer, because of Mary and Joseph being in the presence of God in such a unique way."

"And they would have been



Monsignor David Cox

constantly growing closer to God because of their growing relationship of Jesus — with Him physically present to them, with a human body," said Msgr. Cox.



The rising sun illuminates an image of St. Joseph outside St. Joseph Church in Edina.

— Photo by Ken Mitchell, from the St. Joseph Catholic Church - Edina, MO Facebook page

Drawing on Chapter 2 of Luke's gospel, he spoke of the significance of St. Joseph saying "yes" to God and not being afraid to take Mary as his wife.

"He had to be a man of prayer to do that," said Msgr. Cox. "Mary was with child, and they were not married yet."

Joseph had planned to quietly cancel their betrothal, without exposing her to public shame.

"But he had that dream, and he had to be a man of God to say, 'This is a dream sent by God and not just a happenstance or wishful thinking,'" said Msgr. Cox.

It would have been difficult for Mary to raise Jesus alone, without a provider and protector for the family and a strong role model for Him.

"Because of Mary's 'yes,' the Savior came into the world," said Msgr. Cox. "And because of Joseph's 'yes,' the Savior was able to be raised by a mother and a father."

Scripture does not record any of Joseph's words, but certainly doesn't mean he never spoke.

"We do know of one word he said," said Msgr. Cox. "We know the angel told him through the dream that he was to give the Son of God the name Jesus. So he would have spoken Jesus's name on the eighth day."

More dreams followed, along with more obedience.

"He was always listening, even in his sleep, to the voice of God," said Msgr. Cox.

Joseph was willing to leave everything behind and flee into Egypt and the unknown in order to protect the Son of God and His mother.

Msgr. Cox surmised that Joseph was younger than he is often depicted in classical art.

"The flight into Egypt was a strenuous journey," he noted. "Likewise, I think God would have wanted a strong and vigorous role model for His Son."

In any case, the Holy Family's relationship was unique in all the world.

"Jesus is the Son of God," said Msgr. Cox. "Joseph is not his biological father. Yet, in every other way, Joseph is the father to Jesus. We know that he provided family, provided protection, was the safeguard of the home and taught Jesus a trade."

He was spouse to Mary as well, but in way people do not generally think of.

"They loved each other but

did not have the physical expression of love that most marriages have," said Msgr. Cox. "She remained a virgin and he remained chaste in that relationship."

Msgr. Cox spoke of when Mary and Joseph found the child Jesus among the teachers in the Temple, after searching for Him for three days.

It must have been hard for them to hear Jesus say, "Didn't you know I was to be in My Father's house?"

"Joseph had been a father figure to Him," the priest noted. "But they were aware that He was the Son of God. They both knew the day would come for Jesus to do what God intended Him to do."

That's the last time Joseph is mentioned in Scripture, indicating that he probably died before Jesus began His public ministry.

"Tradition holds that Joseph died in the arms of Mary and Jesus," said Msgr. Cox. "For that reason, he is honored as the patron saint of a happy death."

That moment would have been the crowning of his ultimate "yes" to God.

"And now he's also patron of the Universal Church," said Msgr. Cox. "He's been given the task not only to watch over the Holy Family but out watch over the whole family of the Church."

After Msgr. Cox's reflection, parishioner Natalie Clark sang the song she composed called "Joseph," accompanied on guitar by her father, Jim Clark.

Msgr. Cox and Fr. Etonu then heard people's confessions.

Msgr. Cox said he started to realize that Venerable Fr. Tolton, whom the Church is seriously considering naming a saint, had preached on the same subject, on the same feastday in that same church.

"I was standing in a very holy place where a venerable person stood, on this same day over 120 years ago, likely preaching to the ancestors of some of the people who were in the church with me," he said.

"It was a very humbling experience to be able to do that."

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40 Days for Life founder visits Columbia sidewalk prayer warriors

Shawn Carney applauds sacrificial witness, calls for vigilance, predicts Missouri will be first abortion-free state

By Jay Nies

The soaking rain and splashing cars made everything gray, dingy and uncomfortable.

It was perfect for a sidewalk gathering outside a building where thousands of abortions have taken place.

“The weather reflects the reality of what goes on inside there, which is very cold and very miserable,” said Shawn Carney, co-founder and president of the international 40 Days for Life campaign.

He was speaking to about 60 prayer warriors on the sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood in Columbia on March 23.

“We get to come out here and bring joy and life to a place that otherwise would have no joy and would have no life,” he said.

Abortions are no longer performed at the Columbia facility, but employees there still do abortion referrals for the clinic in Overland Park, Kansas.

“So your prayers are still desperately needed,” Mr. Carney stated.

He lauded the people who spend time in silent prayer and witness on the sidewalk during the spring and fall 40 Days for Life campaigns — and on the days in between.

“There has never been a moment like this in the United States,” he said, “when people who advocate for unrestricted access to abortion seem to be in the highest places in our media and in our government.

“And we need to witness to the world the Heart of Jesus Christ,” he said. “We need to give witness to the joy of His love and His grace in a place that desperately needs His help.”

Mr. Carney pointed out that the worse the weather — the heat of summer, the chill of winter or the deluge of spring — the more powerful the witness.

“The people who work here notice when you’re out here,” he said. “All of those who drive by notice it. And even if no one else notices it, Our Lord



LEFT: Shawn Carney, founder of the international 40 Days for Life campaign, addresses participants in this year’s spring campaign on the sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood during a rainstorm on March 23. He spoke with amazement about local prayer warriors’ faith, commitment and determination. **RIGHT:** An umbrella with the message, “Praying!” stands out from the rest. — Photos by Jay Nies

notices it.”

“We’re not going away”

40 Days for Life is an internationally-coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful, all day presence on the public right-of-way outside abortion businesses.

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

Mr. Carney helped organize and took part in the first ever 40 Days for Life campaign outside Planned Parenthood in College Station, Texas.

In the 17 years since then, the movement has grown to 963 cities around the world.

In 2009, the Planned Parenthood employee of the year and manager of the College Station abortion clinic left her job and became a pro-life advocate.

The College Station clinic eventually closed, making the home of Texas A&M the nation’s largest college city without an abortion provider.

Mr. Carney said that’s an important accomplishment, because an estimated 1 in 4 women have an abortion while in college.

“That’s a statistic that should get us out here in the rain, in the sleet, and in the heat!” he said.

Abby Johnson, the College

Station clinic’s former manager, became the subject of a 2019 motion picture, “Unplanned,” and has spoken at several pro-life events in Missouri.

Mr. Carney recalled hearing Ms. Johnson say that she finally felt comfortable in public places after she left her job at Planned Parenthood.

“That’s because shame and guilt beget shame and guilt,” Mr. Carney asserted. “And no matter how you word it, how you phrase it or what you tell yourself, you cannot justify that which cannot be justified.

“And that’s why, despite nearly five decades of legalized abortion, we are still out here,” he said. “And we are not going away. And we have more resolve in the United States of America than at any other time period in our history.”

“This is America”

Mr. Carney noted that while many in the pro-life movement are frustrated with the state of affairs in Washington, D.C., “America is not Washington, D.C.”

“This is America!” he said. “This is where we live, and where we can control what we do and what our communities look like. We can go out in the rain. We can hold an umbrella, and we pray to end the greatest injustice that has ever come upon American soil.”

He lauded the prophetic leadership of Kathy and Michael Forck, members of St. Andrew Parish in Holts Summit, who have been organizing 40 Days for Life campaigns in Columbia since 2012.



He devotes a chapter in his No. 1 top-rated Christian book, *40 Days for Life, Discover What God Has Done ... Imagine What He Can Do*, to the success of the Columbia campaigns.

“This is my fourth or fifth trip to Columbia,” he told his sidewalk audience. “Every time I come back to Missouri, it’s like it’s closer to becoming abortion-free.”

He later predicted: “You will be the first abortion-free state.”

He noted that prayer warriors in Columbia have been taking part in 40 Days for Life 365 — a year-round sidewalk prayer vigil.

Mrs. Forck noted that up to 75 percent of women turn away from their appointments when there are people outside, peacefully praying.

“Your prayers help not just

here but everywhere,” she added.

“I encourage you to continue to come out here between the 40 Days for Life campaigns, to keep your hour,” said Mr. Carney. “Know that you are making history by being out here, by praying and by eventually seeing this place and every other abortion facility closed in your great state.”

“Hands and feet”

Father Anthony Viviano, moderator of pro-life ministry for the Jefferson City diocese, also addressed the group and offered a prayer.

“I can tell you as a priest, I am very, very proud of you,” he said. “I know many of you have logged many, many hours out here.

See 40 DAYS, page 19

40 Days Closing rally

DATE: April 24
TIME: 6 pm

The Closing Rally for Columbia 40 Days for Life’s Spring Campaign will be on Saturday, April 24, in Veit Hall at St. Andrew Church, 400 St. Andrews Drive.

The presenter will be Stephanie Jacobsen, founder of H3-Hope, Help and Healing, LLC.

The doors will open at 6 p.m. It will include a chicken dinner fundraiser served by Knights of Columbus St. Andrew Council 8400.



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Reviving a tradition: Blessing of the Seeds


CAPTIONS FOR PHOTOS ON PAGE 13: 1—Nash Sherman, 5, shows his seeds that were blessed Sunday in Glasgow. The Sherman family will plant these seeds in their home garden. 2—Members of St. Mary Parish in Glasgow gather to bless seeds to prepare for a successful planting season. Parishioners were encouraged to bring their seeds to Father Joshua Duncan, pastor of the Glasgow parish and of St. Joseph Parish in Fayette, to bless before planting them at home. “[The parishioner’s] seeds are being farmed for a greater purpose and they’re not farming just to make money, but to contribute to the betterment of the world,” Fr. Duncan stated. “...the blessing of the seeds really helps to kind of solidify that in their hearts as they begin to embark on this year as farming partners.” 3—St. Mary Church in Glasgow was dedicated in 1909. 4—Fr. Duncan leads the parishioners in prayer. “We live in a great rural community where farming is a big part of almost every single one of our parishioners’ lives,” he said.

— Photos by Kayla Szymanski, courtesy of the *Columbia Missourian*


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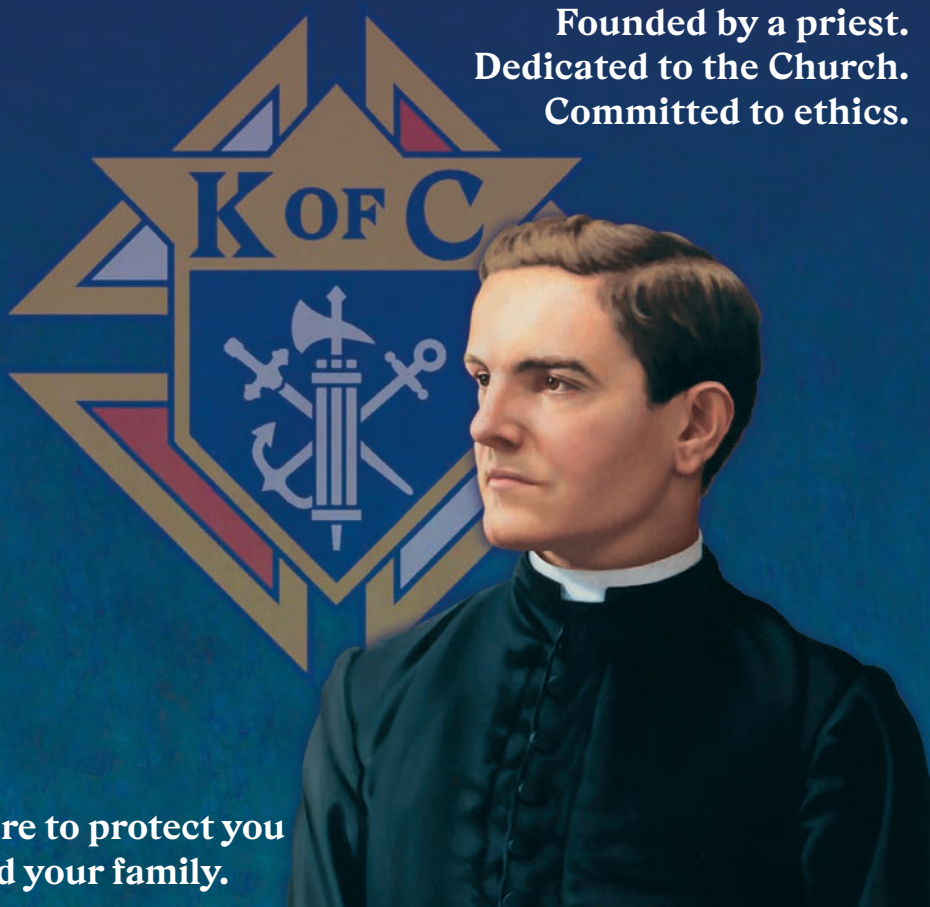
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Glasgow parish prays for successful harvest

See captions on Page 12.





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EASTER JOY

From page 1

musical instruments and great jubilation.

Back home after Mass, many people enjoy a meal that includes palm butter soup.

A few days later on Holy Thursday, people usually dress in white for the Mass of the Lord's Supper, which begins at 8 p.m. and concludes with Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament until midnight.

Good Friday services often begin with public dramatizations of the Stations of the Cross, usually lasting two to three hours.

"The congregation dress in red and black clothes, as when there is funeral," Fr. Ussher noted.

Members generally participate as members of various groups and devotional societies, such as the Christian Mothers, the St. Theresa Society, the Sacred Heart Confraternity, parish choir, youth group, Catholic Charismatic Renewal Group and the Catholic Women's Society.

Each group reenacts one of the Stations of the Cross along the principle street.

Upon arriving at church, various groups engage in Bible discussions or some other spiritual activity.

At 3 p.m., the people gather again as one for a celebration of the Lord's Passion.

On Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil is celebrated according to the traditional rites of the Church.

In some communities, the Easter Vigil concludes with the public singing of Easter hymns.

In other parishes, the choir sings at designated places in the town, beginning at 4 a.m. on Easter morning.

Later, Catholics dressed in white clothes, traditional Kente Clothes or other colorful attire gather for Mass.

Various churches organize picnics on Easter Monday, with picnics in coastal towns and cities taking place at the beach.

"Just in time"

Holy Week is the largest religious observance in Uganda, including liturgies, festive meals and "lots of processions," according to Father Boniface Kasita Nzabonimpa, administrator of St. Boniface Parish in Brunswick, St. Joseph Parish in Hurricane Branch and the Mission of St. Raphael in Indian Grove.

"Easter is a time for Ugandans to take to the streets and watch elaborate reenactments of the Passion, as well as enjoy some time off work in the company of their families and friends," said Fr. Nzabonimpa, a priest of the Archdiocese of Kampala, Uganda.

Why is Easter such a big deal in Uganda?

"Easter is a celebration of the victory our Lord Jesus achieved for all mankind," Fr. Nzabonimpa stated.

The holy days are enthusiastically observed, with public holidays on Good Friday and Easter Monday creating a four-day weekend.

School vacations also tend to coincide with Easter.

"I remember in old days when I was still in elementary school, schools were closed for two to three weeks, just in time for the Easter celebrations," said Fr. Nzabonimpa.

He noted that Ugandans are ranked amongst the happiest people in Africa — "and that never seems truer than on Easter weekend."

He believes Kampala, located near where he grew up, is one of the best places to celebrate Easter.



A lamb and paschal candle, both symbols of Easter, are depicted in a stained glass window in the chapel of Holy Rood Cemetery in Westbury, New York.

— CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

Families begin by going to Mass together in the morning.

"The Easter Vigil is celebrated on Saturday night," he noted, "but because of the darkness and most people walk

to the church instead of driving there, as few people own personal cars, it is less attended than the morning Masses."

Some of the larger parishes hold impressive processions, parades and Passion reenactments on Easter Sunday.

Afterward, a festive family meal for Easter might include chicken, beef and goat meat with mashed green bananas, yams and rice.

There might also be traditional libations, including banana wine and banana liquor called Uganda Waragi or "the spirit of Uganda."

Activities for children and music from a live band often top off a fun-filled family day in the city.

"Dressed in their best"

Father Alexander Gabriel, pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Tipton and Annunciation Par-

ish in California, still remembers his home parish's choir singing the "Lumen Christi," "Deo Gracias," "Exultet" and other Easter Sunday hymns and chants in Latin.

"I am pleased that people have embraced the message of Christ with open arms."

— Fr. Boniface Kasita Nzabonimpa

A priest of the Diocese of Daltonganj in northeastern India, Fr. Gabriel grew up in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

He and his family attended Easter Sunday Mass at midnight in their parish church.

The only worship service conducted on Easter, it would last for three hours or longer.

"The church would be overfull with children, adults and the elderly — all dressed in their best but sitting and kneeling on the bare floor," Fr. Gabriel recalled.

Easter Sunday also meant a special meal served at noon, with mutton or home-raised chicken.

"It would be all fixed by my Mom, who made delicious meals," he said. "We kids assisted her with grinding spices,

getting coconut sheaves, drawing water from the open well, collecting banana leaves and so forth."

The meal would consist of five or seven items — always an odd number — including pickles.

"We ate our food hand-served on banana leaves" — a tradition still followed on special occasions, he said.

The afternoon would be for catching up on rest after a long night and day of celebrating.

"Victory after the cross"

Fr. Nzabonimpa said his happiest Easter memories from Uganda are of celebrating and spending time with his family, relatives and friends.

"I am always glad and blessed that though I am now away from home, my parishioners in St. Boniface, St. Joseph and St. Raphael always invite me to celebrate with them on big festivities like Christmas and Easter," he said.

The most memorable Easter Sunday for him so far was in 1993.

"I was by then a student in the seminary high school and praying endlessly for God's blessings and a clear spiritual path," he recalled.

"After the celebration of the holy week, reflecting on the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, then celebrating His resurrection on Easter and singing Easter carols, I clearly saw victory after the cross," he said. His life has never been the same after that.

"God has continuously showered me with His blessings and profound love," said Fr. Nzabonimpa. "I am a Church leader today because I wanted to share this good experience with other people as well, as Christ command: 'Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation' (Mark 16:15)."

"I am pleased that people have embraced the message of Christ with open arms," he said. "Happy Easter to everyone!"

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CHRISM MASS

From page 1

About 200 clergy, religious and laypeople attended the Mass.

Only 10 people could attend last year's Chrism Mass, offered during a statewide stay-at-home order meant to slow the spread of COVID-19.

"It's so good to see so many of you in the pews this year!" said Bishop McKnight.

A long round of applause followed his welcoming of Father Michael Coleman and Father Christopher Aubuchon. Both were experiencing serious health issues at this time last year but have made significant progress toward recovery.

In union with Christ

Each year, the Chrism Mass highlights and solidifies the bonds among priests, the bishop, the sacraments and all the faithful who receive them.

The bishop blesses the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens and consecrates the Holy Chrism.

The Oil of Catechumens is used for infants during the baptismal ceremony, and for the anointing of the elect during the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) as they prepare to be baptized. It designates all members of the Church as learners and gives them a protecting strength against evil.

The Oil of the Sick is used for healing in the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

Sacred Chrism, named for Christ, is used in Baptism, as well as Confirmation, the ordination of priests and bishops and the dedication of churches and altars.

"The Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick and the Chrism resonate, each in their own way, with the threefold ministry of Jesus Christ — priest, prophet and king," Bishop McKnight stated.

Jesus instituted each of the sacraments as outward signs that give grace.

"Today we celebrate in a special way the one Priesthood of Jesus Christ, Who was anointed with the Spirit to repair our broken relationship with God and to heal our fractured humanity," Bishop McKnight stated.

"A sense of renewal"

In his homily, Bishop Mc-



LEFT: Rev. Mr. Derek Hooper observes Deacons Louis Reyes and Deacon Santos Rubio presenting the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick during the Chrism Mass March 30 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph. **RIGHT:** Bishop W. Shawn McKnight addresses the priests of the diocese in his homily during the Chrism Mass. **BELOW:** Deacon John Schwartze incenses the congregation during the Chrism Mass.

— Photos by Jay Nies

Knight focused on various meanings of anointing in the Bible — including the anointing with the Holy Spirit that Jesus in His human nature received at His Baptism in the

in the Holy Spirit among the faithful and the clergy of our Diocese of Jefferson City, so that we may bring glad tidings to the poor in our communities and in our day."

ral plan, titled "A Steward's Journey: Our Call to Greater Communion," which all the parishes and the diocesan curia helped discern and have begun to implement.

ies of mercy," he stated.

"Faithful ministers"

Bishop McKnight also emphasized the need for priests to be renewed in Spirit.

He reminded his brother priests that they have received the Sacrament of Holy Orders, which authorizes them to celebrate the sacraments and preach the Gospel.

"May you also experience the spiritual, interior anointing that allows you to perform your ministry with fervor and charity," he said.

Likewise, by the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, they were given a share in the apostolic succession.

"By a renewal of Spirit, may your ministry be an apostolic success!" the bishop stated.

After the priests renewed their priestly promises, Bishop McKnight asked the laypeople to "pray for your priests, that the Lord may pour out His gifts abundantly upon them and keep them faithful as ministers of Christ, the High Priest, so that they may lead you to Him, Who is the source of salvation."

Bishop McKnight also asked the people to pray for him to be faithful to the office of bishop and to be conformed more fully into the image of Christ, "the Priest, the Good Shepherd, the Teacher and Servant of all."



River Jordan.

That event marked Him receiving "the Gift of the Holy Spirit that empowered the Lord for His public ministry to follow," said Bishop McKnight.

The Church continues the mission of the Messiah through sacramental signs that involve anointing — including Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders.

However, he added, anointing also refers to a state of being and behaving — of having received a great gift and the power to draw people to that same gift.

"It is this kind of anointing to which I draw your attention," said Bishop McKnight. "We need a sense of renewal

The bishop asserted that now is the time for the people of this diocese "to live our Christian life together with an abundance of the rich gifts of the Holy Spirit."

"We have the ability, we have the capacity to share in Christ's work of redemption, which transforms the way people see and live their lives," he said.

All Catholic Christians, especially with hope that the worldwide pandemic is entering its late stages, are being called by the Lord "to bring glad tidings to the poor, the lonely, the depressed and anxious," he said.

The bishop pointed to the three-year diocesan pasto-

"In this plan, we who have been baptized and confirmed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit, challenge ourselves to adopt the stewardship way of life, in which we trust in God's providence enough to give more of ourselves in our time, talent and treasure," said Bishop McKnight.

Additionally, that power and authority of the Spirit must be exercised in a co-responsible fashion, "by which clergy and the laity have a mutual respect for the diverse charisms we have."

"A culture of co-responsibility allows for a more effective, harmonious and integrated missionary effort," he noted.

Only then, with all members

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

of the laity and the ordained fully engaged and properly working together, "shall we be capable of fulfilling our dream for parishes to be recognized and experienced by people as centers of charity and sanctuar-

See ANOINT, page xx



ACROSS the Diocese

By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

1. Nature's "night shift" animals include those which are night-active and those active at dusk and ____.
5. Small ____ animals that are nocturnal are esp. rarely seen at night though they can sometimes be heard (e.g., flying squirrels make tiny but very distinct sounds).
9. ____ boards historically sell well in uncertain times when people want a quick easy way to connect with angels, demons, or the dead. The Catholic Church regards this as divination, an occult and dangerous practice. It is worse when it is disguised as entertainment, esp. for the young.
11. The ____ at the Univ. of Mo. at Columbia is the oldest part of the Red Campus. At its center are the six iconic columns which are a symbol for the University.
12. Actually, the nocturnal Mo. mammals easiest to observe are bats. Look for them at dusk, in meadows, near ____ and streetlights, erratically fluttering after insects. In Mo., you will likely be seeing Little Brown Bats or Red Bats.
14. Mo. mammals that are nocturnal include raccoons, opossums, skunks, beavers, ____ & flying squirrels.
17. Short for Electronics Art; second-largest video game company in the Americas & Europe.
19. Abbr. for lieutenant.
20. Suffix for terror.
21. Short for Headline News, a news channel owned by CNN.
22. ____ *cum spiritu tuo*.
23. Wedding words, perhaps.
25. Old abbr. for the Hoosier State.
27. "...love the Lord, your God; follow Him faithfully; and ____ Him with your whole heart and soul," (Joshua 22:5).
28. Mo. animals that are nocturnal also include deer, foxes, ____ and bobcats.
30. A ____ (Universal Serial Bus) port is the plug-in on a computer for a cable

to transfer digital data to electronic devices.

31. Laundry detergent brand.
34. Fishing and hunting ____ account for approximately 20% of the Mo. Dept. of Conservation's annual revenue.
37. This mainly African dog-like animal is called the "laughing ____" because of its staccato giggle which sounds like hysterical human laughter. Some say its drooling grin contributes to this description.
39. Abbr. for the Buckeye State, the State in which the second most US presidents were born.
40. Wide shoe width.
41. If we search for nighttime mammals at night, we are not likely to see them because they will sense us first and ____ us. Most nighttime mammal sightings are accidental.
43. He was a huge fan of the NASCAR ____ circuit.
44. Christmas and New Year's each have one.

DOWN

1. "Presbyters who preside well deserve ____ honor..." (1 Timothy 5:17).
2. Chemical letters for gold.
3. Almost all of Missouri's large ____ mammals are nocturnal.
4. The Garden State (abbr.).
5. O-T.
6. "They will ____ and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint," (Isaiah 40:31).
7. The portrait painter used his ____ to display his latest work.

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43							44	

8. Three ft.
10. Lincoln and Fortas.
13. Missouri ____ Thomas Hart Benton was inspiringly paired with Mo. author Mark Twain as illustrator of three of Twain's most celebrated works: *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and *Life on the Mississippi*.
15. As an exterminator I go from top to bottom, from ____ to basements.
16. She was ____ with excitement to be asked to be maid of honor at her sister's wedding.
18. Grandmother of Jesus.
21. "The young fellows in those days sought to surpass each other in wrestling, jumping and running. Also, ____ pitching was popular. Dancing too was not neglected," — Gert Goebel, *Memoirs of a German immigrant in Mo., 1830s-1880s*.
24. Fourth letter of the alphabet.
26. "Whoever aspires to the office of bishop desires a ____ task," (1 Timothy 3:1).
29. Killer whale.
30. The one who seats guests at a wedding.
32. Prefix for view or call.
33. I'll take ____ salad with my entrée.
35. Cross letters.
36. Turkey month (abbr.)?
38. She has the right to say ____ or nay.
41. The Mo. Dept. of _____. Is responsible for promoting & protecting the producers, processors and consumers of Mo.'s biggest industry. Crops, livestock, forestry and fishery production and processing contributes \$88.4 billion to Mo.'s economy.
42. He received a saline solution through an ____ in his arm but took antibiotics by mouth.

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LIFE

From page 5

marriage on June 27, 2020, in St. Patrick Church.

Joe walked Faith down the aisle.

She wore the dress Jane had worn at her own wedding.

Two women who had lived with Faith at the Maternity House served as her attendants.

Faith couldn't be happier.

Gabe said he's enjoying life as a new husband and a father.

"I believe God had been preparing me for Faith, as well as for Noah, my entire life in so many different ways," he said. "I definitely didn't always see it at the time, but now it's very clear to me."

Noah's little sister is due to be born in August.

The road to Rolla

Joe and Jane Dalton's passions and life experiences complement one another's.

Both have beaten cancer.

Joe's father was a permanent deacon and the first full-time social services and pro-life director for the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois.

Jane, a Catholic convert, had completed two degrees in child psychology while caring for two young children before marrying Joe.

The couple were leading a national a pro-life organization and raising eight children together when they decided it would be better to do so in a rural setting.

Within a day of their arrival in Rolla, two people called to say they had been begging God to send a pro-life anchor to that community.

"That's when I learned we had moved to a college town that had a Planned Parenthood but did not have a pregnancy center," Joe recalled.

They established the PRC with backing from the Rolla Knights council in 2006.

Since then, the organization has sought to help 3,397 women who were considering abortion.

Of those, 3,389 chose



Noah Dalton, age 3, gave Gabe Dalton permission to marry his mother.

— Photo by Alyssa Jean Studios

life for their babies — over a 99.7-percent success rate.

"We give God 100 percent of the credit for that," Joe stated.

Nothing impossible

Jane said she's delighted to have Faith as a daughter-in-law and Noah as a grandson.

"What I love most about Faith and my son is that they truly seek the will of God and then do whatever they possibly can to follow that," she stated.

Jane, having counseled more than 10,000 pregnant women in crisis, is convinced that no one ever wants to have an abortion.

"It's often their last resort because they think they don't have any other options," she said. "We tell them, 'If you choose another option, we'll help you fill in the gaps.'"

The Bridges program helps women break unhealthy habits and replace them with new skills and strategies.

"It's not about changing who they are," Jane asserted. "It's actually about helping them become the wonderful people they were born to be."

Faith has started volunteering at the PRC and studying to become a certified life coach.

She hopes her story will inspire other women who are pregnant and frightened, to ask God for a miracle, and then work with Him to bring it about.

"I'm so grateful He is us-

ing what little I had to offer in exchange for all of these opportunities to draw closer to Him and become the woman He always intended me to be," she said.

Jane called all of this a "God journey."

"It's what God does," she said. "He doesn't overwhelm us. He just keeps giving us a little bit at a time. Just enough for us to keep saying 'yes.'"

The Rolla Knights have supported the center from the outset with volunteer and financial assistance; in 2012, the council placed an ultrasound machine there through the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound

Initiative.

Joe offers a challenge to his fellow Knights: "There are nearly 3,000 local pregnancy centers in this country alone. If you're not already supporting yours, create a relationship with them and start doing things to help them."

"Remember that all life is precious," he stated, "and that nothing is impossible with God."

The work continues

For more information about PRC of Rolla, visit prcrolla.com.

The PRC's annual Banquet for Life was canceled again this year due to COVID-19. Since this is by far their largest fundraiser of the year, they are seeking donations to be able to continue their lifesaving works.

Their address is 1210 E. State Route 72, Rolla MO 65401 or you can contribute online at supportmyprc.com.

FR. DOYLE

From page 8

wants us to succeed, wants us to be with him for eternity and promises to help us get there.

What you might want to do is to ask a priest to bring you the anointing of the sick and, if you feel the need to, go to confession once more. The priest will pray, asking the Lord to treat you gently and to ease your passage to meet him.

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

Sedalia Sacred Heart Hall of Fame induction

DATE: April 17
TIME: 4 pm

Sacred Heart School (SHS) in Sedalia will hold its rescheduled Hall of Fame induction on Saturday, April 17.

Festivities will include: Mass at 4 p.m. in the St. Patrick Chapel, 415 E. Fourth St.; a public social with refreshments and tours from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at SHS, 416 W. Third St.; and a ticketed dinner and program at SHS at 6:30 p.m.

Hall of Fame inductees will include:

• **The late Precious Blood Father Andrew Brunswick**, who as pastor founded Sacred Heart High School in 1941;

• **Marilyn (Fischer) Arnold** (SHS Class of 1968) and **Jack Arnold**, who have lent decades of their time, knowledge, and generous steward hearts to champion for SHS;

• **Bonnie Diefendorf**, who served as an educator and administrator and in numerous capacities at SHS for over 40 years;

• the late **Leo and Cecilia Gerke**, founders of Gerke Construction, who have had direct descendants attending SHS since February 1959;

• **Will Kraus**, a member of SHS's Class of 1992, former state senator and current member of the Missouri State Tax Commission;

• **Jane McMullin**, a member of the SHS Class of 1987, who has been teaching history at the school for 29 years;

• **Precious Blood Father Mark Miller**, who served as pastor of what is now St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County from 2011-2020 and previously as associate pastor as well as an SHS instructor from 1971-77; and

• **Sue (Keller) Wise-Horsten**, a member of SHS's Class of 1958, who served as the school's first development director and helped establish the Sacred Heart Foundation's Annual Fund Drive.

Purchase tickets online at: gogremlins.com/hall-of-fame

Extended biographies of each of the inductees will be linked to the online version of this article at cathmo.com.

Vatican statistics show worldwide growth in number of Catholics

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

The number of Catholics and permanent deacons in the world has shown steady growth, while the number of religious men and women continued to decrease, according to Vatican statistics.

At the end of 2019, the

worldwide Catholic population exceeded 1.34 billion, which continued to be about 17.7 percent of the world's population, said an article published March 26 in the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*. It marked an increase of 16 million Catholics — a 1.12 percent increase compared to 2018 while the world's population grew by 1.08 percent.

The article also announced the publication of the 2021 *Annuario Pontificio*, a volume containing information about every Vatican office, as well as every diocese and religious order in the world. According to the statistical yearbook, the number of Catholics increased in every continent except Europe.

Fundraisers & Social Events

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

Jefferson City, Little Box of Sunshine 4th Annual 5K Walk, Run & Roll, 9-11 am, Greenway Trail, for info or to register visit givealittleboxofsunshine.com; **VIRTUAL**, St. George Parish in Linn "Spring Fling" fundraiser, 7:30-9:30 pm via Facebook at 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

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

Apr. 23

St. Clement, St. Clement Parish fried chicken dinner, 4-8 pm, K of C Hall

Apr. 24

Eldon, Sacred Heart Parish Santa's Workshop Rummage Sale, 8 am-4 pm, parish hall; **Mary's Home**, Our Lady of Snows Parish dance, with

music by Shiloh, 6:30-11 pm, school gym

May 1

Jefferson City, Pregnancy Help Center of Central Missouri Bubbles & Bounces 5K Walk/Run, 8:30-11 am, Memorial Park main pavilion, for info or to register visit friendsofphc.org; **Vienna**, Visitation Parish Spring drive-thru chicken dinner, 11 am-5 pm, K of C Hall

May 4

Jefferson City, 29th Annual Vitae Foundation Pro-Life Event with keynote speaker Jason Chaffetz, luncheon event noon-1:30, dinner event 6:30-9 pm, Capitol Plaza Hotel, for info or to register visit vitaefoundation.org and click on the "Events" tab

May 7

Holts Summit, St. Andrew Parish Spring drive-thru chicken dinner, 3:30-6:30 pm

May 9

Belle, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am

May 11

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

May 21

Freeburg, Holy Family Parish & School BBQ, 4-9 pm; **Linn**, Vitae Foundation inaugural Pro-Life Golf Classic, 1-6 pm, Osage Country Club, for info or to register visit vitaefoun-

dation.org and click on the "Events" tab

Meetings & Conferences

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@cccnm.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. 17

Sedalia, Sacred Heart School Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, 4-8 pm, Mass at St. Patrick Chapel, social, dinner and program at Sacred Heart School gym, for info or to register visit gogremlins.com/hall-of-fame

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 Beat-

ley, Moberly Municipal Auditorium, for tickets call Therese Sander 660-651-9748 or Sarah Mefford 660-651-8327

May 12

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@cccnm.org

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

CROSS

From page 3

church. His son, Henry, donated the bells that still summon the faithful to worship, Mr. Dyke noted.

Mr. Castle said it was an honor and privilege to be entrusted with the restoration and preservation of something as impressive as St. Peter Church.

"It's clearly evident in the decisions that have been made and the actions taken that those responsible for the guardianship of this beautiful structure are true stewards of the property and are setting an example for future generations to follow," he said.

Lt. Gov. Kehoe said it means a lot to the people of faith who work in the Capitol to have a prominent reminder nearby of God's guiding hand.

"Every time you see a picture of Jefferson City, you can usually see the Capitol and St. Peter's and the cross," Lt. Gov. Kehoe noted.

He marveled at the history that took place within sight of the previous cross over nearly 14 decades.

"This edifice and this institution are such an important part of our state's history and who we are as a body," he said.

"True, good and beautiful"

Last spring's hailstorm caused about \$5 million worth of damage to Catholic Church

school girls, Camp MoCoMi, for info visit diojeffcity.org/campsiena

Retreats & Spiritual Renewal

Apr. 11

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

Health & Wellness

Apr. 19

Rich Fountain, Blood drive, 1:30-6:30 pm, Sacred Heart School

Apr. 25

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

ANOINT

From page 15

"Being so close"

Four deacons took part in the procession to present the oils for blessing and consecration.

Deacon Santos Rubio, who assists the pastor of St. Peter Parish in Marshall and is involved in diocesan Hispanic ministry, presented the Oil for the Catechumens.

Deacon Luis Reyes, who assists the pastor of St. Peter Parish in Marshall and the Mission of Holy Family in Sweet Springs and is involved in diocesan Hispanic ministry, presented the Oil for the Sick.

Deacon Fred Schmitz, who assists the pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, presented the fragrant balsam for the Oil for Chrism.

Rev. Mr. Derek Hooper, a seminarian and transitional deacon who hopes to be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on June 5, presented the Oil for Chrism.

"I thought it was exciting being able to present the Oil for Chrism that will be used to anoint my hands in June," Rev. Mr. Hooper stated afterward. "It was truly a spiritual experience, being so close to being a priest of Jesus Christ."

Other seminarians served in various liturgical roles.

"For distinguished service"

On behalf of Pope Francis, Bishop McKnight and Bishop Emeritus Gaydos presented a Benemerenti Medal to Lisa Oetting.

Ms. Oetting served as executive secretary to Bishop Gaydos from 1997-2018 and to Bishop McKnight until her retirement in 2020.

The papal honor, instituted by Pope Gregory XVI in 1832, is conferred to people "who have shown an active fidelity to and love for the Church," for distinguished service to Catholic principles, the Church and society.

"Benemerenti" is Latin for "good merit."

The medal is worn over the chest, suspended by ribbons of the papal colors. It is a gold Greek cross depicting the image of Christ, His hand raised in blessing.

On the left of the transverse arm of the cross is a depiction of the tiara and crossed keys — symbols of the papacy.

The livestream broadcast of the Chrism Mass and the Masses for Holy Week and Easter in the Cathedral of St. Joseph are archived online at:

vimeo.com/diojeffcity

Anniversaries

Argyle, St. Aloysius
Darrell & Robin Schulte, 29 years
Mike & Tina Hagenhoff, 29 years
Chris & Monica Bax, 25 years

Centralia, Holy Spirit
Joseph & Glenda Castrop, 57 years

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes
Al & Stephanie Vargesko, 45 years

Columbia, Sacred Heart
Frank & Carol Nacarato, 39 years

Folk, St. Anthony of Padua
Terry & Evelyn Cooley, 58 years
Omer & Bernadette Sieren, 54 years
Charles & Diane Veit, 44 years
Douglas & Carol Distler, 35 years
Michael & Irene Strope, 34 years
Michael & Nancy Massman, 30 years

Frankenstein, Our Lady Help of Christians
Joe & Cecilia Kempker, 60 years

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception
Bernard & Marcella Schwartz, 65 years

Jonesburg, St Patrick
William & Paula Peatross, 51 years

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate
Phil & Marsha Ordonio, 55 years
Don & Kathy Westhoff, 52 years
Robert & Peggy Maeder, 50 years
Winston & Pat Vanderhoof, 42 years
Albert & Margie Kurz, 37 years
Thom & Denise Bahr, 26 years
Tom & Cassie DeBlauw, 21 years
Walter & Marie Gladbach, 19 years
Elijah & Ilene Elmlinger, 11 years

Koeltztown, St. Boniface
Mike & Tina Hagenhoff, 25 years
Chris & Monica Bax, 21 years

Marshall, St. Peter
Don & Barbara Thiel, 70 years

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows
John & Sarah Kempker, 15 years

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart
Robert & Karen Goodenough, 40 years

Russellville, St. Michael
Dave & Louise Hagenhoff, 46 years
Alan & Norma Lepper, 37 years
Eric & Loree Eynard, 31 years
Mitch & Becky Verslues, 27 years
Kevin & Melissa Brautigam, 25 years
Keith & Stacy Schrimpf, 20 years
Alan & Sandy Schrimpf, 19 years
Brad & Sarah Oligschlaeger, 18 years
Adam & Ginger Howard, 16 years
Rob & Tarin Gump, 11 years

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul
John & Margaret Hanlon, 61 years
Bill & Ruth Lehman, 57 years
Bill & Sandy Mayfield, 57 years
Jerry & Jayne Connery, 54 years
Joe & Margaret Ellebracht, 50 years

Vandalia, Sacred Heart
Sonny & Alice Wright, 51 years
Kenny & Sharie Brewer, 35 years

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus
Eugene & Cheryl Boessen, 50 years

Marriages

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Leighton Frank & Weston Keleher**

Baptisms

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Harley Buckman**

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Lincoln James Gaugh**, son of Michael & Natasha Gaugh

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Jesus Alonso Rodriguez Jr., Ivan Perez Rodriguez, Alan Guadalupe Ruiz-Acevedo**

Palmyra, St. Joseph — **Colden Lawrence Barnes**, son of Shawn & Samantha Barnes

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Harvey Ahlefeld**, son of Nicholas & Gabby Ahlefeld

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Watson McFadden**, son of Alex & Brittany McFadden; **Braxton Dane Hinkle**, son of Shelby Clark & Kyle Hinkle; **Rayna Fuemmeler**, daughter of Brett & Kayla Fuemmeler; **Abram Enyeart**, son of Amber & Loren Enyeart

Deaths

Sister Yvonne Elskamp, 86 — a Franciscan Sister of the Congregation of Our Lady of Lourdes, and sister of Father Frederick Elskamp, a retired priest of the Jefferson City diocese — on March 17 in Rochester, Minnesota. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 25. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery.

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Joan Lammers, Catherine Whitehorse**

Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels — **Leo Kleffner Sr.**

Columbia, St. Thomas More Newman Center — **James Tunick**

Hannibal, Holy Family — **Wanda Mudd**

Hermann, St. George — **Rita Grawer, Teresa Noelke**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Helen Hug, Daniel J. "Duke" McVey, Catherine C. Reed**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Kevin Lueckenotte, Marjorie C. Pfeneger**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Theresa "Terri" A. Iven**

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Kathleen "Kitty" McCarthy**

Laurie, St. Patrick — **Barbara E. Steck**

Mexico, St. Brendan — **James Thompson**

Monroe City, Holy Rosary — **Raymond Karr**

Palmyra, St. Joseph — **Chris G. Wilt**

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior — **Howard Witte**

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart — **Clemens H. Rudroff**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Ron Oppenheim, Floyd Schrock**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Jerome Rodeman, Margie G. Ward**



40 DAYS

From page 11

"Maybe one day when we get to heaven, pray God, we will be able to see the many blessings that have come forth from the prayers that you have given," he said.

Pastor Eric Lawman of Open Heart Baptist Church in Columbia, offered a closing prayer.

"Thank You for all these folks who sacrifice and give of their time to preserve," he prayed. "Bless our efforts in this time to come, and we will be Your hands and feet."

"What we need"

Mr. Carney later talked about how Columbia continues to be one of 40 Days for Life's most successful campaigns.

"There's no other way to put it," he said. "It's because of the consistency, and that's what drives down abortion numbers."

He said 40 Days for Life "took off and grew because it's a manifestation of what we ought to be doing as Christians and certainly as Catholics living in modern America."

Namely, "you go out and you give a basic central witness to a group of people who have no voice because of their

WEIGEL

From page 9

ed that the "end times" would ring down the curtain on history and the Kingdom of God would begin; now, they understood what Jesus had meant when He taught them that "the Kingdom of God is in the midst of you" (Luke 17:21) — they could live Kingdom life, life in union with God, here and now, through communion with the Lord Jesus in the

size and their location," he said.

"I think it should be a natural occurrence for our spiritual life," he added.

He noted that strong families, with both parents actively engaged in their children's upbringing and formation, are an essential part of building a culture of life.

Accordingly, he suggested praying for "the Church, for the family, for our priests and seminarians and our religious."

"That's what we need," he said. "We need more good leaders."

40daysforlife.com/en/columbiamo

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.

Eucharist.

And their understanding of their responsibilities changed. What they had experienced demanded to be proclaimed and shared, as they grasped the full implications of Jesus's injunction, "Freely you have received, freely you must give" (Matthew 10:8). They must offer friendship with the Risen One to "all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

The Easter explosion created a communion of disciples in mission. We are their heirs. We can bring light to a darkened world if we believe with the intensity they did.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow and William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. His column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver.

Crossword puzzle answers

E	A	E	G	N	I	C	V	R
D	O	A	V	R	E	E		
I	H	O	V	N	E	L	H	
S	E	S	N	E	C	I	S	
V	R	E	R	B	S	U		
		S	E	J	O	X	O	
E	V	R	E	S	D	N	I	
N	O	D	I	D	T	E		
N	T	H	J	S	I	T		
V	E	S	R	E	G	D	V	
	S	N	R	V	T	U		
D	V	U	O	V	J	I	U	
X	E	R	N	W	V	D		

Journey to Golgotha

“We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.”

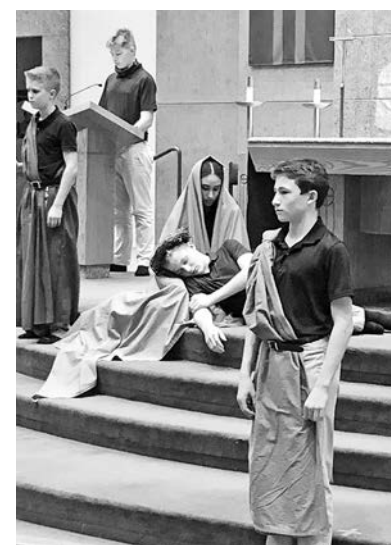


Fifth-graders at St. Stanislaus School in Wardsville display the artwork they used to lead the Stations of the Cross via Zoom on March 18. — Photo from the St. Stanislaus School Facebook page

At your service ...



Students at Holy Family School in Freeburg dressed up as their favorite service workers during Catholic Schools Week. — Photos from the Holy Family School Facebook page



Students at Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School (OLLIS) in Columbia act out the Stations of the Cross on March 19 in Our Lady of Lourdes Church. — Photos by Donna Blauch, OLLIS teacher

Celebrating St. Joseph’s feastday



Pre-kindergarten students at St. Martin School in St. Martins celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19 with a feast of bread and pastries like the tradition in Sicily. Everyone brought in bread to share — enough for older classes to join in the celebration. — Photo from the St. Martin Catholic Church & School Facebook page

Children helping children



Students at Sacred Heart School in Sedalia display their certificates from this year’s Math-A-Thon to benefit St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital during Catholic Schools Week. Seventy-four students raised a new school record of \$15,820 for the hospital. They did so by solving math problems and gathering pledges from family and friends. The school’s top five earners were: Birkli Martin, Harper Darbyshire, Lorelei Grose, Finlee Hout and Braelynn Bloess. Since 1987, Sacred Heart School has raised over \$213,820 for the children at St. Jude who are battling cancer and other terminal diseases. The St. Jude Math-A-Thon is America’s largest education-based fundraiser and benefits the lifesaving work of the hospital. Treatments invented at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to more than 80 percent since the hospital opened more than 50 years ago.

Mary of Magdala searches for Jesus

By Joe Sarnicola
Catholic News Service

The sun had not yet risen in the east, but Mary of Magdala was awake. She had not been able to rest or sleep since Jesus had been crucified. She had seen Him after He had been beaten and then forced to carry His own cross up the hill to Calvary. That was where they killed Him. Now here she was slowly walking toward the tomb where Jesus had been buried. She thought she had run out of tears, but still she cried.

When she finally reached the tomb, she discovered the heavy stone that had sealed the entrance had been rolled away. Mary carefully stepped into the cold, dark hole that had been carved out of the rock.



Jesus was not there. Mary screamed. What had happened? Did the soldiers take His body away? Or were grave robbers?

Mary ran as fast as her tired

legs would carry her to the home of Simon Peter, where one of the other disciples was with him. Out of breath from running and nearly hysterical, Mary told them, "They have

taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put Him."

Peter and the other disciple immediately ran to the site of the tomb. They found the tomb empty, as Mary had said. Inside, the burial garments of Jesus were on the ground. The cloth that had covered his head had been rolled up into a ball.

The two disciples returned to their homes, not knowing what to do next.

Mary stayed behind. She was too upset to do anything but cry outside of the tomb. But something inside the tomb caught her attention. She looked in and saw two angels in white garments. One was at the head of the spot where Jesus had lain, the other was at the foot. They asked Mary, "Woman, why are you weep-

ing?" And Mary answered, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid Him."

As soon as she said this a man appeared behind her. It was Jesus, but Mary did not recognize Him. She thought He was the gardener.

Jesus said to Mary, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"

"Sir, if you carried Him away, tell me where you laid Him, and I will take Him."

Then Jesus said, "Mary," and Mary recognized Him.

Read more about it...
John 20

1. Where was Mary going so early in the morning?
2. Who did Mary see inside the tomb?

Bible Accent

The Bible is the sacred book of our faith. The four Gospels, which open the New Testament, are accounts of the life and teachings of Jesus.

Two of our most important holidays honor two special moments of Jesus' life: His birth, Christmas, and His resurrection, Easter.

Christmas is a favorite holiday because of the way we celebrate the birth of Jesus, but Easter is more important because of what Jesus accomplished by rising from the dead.

Because Jesus died on the

cross and rose again, our sins were forgiven, and we are now able to receive the promise of eternal life with Him in heaven.

Have a reverent and holy Easter season.

Essay

What would you have asked Jesus if you had seen Him right after His resurrection?

Saint Spotlight

Alferius Pappacarbone (d. 1050) was born into a family who were the descendants of princes. While serving as an ambassador to the France court, he became very sick. He prayed for God to heal him, and promised that, if he recovered, he would dedicate his life to a religious vocation. God healed Alferius, and Alferius kept his word by joining the abbey of Cluny. He later sought out a private spot in the mountains and was joined by a dozen carefully chosen disciples. Their work together developed into the founding of the abbey of La Cava, which became well-known for its work and charity. After the death of Alferius, more than 30 abbeys and 3,000 monks continued the work of the founder. One of these monks became Pope Victor III. We honor Alferius on April 12.



Puzzle

Unscramble the following words that are people or things you would find at Mass:

1. stripe _____
2. shot _____
3. crelot _____
4. largoi _____
5. deerc _____
6. steuricha _____
7. mean _____



Answers: 1. priest, 2. host, 3. lector, 4. Gloria, 5. creed, 6. Eucharist, 7. amen.

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Downey: 'Resurrection' a movie where 'families can gather together'

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

The new biblical epic "Resurrection" is the kind of movie where "families can get together" to watch it, said one of its producers, Roma Downey, still best known for her on-camera role in the television series "Touched by an Angel."

Families will indeed have that chance, as "Resurrection" debuts in streaming form March 27 on the Discovery+ subscription service.

Downey, who grew up a Catholic in Northern Ireland, said she can remember as a child gathering around the telly to watch movies on Easter like "The Ten Commandments" and "The Greatest Story Ever Told."

"Resurrection," at one hour and 35 minutes, is fairly compact for a biblical epic. In fact, you could watch it three times in the time ABC has allotted for its Holy Saturday screening of "The Ten Commandments" — plus umpteen commercials — April 3.

"We've been able to condense the story and I don't think we've lost any of the emotional punch it delivers. It



A scene from the movie "Resurrection."

comes together so beautifully," Downey told Catholic News Service (CNS) during a March 16 phone interview from California.

She also wants audiences to focus on the reason for the season. "While we all like Easter bunnies and chocolate — I wouldn't refuse! — I think it's important we remember the story of what Easter is about," Downey said.

Reprising his portrayal of Jesus is Juan Pablo Di Pace. He had played Christ in "A.D.: The Bible Continues," which also was produced by Downey and her husband, reality-show producer Mark Burnett.

The Argentine-born Di

— CNS photo/Joe Alblas, MGM
Pace, who was born in 1979 — one year after St. John Paul II was elevated to the papacy — is "amazing, and he does such a great job with this, and he's become such a dear friend to Mark and myself," Downey said. "In the crucifixion scene, we flew his mother in. His mother is a painter of religious art. One of her pieces is at the Vatican."

In fact, she added, Di Pace's mother can be seen at the foot of the cross in "Resurrection."

Other actors of note in the cast include Greta Scacchi as Jesus' mother and Joanne Whalley as Claudia, the wife of Pilate. Whalley also played Priscilla in the 2018 biblical film "Paul, Apostle of Christ," starring Jim Caviezel and Olivier Martinez.

It's no spoiler alert to disclose what happens in "Resurrection," since pretty much all of Christianity already knows. Dramatically, though, the title event happens 40 minutes into the movie. That leaves some

Movie Ratings



General Patronage

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



Adults and Adolescents

Raya and the Last Dragon (PG)
Resurrection (PG-13)
A Week Away (not rated)
Yes Day (PG)



Adults

Blithe Spirit (PG-13)
Boogie (R)
Chaos Walking (PG-13)
Coming 2 America (PG-13)
The Father (PG-13)
The Mauritanian (R)
Nomadland (R)



Limited Adult Audience

Cherry (R)

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

time to fill.

The movie then takes in Jesus appearing to His disciples after He leaves the tomb, His ascension to heaven, the coming of the Holy Spirit in the "upper room," and the healing of a lame-from-birth beggar at the temple in Jerusalem. There's also time to fill in the motivations and machinations of Pilate, Caiaphas and Caiaphas' wife.

"Resurrection" also had theological advisers to guide the script. "We don't tackle anything like that without people like that. It's too important," Downey told CNS. "I'm a person of faith but I'm not a theologian."

She added, "We haven't taken huge liberties with this important story."

While Scripture is seen as timeless, some of the dialogue in "Resurrection" may have to some viewers the effect of speaking about a year of upheaval in medical, political and societal circles.

"We're all needing some sort of resurrection in our own lives right now. We've all been in our tombs, we've all been isolated in our own ways by this pandemic," Downey said. But "there's been beauty in it, too. I

certainly feel in my own family a closeness to my own family, and I think it's put everything into a different perspective. I think there is now light at the end of the tunnel as the vaccines start to roll out."

She added, "I think the film can be seen through piercing hearts and the eyes that have lived through this year. There's a message of hope that this film can offer. And we need hope more than ever. That was our intention — rushing to get our movie ready for such a time as this. That there was something hopeful on television, that we could share together."

Viewers also will be able to note a transition from biblical times to the present day, as a flood of images including those of Pope Francis, a kneeling woman in a church clutching a rosary and an aerial view of a large statue of Jesus fill the screen.

"We just started playing around with different ideas of how to end the film — bring the story up close and personal for people," Downey said. The montage, she added, serves as "an amazing reminder that just from a handful of disciples we are now over 2 billion Christians in the world."

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SPIRIT FIRE

From page 4

said. “I know He’s the judge.”

“If it makes Jesus happy that my abusers would be in heaven, then I really hope they get there somehow,” she said.

“Veronica’s Veil”

The Church’s past failures to protect its most vulnerable members has shaken people’s faith to the core.

“But just because some bishops and in some cases, laypeople, didn’t have the faith to face down this evil, that doesn’t mean that Jesus didn’t,” said Ms. Pitt Green.

Only in the context of her faith could she understand the existence of such evil.

“You can understand pathology,” she said, “but here, I also understand evil and that it has been vanquished, once and for all. I stake my whole life that Christ is the victor, and it in some way works out when I’m rejoined with Him.”

Referring to the Church, she believes “it’s time to for the faithful to heal.”

“There’s great hope — enormous hope — in healing,” she said. “It’s what our whole faith is about!”

That’s why she and Luis Torres,

another survivor of abuse, founded Spirit Fire: to help restore what has been broken in themselves, their families, the Church and their society.

She and Father Lewis S. Fiorelli of the Oblates of St. Francis DeSales are co-authors of *Veronica’s Veil: Spiritual Companionship for Adult Survivors of Child Abuse — A Guide for Integrating Faith with Recovery*.

It’s a helpful resource for ministering to survivors of sexual abuse and their families.

It also helps survivors explore the subject without talking to anyone before they’re ready.

“They can take it to the priest and say, ‘I can deal with this if you can do what the book says,’” she stated.

Engaging in this ministry has made Ms. Pitt Green aware of how wounded the scandal has left everyone in the Church.

“Our position is that all Catholics’ hearts are broken by this,” she said. “All priests’

If it makes Jesus happy that my abusers would be in heaven, then I really hope they get there somehow.

— Teresa Pitt Green

hearts are broken by this, although most of them have carried the burden unbelievably well.”

Finding ways to help is painful but ultimately freeing for everyone, she said.

“For me, that’s what I like to do the most,” she stated. “I see so much joy come out of that.”

“A very safe place”

A group of abuse survivors and concerned bishops attended a daylong gathering in May

2019 at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

The theme for the event, convened by Spirit Fire, was: “Pushing Back Against the Darkness: Cultivating Relationships for Pastoral Care for Abuse and Trauma.”

It included prayer and a great deal of listening.

“The whole day was about exploring what a new relationship might look or feel like in a safe Spirit Fire-facilitated dialogue,” Ms. Pitt Green said. “It was a really powerful time.”

Among the participants was Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

“I can’t say enough about Bishop McKnight and his capacity to understand,” she said. “He just knows how to talk to a survivor. He’s got the heart for it.”

She believes such a God-

centered approach to dialogue will bring healing, reconciliation and renewed vigor for protecting children and other vulnerable people from abuse — in the Church and in all of society.

“We deeply believe that faith and spirituality is part of our healing,” she said. “But we believe that engaging in a constructive dialogue with the Church can help bring more pastoral care to survivors who need it and can’t find it.”

She and other Spirit Fire survivors have been facilitating similar low-key gatherings, including with members of the Pontifical Commission on the Protection of Minors.

The pandemic has required many of these gatherings to be virtual, but they are still God-led and effective.

Participants return to their dioceses or curial roles with renewed conviction to help past victims and their families and prevent any such abuse from happening again.

Ms. Pitt Green and her Spirit Fire associates help priests learn how to become trauma-sensitized and minister to victims without taking on the role of a therapist.

Contributors have also posted 20 years’ worth of resources on the Spirit Fire website:

spiritfirelive.wordpress.com

“Be vigilant”

Ms. Pitt Green serves on numerous diocesan review boards that advise local bishops on allegations of sexual abuse of minors.

She also works with several programs for priests that have committed abuse.

She has witnessed from all sides the Church’s remarkable progress in reforming how it protects children from abuse and how it helps survivors of past abuse.

Nonetheless, she emphasized, this is a dangerous time for children and young people.

“I can talk to you about ways the Church failed at it,

Daily Readings

Sunday, Apr 4

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Ps. 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Col. 3:1-4 or 1 Cor. 5:6b-8
Jn. 20:1-9 or Mk. 16:1-7 or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Lk. 24:13-35

Monday, Apr 5

Acts 2:14, 22-33
Ps. 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11
Mt. 28:8-15

Tuesday, Apr 6

Acts 2:36-41
Ps. 33:4-5, 18-20, 22
Jn. 20:11-18

Wednesday, Apr 7

Acts 3:1-10
Ps. 105:1-4, 6-9
Lk. 24:13-35

Thursday, Apr 8

Acts 3:11-26
Ps. 8:2ab, 5, 6-9
Lk. 24:35-48

Friday, Apr 9

Acts 4:1-12
Ps. 118:1-2, 4, 22-24, 25-27a
Jn. 21:1-14

Saturday, Apr 10

Acts 4:13-21
Ps. 118:1, 14-15ab, 16-21
Mk. 16:9-15

Sunday, Apr 11

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

Acts 4:32-35
Ps. 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
1 Jn. 5:1-6
Jn. 20:19-31

Monday, Apr 12

Acts 4:23-31
Ps. 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9
Jn. 3:1-8

Tuesday, Apr 13

St. Martin I, pope and martyr
Acts 4:32-37
Ps. 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5
Jn. 3:7b-15

Wednesday, Apr 14

Acts 5:17-26
Ps. 34:2-9
Jn. 3:16-21

Thursday, Apr 15

Acts 5:27-33
Ps. 34:2, 9, 17-20
Jn. 3:31-36

Friday, Apr 16

Acts 5:34-42
Ps. 27:1, 4, 13-14
Jn. 6:1-15

Saturday, Apr 17

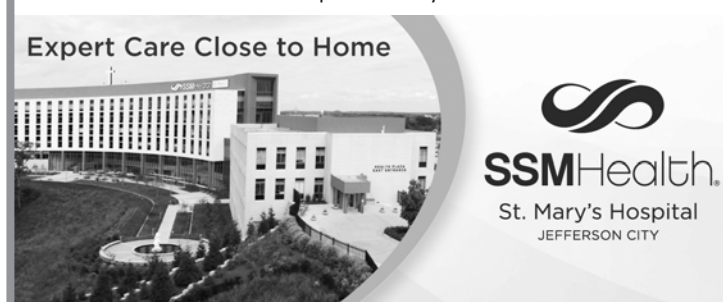
Acts 6:1-7
Ps. 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
Jn. 6:16-21

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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but it is really important that people realize that this isn’t just the Church. It’s everywhere,” she stated.

As chairwoman of the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force, she sees how many young people are being lured by technology into abuse and exploitation.

“The threats are much bigger now,” she asserted. “People need to become aware of child abuse and the signs of it.”

She’s convinced that preventing sex-abuse of minors throughout all of society is the

primary evangelical topic for this moment in history.

There are ways to empower young people without scaring them.

There are ways to empower adults to help protect them.

“There’s a lot to be done and a lot of reason to really stay close to our faith,” she said.

There’s also tremendous reason for hope.

“It’s so incomprehensible that there could be so much hope,” she said. “But it’s there. You just have to walk people through it.”

One-act play showing one woman's healing after abortion to be performed outside Capitol during Midwest March for Life

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

"Viable" (viableplay.org), a riveting, one-act play about finding hope after abortion, will be performed on the State



Capitol grounds at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14.

It will be part of a daylong slate of life-affirming activities during this year's Midwest March for Life.

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

With three actors and two chairs, "Viable" follows a journey of forgiveness, renewal, and hope through the eyes of one woman who carried a burden of despair.

The 60-minute live drama captures an unforgettable confrontation as an aborted child visits her mother nearly 30 years later.

The mother has carried guilt and grief for all that time, trying all the while to protect her emotional stability by professing the mantras that abortion providers originally used to comfort her.

"Viable" is not about the politics of abortion, the legality of abortion, or even the constitutionality of abortion.

The play simply presents the truth about Christ's love, healing and redemption.

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

An energetic pre-rally with life-affirming speakers will begin at 9:15 a.m.

A peaceful, pro-life march along the streets of downtown Jefferson City will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude with

a rally at 11 a.m.

Featured presenters for the day 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 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.

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

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.

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Hosted by Don & Ruth Ann Schnieders

Tuesday, May 4, 2021
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Dinner & Program 6:30 PM
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415 West McCarty Street | Jefferson City, Missouri

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