

Marching for life, celebrating a miracle

More than 2,000 gathered outside the Capitol to celebrate Missouri's progress toward becoming abortion-free, while being told not to let up.

Page 5



Racism persists. Page 3

Sr. Linda Markway's 25th. Page 6

Fr. Eric Groner's 25th... Page 7

Fr. Tolton's vocation Page 11

Life in Loose Creek. Page 17

On declaring saints Page 26

The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

April 30, 2021 • Vol. 64 No. 22

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Celebrating Fr. Tolton's legacy of welcome, mercy



See related article on Page 11

By Jay Nies

The St. Thomas More Newman Center Chapel's windows depict the waters of heaven and earth, separated at Creation and reunited through Baptism.

Those same waters freed Venerable Father Augustus Tolton from servitude long before he and his family crossed the Mississippi River to escape slavery in Missouri.

"You may hold the body in bondage, you might stop the body with hate, but you can't contain the spirit," Deacon William Seibert proclaimed from the Newman Center pulpit.

Deacon Seibert, who assists the pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, preached the homily during the Father Augustus Tolton Legacy Society's 2021 Mass on April 18.

The annual Mass celebrates the April anniversaries of Fr. Tolton's birth and baptism in Brush Creek in 1854 and his priestly ordination in Rome in 1886.

Fr. Tolton was the Roman Catholic Church's first noticeably Black priest in the United States.

That distinction came at a great cost.

"His life is a story of manmade obstacles, manmade confusion, manmade rejection, much of it under the guise of the Catholic faith," Deacon Seibert, who is African American, noted.

But God used Fr. Tolton and his circumstances to teach a great lesson about what it means to be truly Catholic.

"He was the epitome of what the Catholic Church should be: all-inviting, all-encompassing, a chance for all, no matter their background," said Deacon Seibert.

See LEGACY, page 19

Deacon William Seibert, who assists the pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, preaches the homily during this year's Mass with the Fr. Tolton Legacy Society April 18 in the St. Thomas More Newman Center Chapel in Columbia. Fr. Tolton overcame many manmade obstacles in order to serve God in the way he was called to do so. — Photo by Jay Nies

Number of deaneries, which are regional groups of parishes, to go from eight to five on July 1

Will lead to more efficient and effective collaboration among parishes, the bishop and Chancery staff

See full text of the bishop's decree, Page 16

The new deanery map is on Page 18

By Jay Nies

The work of the Church can be likened to a great mediæval cathedral.

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thing together without obstructing the light.

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The buttresses in the Jefferson City diocese will become stronger, more resilient and more responsive under a reorganization of the regional groupings of parishes, known as deaneries.

The number of deaneries will change from eight to five on July 1.

This reorganization of deaneries is a response to changing

See DEANERIES, page 13

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Director of Pastoral Counseling



St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia, Mo. has a position opening for a Director of Pastoral Counseling. The Director tends to the spiritual, mental and emotional health of all parishioners (both students and residents). The Director is responsible for coordinating spiritual direction and providing counseling for students and residents. This position also coordinates faith formation for resident parishioners and pastoral care for the homebound.

The ideal candidate must be a faith-filled, practicing Catholic; have a Master's degree from accredited social work, mental health counseling or marriage and family therapy program; and have clinical licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT). A background in Catholic theology, and experience working with young adults is preferred.

Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Applications accepted until the position is filled. Qualified applicants should submit resume and cover letter to Fr. Dan Merz, SLD, at frdan@comonewman.org.

Church must help counter resistance to vaccines, health care expert says

Catholic News Service
Rome

Members of the Catholic Church, especially religious working in health care and schools, have an important opportunity and duty to educate people about COVID-19 and to counter resistance to vaccinations, said an expert on the Vatican's COVID-19 commission.

Women religious and Catholic organizations who serve others every day and have people's trust are "our best hope for safe and fair distribution of vaccines as well as the best tool for convincing people of the safety and importance of taking the vaccines," said Sister Carol Keehan, a nurse and Daughter of Charity.

The Church also has clear teachings about the need for more ethical ways to produce and test vaccines, but it has said that receiving vaccines is not participating or cooperating with the evil of abortion, she said during an online meeting April 27 sponsored by the Rome-based International Union of Superiors General.

The event, dedicated to how women religious can be lead-

ers in bringing Gospel values to new models of the economy and health care, was part of a series of meetings looking at ways sisters can empower other women and accompany and support those most affected and marginalized by the pandemic.

Sr. Carol is the chair of the

Vatican COVID-19 Commission's health task force.

She gave the more than 300 participants online an overview of the two main goals of the taskforce: an equitable distribution of vaccines and treatments, and reducing the resistance to taking the vaccine.

Principal - Helias Catholic High School



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

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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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.

Bp. McKnight calls for personal conversion toward ending racism

By Jay Nies

Racism continues to contaminate society and the Church.

Three guilty verdicts against a former Minneapolis police officer in last May's death of George Floyd do not change that.

"In our own communities, including in the Diocese of Jefferson City, individuals are being humiliated and denigrated because of their race," Bishop W. Shawn McKnight stated

April 20. "Their human dignity is being crushed and defiled because they are seen as 'other' or 'less than.'"

The bishop was responding to the conviction of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, whose violent actions while arresting Mr. Floyd on May 20 were determined to have caused his death.

Videos of the incident set off waves of protests and demonstrations throughout the nation over race-based police

brutality.

"Violence motivated by racism must stop," said Bishop McKnight.

He said racism is always and everywhere wrong — an intrinsic evil — and that "it may exist even where we who are white do not see it."

"It is too easy and dishonest to be indifferent to racism, to tell ourselves we have nothing to do with the pain and suffering, the terror, which some people who are not white internalize each day," he said.

He insisted that all human beings are sisters and brothers to one another, regardless of race, language of creed.

He reiterated the U.S. Catholic Bishops' declaration that "racism is a life issue."

The bishops, speaking in May 2020 in the immediate wake of Mr. Floyd's death, called racism "a real and present danger that must be met head-on."

They said Catholics must stand for "the more difficult right and just actions instead of the easy wrongs of indifference."

"We cannot turn a blind eye to these atrocities and yet still try to profess to respect every human life," the bishops stated. "We serve a God of love, mercy and justice."

Bishop McKnight said taking a stand for "right and just actions" requires more than simply declaring, "I am not a racist."

"It requires each of us to look at how we are impacted by the culture in which we live," he said.

He pointed out that activities that white people take for granted — such as attending public events, shopping, or walking by an impromptu social gathering — can be moments of humiliation and

danger for people who are not white.

"We cannot be indifferent to this deprivation of basic

consciences in every American, but especially in our faithful," he stated.

Bishop McKnight promised to pray for the repose of the soul of George Floyd, for Derek Chauvin, for their family and friends, "and for all who have lost their lives due to racial violence."

"I also ask all people to join with me in praying for a conversion of hearts and minds, beginning with ourselves," he said. "This is the only way to end violence and bring about real peace in our communities."

The full text of Bishop McKnight's statement can be found online at diojeffcity.org. Click on the "Making Connections" dropdown under the Bishop McKnight tab.

"Violence motivated by racism must stop."
— Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

human dignity, which eventually endangers human lives," he said.

He expressed thanks to all people who are seen as minorities in this country "who suffer great persecution and hardship and yet endeavor to persevere and remain faithful to God's desire that all people should live in peace and harmony."

He said racism will not stop until every person makes a deep commitment to conversion.

"I pray for an awakening of

A dad for all seasons



Students of St. Joseph School in Salisbury honor their patron saint with a tribute on their playground fence. Pope Francis has declared this a year for the Church to honor St. Joseph.

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



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

The following appointments are tentative, depending on the pandemic.

MAY

- May 4** Missouri Province Bishop's Meeting, 10 am, Virtual
- May 5** Confirmation Ceremony, Our Lady of Snows Parish, 6:30 pm, Mary's Home
- May 6** Confirmation Ceremony, St. George Parish, 6:30 pm, Linn
- May 7** Confirmation Ceremony, St. Joseph Parish, 6:30 pm, Martinsburg
- May 8** Confirmation Ceremony, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 10 am and 11:30 am, Columbia
- May 11** Confirmation Ceremony, St. Peter Parish, 6:30 pm, Fulton
- May 12** Confirmation Ceremony, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, St. Robert and St. Jude Parish, Richland, 6:30 pm, St. Robert Bellarmine Church, St. Robert
- May 13** Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School 10th Anniversary Reception, 6 pm, Columbia
- May 15** Confirmation Ceremony, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish and Sacred Heart Parish, Columbia, 11 am, St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbia
- May 16** Confirmation Mass, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 2 pm, Sacred Heart School gymnasium, Sedalia

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Bishop McKnight's May prayer intention for our Local Church

May we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, our spiritual mother, this month by our support in charity for all mothers who struggle in poverty to raise their children.



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

Honremos este mes a la Santísima Virgen María, nuestra madre espiritual, con nuestro apoyo caritativo por todas las madres que luchan en la pobreza para criar a sus hijos.

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

Position Opening - Chancery Office



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

Associate Director of Stewardship — Supports the Stewardship Office through comprehensive communications and development programs, ensuring an integrated development strategy involving all entities of the diocese. Through personal contact, print and non-print media and technology, the Associate Director, under the supervision of the Stewardship Director, is instrumental in assisting the bishop in his mission to teach and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. The primary focus of this position is to assist the Director of Stewardship in working toward moving the diocese to a tithing model. In order to be successful, the candidate must be a practicing Catholic with excellent communication skills. He/she will be an inspiring leader and will facilitate discussions that lead to an increased knowledge and understanding of the activities and roles of the diocesan and parish organizations. The qualified candidate will have at least a bachelor's degree in communications, marketing or non-profit management and knowledge of the teachings of the Catholic Church and comprehension of basic theology. Candidates are encouraged to send a letter of interest and resume to HRDir@diojeffcity.org.

New diocesan Coat of Arms filled with symbolism

By Jay Nies

It stands apart.

The colors and design of the Jefferson City diocese's new Coat of Arms are unmistakable.

"The central component is the cross, the instrument of our salvation," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, who commissioned the new Coat of Arms and had a hand in its design.

"It points to our identity, our mission to preach the Good News and make disciples," he said.

The new Coat of Arms will become official on July 1.

It is made up of two parts: a bishop's miter, indicating a diocese, and a shield.

The combination of red, white and blue on the shield is a nod to the See City's namesake, Thomas Jefferson, drafter of the Declaration of Independence and chief promoter of the Louisiana Purchase.

The preponderance of blue and white in the shield symbolizes the Blessed Mother, the waters of baptism and the rivers that help define the topography of these 38 counties.

The alternating red and white of the cross illustrate two mysteries of the Christian faith: the fully divine and fully human nature of Christ, and the blood and water that flowed from His pierced side on the cross, representing Baptism and Eucharist.

A star indicates that the See City is also the state Capital.

Together, the star and crescent moon echo Scriptural references to the Blessed Mother, who through her Immaculate Heart is patroness of the diocese.

The colors, the crescent moon and the star also appear on the Missouri state flag.

The alternating colors of the rivers on both sides of the cross point to the fundamental change that comes through Baptism.

The reflection of colors on the shield points to humanity and divinity becoming inextricably linked through Christ's Incarnation.

"This is who we are," said Bishop McKnight, whose own Coat of Arms will be updated to incorporate the new heraldry of his diocese.

Lifting up the senses

The Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) and the Presbyteral Council unanimously recommended that Bishop McKnight work toward the creation of a new Coat of Arms, in response to requests from clergy and laity.

Benedictine Father Pachomius Meade worked with Bishop McKnight and his advisors to design the new Coat of Arms.

The Palmyra native is a monk of Conception Abbey and vice rector and dean of students at Conception Seminary College in northwestern Missouri.

Having studied several branches of religious art, he became interested in the ancient method and symbols for creating seals, flags and Coats of Arms.

In Medieval times, kings, nobles and their armies marked their battle shields and banners with symbols that identified their affiliation.

This tradition carried over into the

Church as kings and nobles became Christian, and members of their families became priests and bishops.

"And because seals were so important, a Coat of Arms became a handy thing to use for identification," said Fr. Pachomius.

He said the Church is always on the lookout for ways to unite its people and reinforce their sense of purpose.

"Because we're Catholic!" he stated. "We strive to draw from all of the faculties of our Catholic soul and the souls of those around us in order to seek harmony with each other.

"If we were merely brains in jars, we wouldn't need things like this," he said. "But we are more than that. We have all of these senses. We need things that represent other things and elevate our senses."

Tested in battle

Every Catholic diocese, most bishops and many abbots of monasteries now have their own Coat of Arms.

The discipline known as ecclesiastical heraldry has clear rules for creating Coats of Arms, including proper contrasts with colors, in order for the images to be clear and recognizable, even from a distance.

The Jefferson City diocese's current Coat of Arms, dating from the founding in

1956, depicts a Phrygian cap,

a Greek symbol for a freed slave.

The image was synonymous with patriots and those seeking liberty around the time of the American Revolution, hence its connection to Thomas Jefferson.

But for the past 65 years, few people in this diocese knew what it meant.

After listening and consulting with people, Bishop McKnight wanted to update the Coat of Arms with more distinct heraldry that could be easily associated with the entire diocese.

"He was clear about what he wanted to communicate," said Fr. Pachomius. "With my knowledge of heraldry, I helped execute it."

Fr. Pachomius became interested in this mode of expression while teaching art at Conception.

He worked with his students to create a Coat of Arms for a previous abbot. When the current abbot was elected, Fr. Pachomius took his interest in heraldry to a new level.

"I really got excited about it

and it became kind of a hobby for me to research and learn about," he said.

This has opened up doors to friendship with other heraldic artists and priests who are experts in heraldry, he said.

"So when I was asked to help create a new Coat of Arms for my home diocese, I said I'd be happy to help in any capacity that I could," he stated. "I saw it as a chance to give something back."

The Presbyteral Council and DPC both unanimously approved the new design.

Fr. Pachomius emphasized that a Coat of Arms is not simply a diocesan logo.

"It's a personal identification, like a photo ID or a fingerprint," he said. "Its purpose is to clearly and uniquely identify us."

He noted that while steeped in traditions of the Middle Ages, ecclesiastical heraldry is contemporary and very relevant.

"It doesn't have to tell your life story, so long it can be clearly identified as yours," he stated. "Clarity, simplicity, cohesion and balance are all good principles of design and have a lot of impact."

He reiterated ecclesiastical heraldry's roots on the battlefield.

"Even as noncombatants in the Church, we use symbols that bear witness to being willing to lay down our lives in service of the One Who laid down His own life for us," he stated.

For which it stands

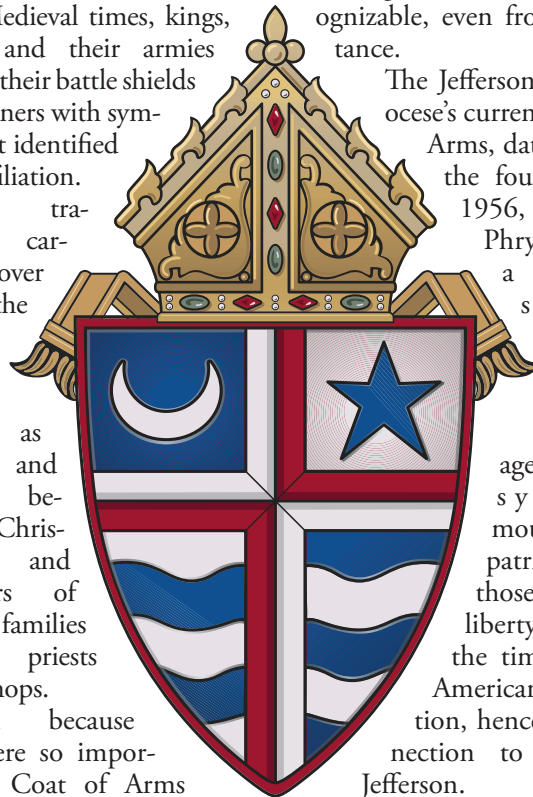
Fr. Pachomius hopes the new Coat of Arms will grow in stature over time, through association with decades of holy actions.

He sees his own association with it as a humble craftsman, "united with a Church that is holy only because it is in union with Christ Jesus."

He noted that Western culture is so image-saturated that people tend to become desensitized to it.

"Our medieval and pre-enlightenment ancestors had a much more vigorous imagination than we often do," he said.

He's amazed at how many



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Pro-life advocates herald the ‘Missouri Miracle’ during this year’s Midwest March for Life

By Jay Nies

Hymns and prayers, cheers and chants echoed off of the buildings along High Street and the marble columns of the Missouri State Capitol.

More than 2,000 people participated in the 2021 Midwest March for Life and ancillary activities on the Capitol grounds April 14.

The theme was “Together Strong: Life Unites, Hold the Line.”

Marchers gathered for a pre-rally on the Capitol steps and south lawn, followed by a rousing march to the Governor’s Mansion and back for another round of prayers, presentations and activities.

Speakers lauded Missouri’s pioneer spirit and dramatic success toward ending abor-

tion in the state.

The number of Missouri abortions fell from about 11,000 in 2008 to 39 in 2020.

“Man cannot touch God’s miracle!” proclaimed Bridget Van Means, CEO and division leader for ThriVe St. Louis Express Women’s Healthcare. “We are the safest state in the nation for the unborn.”

“We can learn a lot from you in Missouri,” stated Jeanne Mancini, president of the National March for Life in Washington D.C. “You are the state that’s singularly most protective of women and babies.”

“You have started a revolution that has shown the rest of the nation what it looks like to be pro-life, defend life, stand up for life and unite for life,” stated Lisa Rowe, CEO of

Support After Abortion.

Irreplaceable

Eric Scheidler, executive director of the Pro-Life Action League and son of the late pro-life pioneer Joe Scheidler, pointed to two of his father’s favorite sayings: “You only live once,” and “Do something pro-life every day.”

“Remember that you only live once, but so do all of those unborn children in the womb,” Eric

Scheidler stated. “So we need to dedicate that one life we live to protecting their lives.”

He echoed the Benedictine credo, “*Ora et Labora*” — “Pray and work.”

“Prayer is where we find our marching orders,” he noted. “Go to prayer to find out what you’re supposed to do. And then be decisive in your ‘yes’ when God gives you something.”

Ms. Mancini said she has found praying and fasting to be the most effective way to make a difference.

“This is a spiritual battle we’re fighting,” she said.

She noted that the National March for Life is the largest human-rights demonstration in the world.

“We are peaceful, we are joyful, we are somber because we know why we’re here, but we’re hopeful because we know the victory has already been won,” she said.

“Each of us has something critical and irreplaceable to contribute in this fight for life,” she added.

Time for action

Reagan Barkledge, Western regional director for Students for

Life America, lauded the loyalty of Missouri’s pro-life community and its unique level of success.

“We are so close but not close enough yet for celebration,” she said.

The state still has one abortion clinic in operation in St. Louis, and many Missouri women are still being referred to abortion clinics in Illinois and Kansas.

“We are not done, and we will not be done until there is not a single abortion performed on an innocent unborn Missourian,” said Ms. Barkledge.

Angela Copenhaver, executive director of WeTeachThink, talked about the importance of

discussing abortion in a measured and unthreatening way.

“Our goal is to help the middle-minded understand that we are human from Day 1, and how that understanding requires us to take action,” she said.

Success often comes through

patient discussions focused on mutual agreement and verifiable truth.

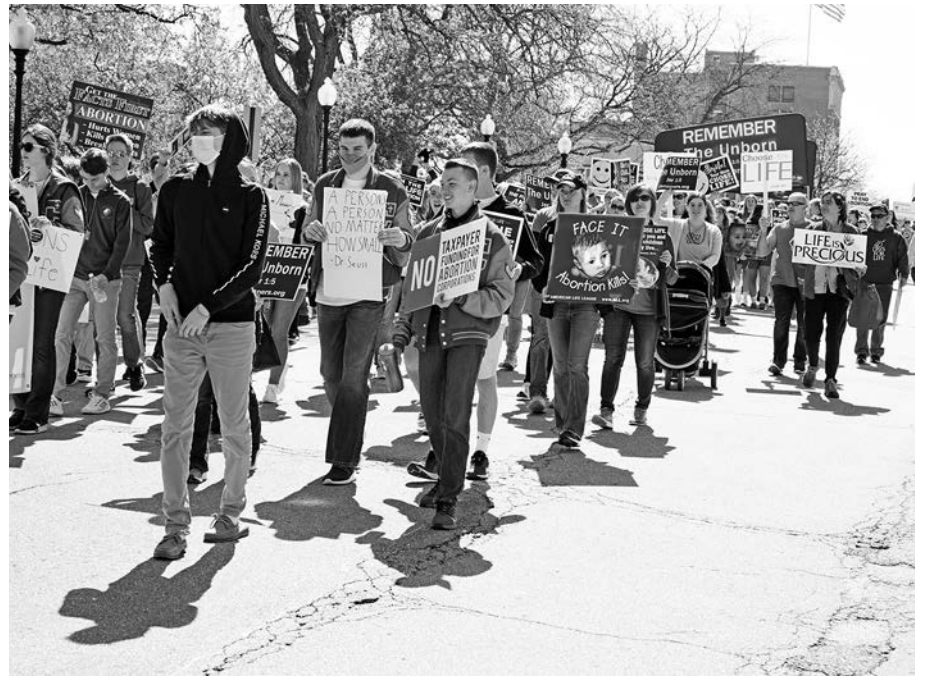
She gave tips for “taking the heat

out of a very hot topic,” so people will listen without shutting down or running away.

Drawing on her own experience, she said people who are “sitting on the fence” about abortion come over to the pro-life side once they realize that a separate and unique human life begins at conception and that abortion means intentionally ending that life.

Catherine Glenn Foster, president and CEO of Americans United for Life, proclaimed that “Missouri is leading the way.”

“States and communities across our nation are looking right here to Jefferson City,



Participants in this year’s Midwest March for Life make their way down High Street toward the Missouri Capitol. — Photos by Jay Nies



TOP: Members of St. Brendan Parish in Mexico, including their pastor, Father Dylan Schrader, carry the Midwest March for Life banner. **BOTTOM:** Deacon Samuel Lee of the St. Louis archdiocese, and director of Campaign Life Missouri, responds to receiving a Champion for Life Award during a rally at this year’s Midwest March for Life.

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.

God never gave up on Sr. Linda Markway's vocation

Jefferson City native has been a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet for 25 years

By Jay Nies

Jefferson City native Sister Linda Markway started out wondering what God could give to her.

It took her a long time to figure out what He wanted her to give to Him.

"God gave me this life for the purpose of sharing it," said Sr. Linda, who's celebrating her 25th anniversary as a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Sr. Linda is the second of seven children born to Francis and Delores (Renkemeyer) Markway, who are now deceased.

She grew up on the east side of the Capital City, graduating from Immaculate Conception School and Helias Catholic High School.

Her family frequently knelt down to pray with and for one another.

"Our knees got sore!" said Sr. Linda. "We were so happy when Mom and Dad put carpet on the floor."

Recognizing young Linda's early interest in teaching, her father converted the coal bin in the basement of their home to a classroom.

"Teaching was always in my blood," she said. "According to my brothers and sisters, I was teaching at about age 10. I had a little blackboard and would

collect the leftover chalk at the end of the school year, and I would help my siblings with their school work."

She befriended many of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word (CCVIs) who taught her at I.C. School.

"I admired them because they were so mysterious and kind and always seemed to be so happy," she said.

After high school, she decided to give religious life a try, entering the CCVI novitiate at San Antonio, Texas, in 1968.

She did not know whether she wanted to be a sister, but she did want to be a teacher, and the sisters offered her a good education.

She eventually determined that religious life was not for her, leaving the congregation before professing vows.

"And for about 20 years, I took my good ol' time running away from what God was wanting me to do," she said. "Apparently, I was still being called to religious life, but I didn't know it at the time.

"Or maybe I just didn't want it at the time."

Freely given

Sr. Linda taught in St. Louis for a few years before returning to San Antonio and meeting the man she thought she would marry.

They were engaged for a couple of years.

"I was in love and felt loved by this man," she said. "I had also heard from a lot of people that I would be a good mother."

She was content and at peace with where life was taking her until she received disturbing news from St. Louis.

Incarnate Word Sister Patricia Ann Kelley, who had been the CCVI vocation director during Sr. Linda's time there, had taken up ministry to the poor.

Sr. Pat was murdered in her office on Sept. 27, 1987.

"I went to her funeral," said Sr. Linda, "and from that point on, I knew I could not get married until I got this 'religious life thing' out of my system."

She and her fiancé had some heated discussions before agreeing that she needed some time to discern.

She contacted several religious orders and congregations, most advising her that she was too old or probably too set in her ways.

"I was 40," she noted. "Not as many communities were accepting delayed vocations as are doing so now."

She crossed paths with a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ) whom she had worked with in the early 1970s.

That sister said, "Linda, yes, please come and continue your discernment with us."

"And I felt right at home with these women from the very get-go," said Sr. Linda. "But I still kept dragging my feet."

God remained faithful and persistent, sending the right people to keep challenging and nudging her.

"I was fortunate in that the people in my life could see that I was unsettled, that I seemed to be searching for something," she said.

She had acquired a comfortable life that she felt free to hold onto or give up, depending on what God wanted for her.

"I think the more ways we come to know ourselves, come to understand how we are made in the image and likeness of God, the greater opportunity we have to love ourselves as God loves us," she



Sister Linda Markway CSJ

said.

Sr. Linda entered the CSJs at their motherhouse in St. Louis in 1995 and became a novice in 1996.

Several family members were concerned that she was making a mistake.

But on the day she professed first vows, one of her brothers said, "Now I get it."

"He saw in me a joy that he had never seen before," Sr. Linda recalled. "I felt a joy that I couldn't express with words. It was so complete, so full, so radiant."

That joy has driven and validated her life and work as a sister.

"Dear neighbor"

Sr. Linda's mother's favorite prayer was to reassure God that "nothing is going to happen to me today that You and I cannot handle together."

"And that has become the reality of my own life," said Sr. Linda. "God and I are doing this in partnership."

Her novice director was fond of telling her, "Linda, get out there and make God look good today."

"That is my job," Sr. Linda declared. "And I can do it because I have come to know God in Whose own image I have been created."

Armed with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in education administration, she taught and served as a principal until 2001.

She spent three years as an assistant to the Service Exten-

sion Department for the Salvation Army's Central USA Territory, then four years as an administrative assistant for Research and Development Services at Saint Louis University.

She then served for two years as a co-director for CORE, a CSJ service program for young women, followed by four years as vocation director for the CSJ St. Louis Province.

She cofounded the Fiat House, an intentional living environment for young women in discernment.

From 2015 to 2020, she served as director of mission stewardship at Fontbonne University in St. Louis, taking on additional duties in campus ministry in 2018.

In any community she's been a part of, she could be counted on to tackle basic home repairs.

At Fontbonne, she would gather a few students, borrow a truck and help people move on short notice. They called it, "One Nun and a Truck."

One of her favorite roles in the community is "Jammin' Josie," the DJ for gatherings of CSJ sisters and associates, providing entertainment at jubilee and anniversary celebrations of family and friends.

"That's what CSJ is all about," she said. "We 'serve the dear neighbor without distinction.' There are no strangers among us." CSJs are called to do all of which women are capable.

She retired in 2020 and currently volunteers in campus ministry and advancement at Fontbonne.

Discerning and deciding

Sr. Linda has contact with many young people who are afraid of making wrong decisions and not being able to get back on track.

She hopes her own story helps them turn to God with confidence, hope and trust.

"There's just no telling what can happen when you decide to get out of the way and let God, Who loved you first and loves you forever, be in control," she said.

She loves the Sisters of St.

See SR. LINDA, page 22

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Fr. Eric Groner: 25 years on mission in Society of the Divine Word

By Jay Nies

A 12-year-old Boy Scout was on a Catholic camping retreat on the grounds of the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkeburg.

There was all-night Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the chapel. He signed up for 2 to 3 a.m. but wound up staying until after 5.

"Picture yourself there by yourself, in the middle of the night," he recalled. "You're tired, but what a tremendous experience!"

That long, sleepless night brought about a spiritual awakening.

"God kind of planted in my head from that time forward that maybe He's calling me to be a priest," said Father Eric Groner.

The Jefferson City native recently noted his 25th anniversary as a priest of the Society of the Divine Word.

"I am so grateful for all the people I've gotten to know and all the opportunities I've been given," he said. "I am grateful to be alive and well and in God's service."

On bended knee

Fr. Groner is the second of five children born to Joann and the late Richard Groner.

All of them attended Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City.

"We had the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word," he said. "We had three priests and several deacons and a lot of big families. It was a very happening place."

He was active in the Boys Scouts and eventually attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

An uncle, Father John Groner, and a great-uncle, the late Monsignor Bernard Groner, both of the Jefferson City diocese, were among the 13 priests in his extended family.

Many cousins and great-aunts became religious sisters.

All of this helped "demystify" the Priesthood and religious life for Fr. Groner.

"They were members of my own family," he said. "I looked up to them, but I saw them as human."

Another priestly role model was Father Richard Cronin, now deceased, who as pastor of Immaculate Conception Par-

ish gave Fr. Groner his First Holy Communion.

"He had tremendous recall and could remember people's names," said Fr. Groner. "He was a people person, and everyone respected him."

A native of Ireland, Fr. Cronin knew several Divine Word Missionaries from the society's Ireland province.

"He was impressed with them," said Fr. Groner. "He wound up giving me a recommendation."

Relatively new

The Society of the Divine Word (SVD) is the fifth-largest men's religious community in the world, with about 7,000 members serving in 82 countries.

It is an international mission society that includes priests, religious brothers and two communities of religious women: the Holy Spirit Missionaries and the Sister Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration.

"We're more or less a new community compared to the others," Fr. Groner noted. "We're working in over 80 different countries. In theory, you could be assigned anywhere, based on need."

St. Arnold Janssen, a diocesan priest from Germany, founded the SVDs in 1875 to be the national foreign mission society of a newly united Germany, as most other countries in Europe already had one.

Its first task would be to minister to German expatriates during a time of turbulent Church-state relations in their homeland. The society sent missionaries to German-speaking people in China, South America and the United States.

"And now we're international," said Fr. Groner. "We have members from almost every country we work in."

In the U.S., the SVDs were charged with ministering to poor African Americans, mostly in isolated rural locales.

"That was a big part of the work we did for many years," said Fr. Groner. "From 1920 until 1968, we had the only seminary in the United States that would accept Black candidates for the Priesthood."

"Most of our parishes are African American or multi-

cultural," he noted. "My current parish is about 80 to 90 percent Hispanic. That's kind of our mission field for today."

Good neighbors

Fr. Groner's childhood neighbors included Immaculate Conception parishioners Paul and Mary Goedde.

Mrs. Goedde had grown up on a farm near Freeburg. One of her 11 siblings, Divine Word Brother Leonard Bauer, had served at Masses offered by Fr. Groner's great-uncle.

Fr. Groner later attended Divine Word Seminary College in Epworth, Iowa, where Brother Leonard was the business manager and became one of his mentors.

Fr. Groner continued his studies at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, earning a master's degree in divinity.

He served his novitiate at St. Augustine Seminary in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, professing first vows there on Aug. 18, 1990.

First profession is the day from which Divine Word Missionaries mark their jubilee.

"For diocesan priests, the ordination date is really important, so 25 and 50 years are big celebrations," he noted. "When you have priests and brothers in the same community, the anniversaries of vow dates are celebrated by everyone together."

Along right paths

During formation, Fr. Groner served on mission on the Isles of St. Kitts and Antigua in the Caribbean.

In Puerto Varas, Chile, he worked at the central office of the Hogares de Menores Verbo Divino, which helps homeless children, and at the Colegio Germania (German College).

He earned a certificate of proficiency in Spanish from the Chilean North American Institute of Culture, part of the University of Chile in Santiago.

He professed perpetual vows on Sept. 16, 1995, in the Holy Spirit Chapel at Divine Word International in Techny, Illinois.

He was ordained to the Dia-



Father Eric Groner SVD

conate the following day.

He served as a deacon at St. Mary of Celle Parish in Berwyn, Illinois, and as a chaplain at Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago.

On March 23, 1996, in Techny, Illinois, Auxiliary Bishop Curtis Guillery of Galveston-Houston ordained Fr. Groner and seven other men to the Holy Priesthood.

"The celebration was just unbelievable!" Fr. Groner's mother, Joann, recalled. "Each nationality had their own choir and their own Offertory Procession where they carried up items according to their tradition. It was just beautiful."

Fr. Groner offered a Mass of Thanksgiving three weeks later in Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City.

He consecrated the Precious Blood in a restored chalice from Germany that had been used on the ordination days of his great-uncle and uncle, in 1921 and 1971, respectively.

Hardships aplenty

Fr. Groner believes the variety of his priestly assignments has helped him appreciate the Church's universal nature.

"It gives you a different perspective," he said. "I've gotten to see a lot of things."

He was first sent to El Banco,

See FR. GRONER, page 21

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QUESTION CORNER

Wording of Nicene Creed /
Conflicted about cremation

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Q. I recall some time ago a change in the language of the creed we say at Sunday Mass to make it more inclusive. The new phrases were things like “For us and for our salvation” and “was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became one of us.” I realized recently, though, that our parish no longer uses this newer language and has gone back to “for us men” and “became man.” When was it decided to revert to the older language? Or perhaps the inclusive language was not universal — in my case, perhaps it started at the parish of the university I attended. (Lansdale, Pennsylvania)

A. The phrases that you quote — “for us and for our salvation” and “became one of us” — are “homemade versions” of the language of the Nicene Creed and have never enjoyed any official status. My guess is that the priest at the university parish you attended crafted that wording himself, so as not to offend any members of the congregation.

The actual text — as approved for use at Mass and as it appears in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* — is the following: “For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.”

Should it be of any comfort to you, as I have mentioned before in this column, the Latin word from which the English is translated — “*homines*” — is generic; it means “person” or “human being,” not “member of the male sex.”

But the average participant at Mass can’t be expected to know this, and so I look forward to the day when the Mass text in English will reflect more clearly that wider meaning. Meanwhile, I often choose to use instead the Apostles’ Creed, which is a permissible liturgical alternative and whose language cannot be misunderstood as exclusive.

Q. I’ve been having conflicting ideas about cremation. My husband wants to be cremated; at first, I was all for it, but now I’m having a difficult time with that decision. I know in the Apostles’ Creed it says, “the resurrection of the body,” and I also know that the Church prefers burial of the body, even though it does allow cremation followed by immediate burial of the ashes. Can you help me with these two options? (Wichita, Kansas)

A. For many centuries, the Catholic Church did not allow cremation. Historically, cremation was linked to the burial practices of pagans, whose religious beliefs did not include the expectation of eventual resurrection and viewed death as the definitive obliteration of the human person. It was only in 1963 that the Church began to allow cremation as it became more commonplace for both economic and sanitary reasons.

As you indicate, though, Catholic teaching continues to prefer burial of the body because, in the Church’s mind, burial reflects a greater reverence and respect for the deceased and more clearly expresses the Christian belief in an eventual resurrection, when a person’s body and soul will be reunited.

As the appendix to the *Order of Christian Funerals* puts it: “The body of a deceased Catholic Christian is also the body once washed in baptism, anointed with the oil of salvation, and fed with the bread of life. ... The body of the deceased brings forcefully to mind the Church’s conviction that the human body is in Christ a temple of the Holy Spirit and is destined for future glory at the resurrection of the dead” (No. 412).

See FR. DOYLE, page 22

Papal
Audience
April 28, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on Christian prayer, we now consider the importance of meditative prayer. Everyone needs moments of recollection amid the busyness of our daily lives. For Christians, meditation is not simply a matter of introspection but a method of prayer, a means of encountering Christ, above all in the mysteries of His earthly life. While there are many methods of meditation in the Church’s rich spiritual tradition, all have a single aim: to enable us to grow in our relationship with Jesus our Savior. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, our union with Christ in faith is nurtured through the use of our intellect, imagination, emotions and desires. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that meditation on the mysteries of Christ deepens our faith, prompts the conversion of our hearts, and strengthens our will to follow in His footsteps (cf. No. 2708). Our Lord’s every word and action can thus touch us and become a part of our own lives. On every page of the Gospel we are invited to encounter Christ and to discover in Him the source of our salvation and our true happiness.

I cordially greet the English-speaking faithful. In the joy of the Risen Christ, I invoke upon you and your families the loving mercy of God our Father. May the Lord bless you all!

Clean-up
detail

Volunteers from Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City take part in their annual spring neighborhood clean-up the morning of Saturday, April 17. They picked up more than 14 bags of trash in several blocks surrounding the parish property while greeting neighbors. The parish’s Social Concerns Commission organizes the clean-up each year.

— Photos from the Immaculate
Conception Catholic Parish
Facebook page



Springtime snow

A rare April snow blankets the dogwood blossoms outside Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City on April 20.

— Photo by Deacon
Kenneth Wildhaber



Pandemic reminds us we are made for loving relationship

By Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, SV
Catholic News Service

The Lord is risen! As we celebrate the resurrection, the Lord's words to His disciples in the upper room resound with particular poignancy this year: "I will come back again and take you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be" (Jn. 14:3).

These words take on a greater significance in the context of the ongoing global pandemic and the difficult experience of separation and distancing from friends and family, co-workers and loved ones. The pain of loneliness and isolation has increased our awareness of our need for community and challenges Sartre's — and modernity's — provoca-

tive proposal that "hell is other people."

Separation from others has drained the life and joy from our lives, and Easter is a reminder, each year, that we are made for others. Each Easter, we remember the radical love of God for us, revealed to us through Jesus Christ and His willingness to enter into our fallen condition, to bear with us the painful result of sin — separation from God and others.

Made in the image and likeness of God, Who is a communion of persons, this truth is part of our spiritual DNA and is reflected in the very structure of our bodies: We are made for relationship.

The unforgettable images of the

abandoned and empty squares, churches and piazzas across the world last spring were disconcerting, leaving many with an increased sense of futility, hopelessness, sadness.

In stark contrast, each Easter we are presented with another image of emptiness, but one which brings a thrill of hope to our hearts: the empty tomb, which confirms for us that it is "not good for man to be alone."

While there are many stories of sadness and heartbreak resulting from the pandemic, there are also many stories of hope and new life. As Sisters of Life, we walk with women who are pregnant and who are, many times, carrying the sorrow of abandonment and rejection

due to the new life they have received.

Sophie (name changed for anonymity) was one of these heroic women who experienced an unexpected pregnancy in her teens. For 13 years, she lived without her daughter, until the pandemic hit and she realized how precious life and relationships are.

She shared with us the question on her heart: "What if I only had a month left to live, Sister? I didn't want to live it without my daughter." She began to change her life, to embrace her motherhood, and for the first time her daughter was able to live with her.

As the Second Vatican Council not-

See RELATIONSHIP, page 22

Arise, receive the vaccine, save lives

By Hosffman Ospino
Catholic News Service



"The Lord is risen!" This is our cry during the 50 days of Easter. We celebrate life with joy: our present historical life and life eternal.

As we celebrate like Easter people, we know with confidence that death does not have the last word. In rising Jesus from the dead, God conquers death. Indeed, death does not define us; life does!

Every year during Easter, Catholics have a new opportunity to celebrate the gift of life while contemplating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. "The Lord is risen," we proclaim. In contemplating His resurrection, we look forward to our own.

This particular year we find ourselves into the second year of the COVID-19 global pandemic. This is the second Easter when the celebration of life happens amid the conditions created by a virus that has affected everyone on our planet.

Millions of people have died worldwide because of the virus. Millions more mourn our loved ones who died and miss them dearly. Countless people of all ages will live the rest of their existences with the wounds of an illness that caught our world by surprise.

This year, however, things are different. A miracle has happened. Not as powerful and decisive as the miracle of the resurrection, yet a miracle. The scientific community has developed a cadre of vaccines that have the ability to bring the COVID-19 virus under some control.

Science placed at the service of life and the common good can prevent people from dying prematurely. When modern medicine mesmerizes us in ad-

ressing a major threat to human existence, we stand in awe. And awe is an invitation into the greatness of the divine.

The next question is, what do we do with the miracle? This applies to the miracle of the resurrection and the lesser miracle of the development of a series of vaccines to protect human life at this historical moment when we are confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic.

God's salvation in Jesus Christ is a gift, yet it must be embraced. God wants us to make the gift our own. What drives the Church's evangelizing thrust in history is the conviction that we want people to have a profound experience with the Risen Christ and embrace the gift of salvation.

There is something analogous about the gift of vaccines that protect our lives, the lives of those we love and the life of every other human being. We have them there, but we must receive them.

After more than a year in the current pandemic, we know that death is a real possibility because of the virus. This is neither a game nor a drill. Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine — or not — can make the difference between living and dying; seeing others live or die.

Pardon me if I sound somewhat dramatic. However, I am concerned that many people in our society, and particularly in our own Catholic communities, seem to downplay the importance of vaccination during the present pandemic. Many reject vaccination altogether.

There is far too much misinformation. Too many conspiracy theories. Too much fearmongering. The antidote to all of this is good information and good pastoral outreach. The Vatican, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and nearly all credible Catholic organizations have endorsed COVID-19 vaccination as morally acceptable and a priority to protect life and the common good.

If we care about life, we have a re-

sponsibility to do what is possible to protect it. Our discernment must involve more than our personal views. In the spirit of Easter, as we contemplate the Risen Lord, allow me a simple in-

itation: Arise, receive the vaccine, save lives.

Hosffman Ospino is professor of theology and religious education at Boston College.

REFLECTION

Buckets and bouquets

By Mark Saucier

COVID has caused many to consider the uncertainty of life.

Sales of headstones have increased, and the term "bucket list" is popping up in articles and ads.

That's good. Pre-planning arrangements is a kindness to your family. Doing some things that will give you joy will positively affect others in your life.

Personally, I wouldn't mind driving the Great Barrier Reef or hiking the Himalayas, but I'm not sure that doing either is going to make me better prepared for my demise or better suited to any transition.

Maybe, thinking of things we want to do before we die, we could add a list that focuses on our spiritual path.

We might call this one a "bouquet" instead of a "bucket," like the old practice of listing devotional practices we offer for another.

This one, though, is about what we are going to do for ourselves.

In Hindu teaching, and in a lot of Christian practice, that last stage in life's pilgrimage is the Forest Dweller. It is an ascetic phase of retirement, wisdom and renunciation. It is an attempt to disentangle our lives, remove the clutter and to see what remains, to see what abides.

There are two questions we confront. The first is "Who is God?" and the second is "Who am I?" They are not unrelated.

To wrestle with the first, we have to go beyond titles and definitions to encounter the presence of God in our lives.

We have to see it, name it and rely on it.

Throughout our lives, we struggle with personal identity and purpose.

Age only intensifies our need to find our deepest, truest self — who I am, apart from any resume or relationship.

Both of these searches demand honesty, discipline and prayer. My suspicion is, the closer I get to one, the more self-evident will be the other.

Retirement and renunciation do not absolve us from service. To the contrary, they provide more time to seek out and care for the other. How do I best do this?

The last flower in my bouquet is for unrequited love. We look back and see the people we loved who either spurned that love or abused it. Isn't it time to forgive them?

But there is another love sown on rocky ground. What about those who sacrificed for us or longed for our friendship, but were denied or discarded?

How do I atone for that?

So, bucket or bouquet? Why not both?

Abp. Gomez: Pope wants Church to be ‘the vanguard in society’

Catholic News Service

St. Paul, Minnesota

Pope Francis' encyclical *"Fratelli Tutti"* is a "challenging document" because of the many issues it covers, but it's also "very practical" because it "talks about the foundations of our Catholic commitments to building a better society and a better world," Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez said April 15.

"At the heart of *Fratelli Tutti* is the simple and beautiful vision of the Gospel — that God our Father has created every human being with sanctity and dignity, with equal rights and duties, and that our Creator calls us to form a single human family in which we live as brothers and sisters," the archbishop said.

"The pope wants the Church to be the vanguard in society, to help our neighbors to see that we are called to create a shared community in which every human person is cherished and respected," he added.

The prelate, who is the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, made the comments in a keynote address for the Minnesota Catholic Conference's "Catholics at the Capitol" Day in St. Paul.

Originally slated to be an in-person event, the organizers shifted to a virtual format in the wake of violence following

the April 11 police shooting of Daunte Wright, a 20-year-old Black man, in Brooklyn Center, near Minneapolis.

Archbishop Gomez's remarks were delivered via Zoom.

Wright's death set off three nights of protests and vandalism in Brooklyn Center and patrols by police, State Patrol and Minnesota National Guard, as well as dozens of arrests.

"I am very sorry we cannot all be together today 'in person,'" Archbishop Gomez said. "My friends, on behalf of the Catholic people of Los Angeles and the nation's bishops, I want to say that we are praying for all of you and for the whole Church in Minnesota in this challenging moment."

"We pray for peace and we pray for justice, and we pray for the families of all those involved in the latest violence," he said. "Please know that the Church remains committed to providing long-term leadership in the struggle against racism throughout the United States. ... We need to stand together as one Church to eradicate this evil from our own hearts, from the hearts of our neighbors, and from the structures of our society."

"Rebuilding the world"

Archbishop Gomez called the "Catholics at the Capitol" Day "an important wit-

ness to the Church's vision for social justice and the common good" and said the gathering provided an opportunity to reflect on *"Fratelli Tutti"*, on Fraternity and Social Friendship" and "what it means for our mission in this moment."

In it the pope "is setting out a vision for rebuilding the world after this pandemic — not just politically and economically, but also, spiritually, culturally and morally," he said. "The pope recognizes, as we do, that the coronavirus pandemic has exposed deep inequalities in our societies and that in many ways, the pandemic has made those inequalities even worse."

Pope Francis writes about "the rise of racism and nationalism, the struggles of immigrants and refugees, and critical issues like the death penalty, war and poverty" and a host of other issues, he said, "but he goes even deeper, offering a kind of 'prophetic reading' of the signs of the times."

The pontiff addresses what's "at the heart of some troubling trends in our societies," such as polarization, extremism, the breakdown of politics, "radical individualism" and a "throwaway world," evidenced by "declining birthrates, the shameful treatment of the elderly, the destruction of the unborn," the archbishop said.

It's "a challenging document," but at the heart of it, he continued, "is the simple and beautiful vision of the Gospel — that God our Father has created every human

being with sanctity and dignity, with equal rights and duties, and that our Creator calls us to form a single hu-



Archbishop José H. Gomez

man family in which we live as brothers and sisters."

"Beautiful vision"

Archbishop Gomez added, "The Church is not a political party and we are not activists. We are Catholics. Before everything else, this is our identity, this is who we are. ... Our vision and our approach to social justice must be different."

For Catholics, "social justice is not about personal identity, or group power, or getting more material goods," he continued. "True social justice is about building a society where people can be good, a society where people can love one another and take care of one another, where they can find God and know that they are made for heaven."

"And true social justice can never be obtained without simple human kindness,

compassion and forgiveness."

In a country where politics and the culture "are aggressively secular," some leaders "seem to want to close our society off from Christian ideas and values," he said, and he is "troubled by the growing censorship of Christian viewpoints on the internet and social media and the marginalization of believers in other areas of our public discourse."

Such trends "amount to a rejection of America's founding principles and the consequences are not healthy for our society," he said.

Catholics "need to insist — as Pope Francis insists — that religious freedom is a fundamental right," but we also need "to

insist that the Church has a vital contribution to make to make in promoting social justice and helping to shape the direction of America society," the archbishop said.

We're also "called to keep the truth alive about the human person — the truth that every person in our society has a soul that is destined for eternity and a meaning and purpose that transcends this world," Archbishop Gomez said.

"As Catholics, we also believe that the most basic purpose of government and policy is to protect the sanctity and dignity of the person, from the moment they are conceived until the moment they draw their dying breath."

"Our task in this moment," he added, "is to bring this beautiful vision to our public discourse ... to proclaim Christ, to love our enemies, and to work with love to persuade people and to change hearts and minds."

The full text of Archbishop Gomez's keynote address can be found online at:

angelusnews.com/voices/the-catholic-difference-on-social-justice

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

Faithful note Fr. Tolton's 135th priestly anniversary at Mass where he received his vocation

By Jay Nies

One hundred thirty-five years and one day after Venerable Father Augustus Tolton's priestly ordination, about 40 people gathered for Sunday worship at the place where he received his priestly vocation.

pastor that he was," Fr. Oligschlaeger stated in his homily. "His priestly calling started right here at his Baptism. God gave him the grace to do what He was calling him to do."

The current St. Peter Church, built of stone, dates

They remained Catholic. Young "Gus" worked in factories and attended St. Peter School in Quincy, Illinois.

He became a catechist at St. Joseph Mission Church for African-American Catholics in Quincy.

He grew into knowing that God was calling him to the Priesthood. His mother, his pastor, several School Sisters of Notre Dame and Franciscan friars helped him prepare for the rigors of priestly formation.

No U.S. seminary would accept him.

Fr. Tolton wound up studying in Rome as a member of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

He was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in St. John Lateran Basilica on Holy Saturday in 1886.

Thinking he would serve overseas after ordination, he was sent back to the St. Joseph Mission in Quincy.

He ministered patiently and heroically there and then in Chicago, where he died of heatstroke in 1897, at age 43.

The Chicago archdiocese opened a sainthood cause for him in 2011.

Church authorities await a miracle from God through Fr. Tolton's intercession in order to declare him blessed.



Father Gregory Oligschlaeger, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City and St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek, elevates the Most Blessed Sacrament during Mass in historical St. Peter Church in Brush Creek, which stands where Venerable Father Augustus Tolton was baptized. The nation's first Black Catholic priest was ordained in Rome 135 years ago.
— Photos by Jay Nies



Spring flowers and freshly mowed grass adorn the burial places of slaves who were members of the former St. Peter Parish in Brush Creek, site of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton's baptism.

Father Gregory Oligschlaeger, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City and St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek, presided at Mass in St. Peter Church in Brush Creek.

It stands where Fr. Tolton, a son of slaves, was baptized in 1854.

He grew up to become the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

"We celebrate and honor the

from 1862.

Peter Paul and Martha Jane Tolton brought their infant son to the previous St. Peter Church, constructed of planks, for baptism in 1854.

During the Civil War, Mr. Tolton escaped, enlisted in the Union Army and died before returning to his family.

Mrs. Tolton escaped to Illinois with her children, crossing the Mississippi River by boat under the threat of gunfire.

"We pray for the cause of Venerable Fr. Tolton, that his message of compassion and mercy may continue to spread as his cause continues to move toward beatification," said Fr. Oligschlaeger.

As it was Good Shepherd Sunday and the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Fr. Oligschlaeger asked everyone to be open to God's vision for the Church, not just their own.

He encouraged them to pray for vocations to the Priesthood and religious life and to encourage young people to ask God for help knowing and answering His call for them.

People in the congregation spanned many decades. Some had traveled from as far as Macon, Shelbina, Columbia and Jonesburg.

Several spoke of their connections to old St. Peter Church — including a woman who used to mow the grass, a man who used to light the stoves in the winter, some who were baptized and received their First Holy Communion there, some who were united in marriage there, many who have relatives and ancestors at rest in the cemetery, and the

See FR. TOLTON, page 27



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Pope calls for monthlong global prayer marathon to end pandemic

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Vatican City
Pope Francis has called

for a global prayer marathon for the entire month of May, praying for the end to the pandemic.

“The initiative will involve in a special way all shrines in the world” in promoting the initiative so that individuals,

families and communities all take part in reciting the rosary, “to pray for the end of the pandemic,” said the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization in a press release April 21.

“It is the heartfelt desire of the Holy Father that the month of May be dedicated to a prayer marathon dedicated to the theme, ‘from the entire Church an unceasing prayer rises to God,’” it said.

The theme refers to the miraculous event recounted in the Acts of the Apostles (12:1-12) when all the Church prayed for Peter, who was imprisoned until God sent an angel to free him, illustrating how the Christian community comes together to pray in the face of danger and how the Lord listens and performs an unexpected miracle.

Each day in May, there will be a livestream from one of 30 chosen Marian shrines or sanctuaries to guide the prayer

at 6 p.m. Rome time (11 a.m. central daylight time) on all Vatican media platforms.

The pope will open the monthlong prayer May 1 and conclude it May 31, the council said.

Each day of the month has a different prayer intention related to the pandemic. For instance, the May 17 intention is “for all world leaders and for all heads of international organizations.” That prayer will be celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

The following day, at the Basilica of Our Lady of Lourdes in France, prayers will be for all doctors and nurses. The May 23 prayer intention at the Quebec shrine, Notre Dame du Cap, is for law enforcement, military personnel and firefighters.

The English-language list of shrines and prayer intentions can be found at bit.ly/3gMANYS.

Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for Protection from the Coronavirus

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, we entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross, you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

Patroness of the Diocese of Jefferson City, you know what we need.

We are certain of the power of your intercession, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who taught us to “love one another, as I have loved you” took our sufferings upon Himself and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Bring under your mantle of protection all who provide care for the sick and minister to their needs, as your Son implores us to do for one another.

V. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

R. Do not despise our pleas and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

R.I.P., Precious Blood Fr. Joseph Miller, 70, formerly of Sedalia

Precious Blood Father Joseph E. Miller, 70, a former associate pastor in Sedalia, died on March 16.

He was a priest of the Kansas City Province of the Missionary Society of the Precious Blood and was serving as pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in St. Joseph at the time of his death.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 19 in St. James Church in Liberty.

Precious Blood Father Joseph Bathke, the homilist, noted that God's Word was Fr. Miller's strength, hope and love.

“He attempted to bring his spirituality into this world as the beacon of light, as a sign of hope, but most of all, as a sign of stability, that God's Word has power in this world,” said Fr. Bathke, who is pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Warrensburg.

Fr. Bathke also pointed to Fr. Miller's penchant for bringing visual aids into his preaching.

These were symbols of hope and of God's constant and immediate presence.

“Father Joseph could go anywhere in this world and have no fear,” said Fr. Bathke. “You know why? Because he believed that God had already been there and done that.”

Fr. Miller was born in Bellevue, Ohio, on Aug. 13, 1950, a son of Alfred and Agnes (Hay) Miller.

He entered formation with the Society of the Precious Blood at Brunnerdale Seminary in Canton, Ohio, in September 1964.

He graduated from St. Joseph's College in Rennselaer, Indiana, in 1973 and became a pledged candidate on May 23, 1973.

He was definitely incor-

porated as a Missionary of the Precious Blood on April 15, 1976.

He received his M.Div. in Theology from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota in 1977.

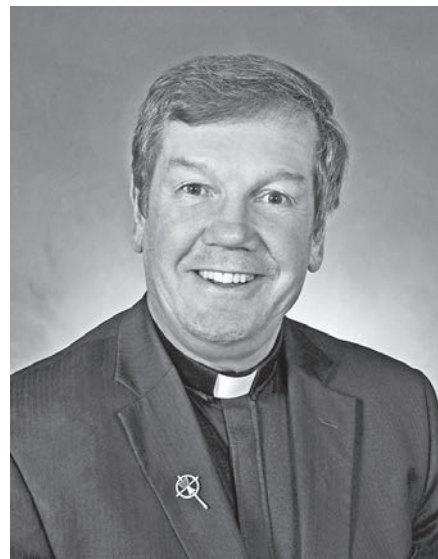
He was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on June 18, 1977, in Immaculate Conception Church, Bellevue, Ohio.

He served briefly as associate pastor of the former Sacred Heart Parish in Sedalia before serving for five years as vocation director for the Kansas City Province.

He then taught math at the former Precious Blood Seminary in Liberty, followed by serving for seven years as associate pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in St. Joseph.

He served briefly at St. James Parish in Liberty before undertaking a sabbatical program at the University of Notre Dame.

He served for two years as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Butternut, Wisconsin, followed by 11 years as pastor at St. Mary Parish in Centerville, Iowa.



Fr. Joseph E. Miller C.P.P.S.
(1950-2021)

He then ministered for three years as pastor of St. James Parish in Liberty, followed by four years as the province's vocation director.

He returned to Sedalia as associate pastor in 2011, followed by five years as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Warrensburg before returning to St. Francis Xavier Parish in St. Joseph, where he served as pastor until his death.

Fr. Miller was known for his dedication and hard work wherever he served. He was

always willing to go where needed, and many were familiar with his boundless energy and ever-present smile.

He was a person of principle, empathetic but clear when speaking of the values by which he lived.

Preceding him in death were his parents and his brother, Eugene.

Surviving are three brothers and their wives, Paul (Debbie), Clayton (Marilyn), and Charles; and eight sisters, Bertha (Terry) Eisenhauer, Rose (Leroy) Nelson, Ann (Jim) Mellein, Helen (Dale) Gasteier, Martha Turner,

Bernie Stockmaster, Rita (Frank) Smith, and Catherine (Gus) McConnell.

Burial was in the cemetery at St. Charles Center in Carthagena, Ohio.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the Society of the Precious Blood, 2130 Saint Gaspar Way, Liberty, MO 64068.

A video recording of the livestream from the Funeral Mass can be found on the St. James Liberty, MO Facebook page.

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Diocese of
Jefferson City

DEANERIES

From page 1

needs and resources in the diocese. The intent is to help parishes interact more effectively with each other and receive better administrative support from the bishop and his staff.

It's part of a larger effort to help parishes carry-out their parish pastoral plans and the diocese's recently promulgated three-year pastoral plan, "A Steward's Way."

"I'm not here to reinvent the wheel," Bishop McKnight stated. "Holy Mother Church, in her wisdom, has already developed some very effective structures for diocesan governance. What we're trying to do is make the best use of these structures in order to carry-out our mission."

The deaneries

The five new deaneries include:

- the North Deanery, which includes Adair, Clark, Knox, Lewis, Linn, Macon, Marion, Putnam, Schuyler, Scotland, Shelby and Sullivan counties;

- the Central Deanery, which includes Audrain, Boone, Callaway, Chariton, Howard, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Ralls, Randolph and Saline counties;

- the Southwest Deanery, which includes Benton, Camden, Cooper, Hickory, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan and Pettis counties;

- the Southeast Deanery, which includes Crawford, Gasconade, Maries, Osage, Pulaski and Phelps counties; and

- the See City Deanery, the seat of the diocese, taking in the parishes in Jefferson City and surrounding communities in Cole County and southwest Callaway County.

In cases in which a pastor is assigned to parishes in two deaneries, each of those parishes will be considered part of the deanery in which he resides.

The bishop's decree (on Page 16) includes a list of parishes in each deanery.

Some consultative bodies of the diocese, including the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC), are primarily composed of representatives from each of the deaneries.

The bishop appoints a pastor from each deanery to serve



Father Matthew J. Flatley, VF, Father P. Gregory Oligschlaeger, VF, Father Joseph S. Corel, VF, Father Louis M. Nelen, VF, Father Gregory C. Meystrik, VF and Father Roberto M. Ike join Bishop W. Shawn McKnight in the St. Alphonsus Liguori Chapel of the Alphonse J. Schwartz Memorial Catholic Center in Jefferson City, on the day five newly-appointed deans took their Oath of Fidelity to the teaching authority of the Church on April 13.

— Photo by Jay Nies

as a dean, whose primary role is to provide support to the faithful and clergy of his assigned deanery and to serve as the liaison between the deanery and the bishop.

Deans meet regularly with the priests within the deanery and meet with the bishop on matters of policy and the carrying-out of the Church's mission locally.

Along with the deanery representatives of the DPC, the deans will be working with lay leadership, deacons and priests to support and enhance the work of each parish.

Being able to work within a standard of care, the deans and the DPC representatives will be able to help parishes be nimble and flexible in meeting the needs of their communities.

One of the goals is to mediate disputes and solve problems as locally as possible.

"Whenever people have a concern about something in their parish, they should approach their pastor first," said Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, vicar general of the diocese. "From there, they can contact their dean to find out if he can be of assistance. The next step would be to contact the vicar general's office in the Chancery."

The deans

Bishop McKnight has appointed:

- Father Matthew J. Flatley VF, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Hannibal and St. Joseph Parish in Palmyra, to be dean of the North Deanery;

- Father P. Gregory Oligschlaeger VF, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City and St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek, to be dean of the Central Deanery;

- Father Joseph S. Corel VF, pastor *in solidum* of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia, to be dean of the Southwest Deanery;

- Father Gregory C. Meystrik VF, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Rolla, Immaculate Conception Parish in St. James and St. Anthony Parish in Rosati, to be dean of the Southeast Deanery; and

- Father Louis M. Nelen VF, pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, to be dean of the See Deanery.

The new deans took their Oath of Fidelity to the Church magisterium in the presence of the bishop on April 13, in the St. Alphonsus Liguori Chapel in the Alphonse J. Schwartz Memorial Catholic Center in Jefferson City.

Their terms will begin on

July 1.

"Back to the future"

Bishop McKnight created the new deaneries upon extensive consultation with priests, parishioners and diocesan staff.

"The idea is, with fewer deaneries, there will be more coordination of meetings and ability for people to share resources across more parishes," he said.

The size of the Catholic population and the number of priests in each new deanery is about equal, while parishes with similar needs were grouped together.

Msgr. Kurwicky, who is also pastor of St. Michael Parish in Russellville, said that in many ways, "we're kind of going back to the future."

Six deaneries were created when the diocese was established in 1956.

More, smaller deaneries were carved out over the years as pastors' responsibilities grew and parish ministries proliferated.

"Communication was different back then," Msgr. Kurwicky noted. "They always had to meet in person. For that reason and because of the geography of the diocese, it made more sense to have smaller deaneries."

Communication technology has evolved extensively.

"We can meet virtually now," he said. "When we meet over Zoom, people can participate and ask questions remotely in real time. That means less time spent on traveling."

Deanery meetings will be mandatory for all active priests in each deanery. Retired priests will be welcome to attend and share their wisdom.

Msgr. Kurwicky noted that the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, composed of 39 counties in southern Missouri, recently reorganized its deaneries. Dioceses and archdioceses of all sizes in the United States are in the process of doing likewise.

"Boots on the ground"

Each of the new deaneries will have two representatives on the DPC, which advises the bishop on matters pertaining to the laity.

"The intention is for the bridge between the parishes and the diocesan Chancery offices to become shorter because of the liaison of the DPC representatives," stated LeAnn Kormsmeier, diocesan director of parish and charitable services.

"We see them as being the 'boots on the ground' in the deaneries and the parishes," she said.

In the coming months especially, the DPC will work with parishes in each deanery to help them refine and work toward implementing their parish pastoral plans in conjunction with the diocesan pastoral plan.

Further explanation of how the DPC will work under the new deanery configuration will come after several representatives have been appointed.

Working smarter

Monsignor David Cox, pastor of Mary Immaculate Parish in Kirksville and the Mission of St. Rose of Lima in Novinger, said the purpose of having deaneries in the first place is "to improve communication from the local level to the diocesan level and from the diocesan level to the local level."

See RECONFIGURE, page 27

“If I didn’t have my **faith**, this whole experience would be too difficult to navigate...”

— Shamika, Sariah’s mother

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MARCH

From page 5

Missouri, to see what is really possible, where leaders on every level, from sidewalk advocates up to the governor, band together to do everything in their power to protect life," she stated.

She said every generation is called to fight for the heart of the American spirit.

"Today, my friends, we are fighting for the right to be born, the right to live," she said.

She asserted that this is a watershed moment in the nation's history.

"Now is the time for action, now is the time for victory," she stated.

"It's time to work harder than we ever thought we could."

"Our cause is far too important to let up now," she insisted. "We're at a moment of reflection on the human right to life in our nation. And it is our responsibility to turn that reflection into lasting change."

Not alone

Hope Miller, granddaughter of Ann and the late Joe Scheidler, founders of the Pro-Life Action League of Chicago, spoke to her fellow teens.

"The generations above us have set the stage for us and given us fantastic examples," she said. "It is now time for us to follow their example."

She talked about getting educated about abortion and entering into difficult conversations with people in order to help them understand.

Dr. Michael New, research assistant at The Catholic University of America, pointed out that the number of abortions in the United States has fallen by about 50 percent since 1980.

"This shows that pro-life educational, service and legislative efforts have been effective," he said.

But Ms. Rowe, whose Support After Abortion organization helps post-abortive men and women find healing and reconciliation, noted that nearly 1 million abortions per year still take place in the United States.

About half of those involve women who have already had at least one abortion.



Marchers pass around the north side of the Capitol on the way to the Governor's Mansion. — Photos by Jay Nies

She asked: "What if there was a clear, compassionate message from each of us, drawing in the hearts and minds of those men and women who need healing before they go back for their second abortion?"



Members of Knights of Columbus Precious Blood Council 4454 of Fulton and St. Andrew Council 8400 of Holts Summit served over 600 meals and donated all the proceeds to the march.

She said the demand for abortion will shrink once women and men find healing through genuine compassion.

She pointed to the more than 200 programs nationwide aimed at helping people find that healing.

"These men and women need to know that they're not alone," she said. "Can you offer them a place of safety for them to enter into a conversation about their experience?"

Rescue, reverse and restore

Ms. Van Means predicted that decisions being made now "will dictate the trajectory of this entire nation for the next four generations."

"The single most important thing we can do to build a leg-

acy for our future for the next four generations is to choose life and support others as they choose life," she said.

She declared abortion to be the single greatest threat to human existence in mankind's history — accounting for 42 percent of all human deaths in the world last year.

"It is my contention that you, all of you, were specially placed on the human timeline for such a time as this," she said.

She challenged everyone present to stop and pray at 3 p.m. every day for the next year for babies in the womb to be rescued, for *Roe v. Wade* to be reversed, and for people suffering the effects of abortion to be restored.

Strong shoulders

Throughout the day, the march's organizers highlighted several people for their work to promote the pro-life cause.

They honored Gov. Mike Parson, Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe, Secretary of State John Ashcroft and state Sen. Robert Onder Jr. of Lake Saint Louis with Statesman for Life Awards.

Lt. Gov. Kehoe spoke of the pro-life pioneers he has met along the way — such as the founders of the Vitae Foundation, Columbia 40 Days for Life and the St. Raymond's Society, as well as his own mother.

He talked about the people who stand up for life at all levels of government.

"They're representing life because they hear you in the hallways, they feel your prayers, they understand your passion," he said.

The organizers also honored Deacon Samuel Lee of Overland, director of Campaign Life Missouri, with a Champion for Life Award for his decades of pro-life lobbying and advocacy.

He accepted the award on behalf of all the other champions who have served in defending human life.

"All of us stand on the shoulders of these pro-life champions who have gone before us," Deacon Lee asserted. "We are able to yield a pro-life harvest because of the work they did many years ago."

Power of prayer

Members of the clergy led the march to the Governor's Mansion and back, carrying a rugged cross that has been used at numerous pro-life events.

Escorting them was an honor guard of Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus.

Members of St. Brendan Parish in Mexico, who have been steadfast in taking part in the 40 Days for Life prayer vigils on the sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood in Columbia, carried the Midwest March for Life banner.

Also marching near the front

of the line were students from St. Joseph School in Westphalia and Immaculate Conception School in Loose Creek.

Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, chaplain of the Missouri House of Representatives and vicar general for the Jefferson City diocese, prayed for peace, cooperation, faith and strength for all people involved in this cause.

"May Your Spirit fill each and every one of us with a greater respect for life," he said. "Never let us give up. Send us out strong, because we have the power of Your might."

Father Anthony Viviano, diocesan moderator for pro-life ministry, said he found it uplifting and encouraging to see so many people of all ages making a united effort to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

"Continue to offer up your supplications and your sacrifices, so that our Lord will continue the great success that's happening here in this state and that it will spread throughout the country," he said.

The event closed with a stirring live performance of "Viable," a one-act play about a mother struggling to be reconciled with God and her past.

The play brought tears of sadness and joy.

Support After Abortion representatives (supportafterabortion.com) answered questions and handed out information to people who were processing "Viable's" uplifting message.



A mother and daughter reconnect during a live production of a one-act play, "Viable," at the end of this year's Midwest March for Life in Jefferson City.



Decree

Establishing New Deaneries in the Diocese of Jefferson City

Whereas canon 374 §2 of the Code of Canon Law provides that several neighboring parishes can be joined together in special groups known as "Vicariates Forane," or Deaneries, for the purpose of fostering pastoral care under a priest appointed by the Diocesan Bishop as the Dean (cf. canons 553-555); and

Whereas changing demographics, especially in the rural territories of the diocese, encourage the reconfiguration of existing Deaneries for pastoral effectiveness; and

Whereas after having con-

sulted the Deans and other members of the Presbyteral Council at their regular meeting on 9 February 2021 on the reconfiguration of Deaneries (cf. canon 50);

I hereby DECREE as Diocesan Bishop that the following new Deaneries shall be established, effective 1 July 2021:

•**The North Deanery** shall include the following parishes: St. Mary Parish, Milan; Mission of St. Mary, Unionville; Immaculate Conception Parish, Brookfield; St. Bonaven-

ture Parish, Marceline; Mary Immaculate Parish, Kirksville; Mission of St. Rose of Lima, Novinger; Immaculate Conception Parish, Macon; Mission of Sacred Heart, Bevier; St. Mary Parish, Shelbina; St. Patrick Parish, Clarence; St. Joseph Parish, Edina; St. Aloysius Parish, Baring; St. John Parish, Memphis; St. Michael Parish, Kahoka; Shrine of St. Patrick Parish, St. Patrick; St. Joseph Parish, Canton; Queen of Peace Parish, Ewing; Holy Family Parish, Hannibal; St. Joseph Parish, Palmyra.

•**The Central Deanery** shall include the following parishes: St. Boniface Parish, Brunswick; St. Joseph Parish, Salisbury; St. Mary of the Angels Parish, Wien; Mission of St. Joseph, Hurricane Branch; St. Raphael Parish, Indian Grove; St. Peter Parish, Marshall; St. Joseph Parish, Slater; Mission of Holy Family, Sweet Springs; St. Pius X Parish, Moberly; St. Joseph Parish, Fayette; St. Mary Parish, Glasgow; Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Columbia; Sacred Heart Parish, Columbia; St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish, Columbia; Holy Rosary Parish, Monroe City; St. Stephen Parish, Indian Creek; Mission of St. Frances Cabrini, Paris; Holy Spirit Parish, Centralia; St. Brendan Parish, Mexico; St. Joseph Parish, Martinsburg; St. Joseph Parish, Fulton; St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, Mokane; St. William Parish, Perry; St. Joseph Parish, Louisiana; Mission of Queen of Peace, Clarksville; St. Clement Parish, St. Clement; Immaculate Conception Parish, Montgomery City; St. Pat-

rick Parish, Jonesburg; Church of the Resurrection Parish, Wellsville; Sacred Heart Parish, Vandalia; Mission of St. John, Laddonia; Church of the Risen Savior Parish, Rhineland.

•**The Southwest Deanery** shall include the following parishes: St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Pettis County; St. Ann Parish, Warsaw; Mission of St. Peter and Paul, Cole Camp; St. Bernadette Parish, Hermitage; St. Patrick Parish, Laurie; Mission of St. Philip Benizi, Versailles; St. Peter and Paul Parish, Boonville; St. Joseph Parish, Pilot Grove; St. Andrew Parish, Tipton; Annunciation Parish, California; St. Anthony Parish, Camdenton; Sacred Heart Parish, Eldon; Our Lady of Snows Parish, Mary's Home; Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Lake Ozark; St. Lawrence Parish, St. Elizabeth; St. Anthony of Padua Parish, St. Anthony.

•**The Southeast Deanery** shall include the following parishes: St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia; St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Folk; Sacred Heart Parish, Rich Fountain; Holy Family Parish, Freeburg; St. Cecilia Parish, Meta; St. Aloysius Parish, Argyle; St. George Parish, Linn; Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Frankenstein; St. Louis of France Parish, Bonnots Mill; Immaculate Conception Parish, Loose Creek; Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish, Chamois; Visitation Parish, Vienna;

Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Brinktown; St. Alexander Parish, Belle; St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, St. Robert; St. Jude Parish, Richland; St. Cornelius Parish, Crocker; St. Theresa Parish, Dixon; St. Patrick Parish, Rolla; Immaculate Conception Parish, St. James; St. Anthony Parish, Rosati; St. George Parish, Hermann; Assumption Parish, Morrison; Immaculate Conception Parish, Owensville; Holy Cross Parish, Cuba; St. Francis Caracciolo Parish, Bourbon; St. Michael Parish, Steelville.

•**The See City Deanery** shall include the following parishes: Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, Jefferson City; St. Peter Parish, Jefferson City; Immaculate Conception Parish, Jefferson City; St. Martin Parish, St. Martins; St. Michael Parish, Russellville; St. Andrew Parish, Holts Summit; St. Stanislaus Parish, Wardsville; St. Margaret of Antioch Parish, Osage Bend; St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, St. Thomas; St. Francis Xavier Parish, Taos.

Whenever pastors, administrators or moderators of pastoral life have responsibility for more than one parish, all parishes under their responsibility shall pertain to the Deanery in which the parish priest has official primary residence.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery in Jefferson City, Missouri, on the 9th of March in the Year of St. Joseph, 2021.

W. Shawn McKnight

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

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Echoes of Midwest March for Life resound in Loose Creek

By Jay Nies

Memories and messages from this year's Midwest March for Life in Jefferson City spilled out over Loose Creek during Immaculate Conception School's April 16 prayer service and "mini march" for life.

Students made banners affirming the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception and marched by class around their school and church in solidarity with the unborn.

In the churchyard, Father Anthony Rinaldo, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Loose Creek and of St. Louis of France Parish in Bonnots Mill, blessed a statue of a baby sleeping peacefully in the hand of God.

It will serve as a reminder for students, parishioners and all who pass by the church grounds to uphold the inviolable dignity of all human life through their actions, words and prayers.

"May this statue always remind us of the right to life for every human being, that all of God's people are worthy of protection," Fr. Rinaldo prayed as he sprinkled it with holy water.

"We believe that every human being is born with the dignity of baby Jesus," he told the students. "Every one of us! That's something really important to think about."

At an all-school prayer service in Immaculate Conception Church, students learned about and meditated on God's love and mercy for all people.

Kim Borgmeyer, mother of seventh-grader Grace Borgmeyer, showed a gallery of photos from the Midwest March for Life.

An estimated 2,000 people attended the march and rallies on the State Capitol grounds to call for an end to abortion and celebrate the state's progress toward that end.

The theme was "Together Strong: Life Unites, Hold the Line."



Students of Immaculate Conception School in Loose Creek carry signs and banners around the school and churchyard during a "mini march" for life on April 16.



— Photos by Jay Nies

Themes of persistence, knowledge and mercy filled the recollections of the I.C. students who attended.

"I enjoyed spending time with my friends while promoting life," said Addisyn Nilges. "I learned that Missouri has one of the lowest abortion rates in the United States, and that we had less than 40 abortions last year, and there is only

"There is only one abortion clinic left in Missouri, and they're just barely making it," she said.

"We got to learn a lot about how important it is to educate yourself about abortion so that you can have conversations with others about it so that they will believe," she stated.

"Unborn babies cannot stand up for themselves so we

chance," said Nate Jaegers.

Nate talked about how thousands of abortions used to be performed each year in Missouri.

"In 2020, there were less than 40," he said.

Mrs. Borgmeyer noted that the seventh- and eighth-graders arrived in Jefferson City for the rally in time to pray the Rosary with Father Anthony Viviano, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia and St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Folk and moderator of pro-life ministry for the Diocese of Jefferson City.

"It was amazing," she said. "Some of the people who work in the Capitol opened the windows and said the prayers with us."

She pointed out that throughout the rallies that took place before and after the march, I.C. students took turns hold-

of you," said Fr. Rinaldo. "You guys — you rock!"

Two years ago, Mrs. Borgmeyer's daughter Grace asked to go to the National March for Life in Washington, D.C., for her 12th birthday.

"So we ended up going to the March, and we resolved after that that we'd go every year," said Mrs. Borgmeyer.

They couldn't go this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but they found out that some of the speakers who had planned to present in Washington were going to do so at the Midwest March for Life in Jefferson City.

Mrs. Borgmeyer and Grace wanted to attend and to bring some of the experience back to Loose Creek.

Principal Anne Luebbert agreed to have a "mini march" at school.

During the service in church, Mrs. Borgmeyer led a prayer of thanksgiving, with the students repeating each phrase: "Thank You, God, for the gift of life. Thank You, Jesus, for the gift of everlasting life. Thank You, Holy Spirit, for the gift of helping us on the journey of life."

She said she hopes that as the students enter adulthood, they will continue passionately putting their faith into practice and fighting against the tide of the culture.

"We need to fight for what we've been given, those rights and the love that Jesus Christ gives us and the communion and the communion of our faith. We need to fight to make sure that that never gets forgotten," she said.



one abortion clinic left in Missouri."

"Missouri is the safest state for unborn babies," stated Madelyn Backes.

She found out during the rally that when a pregnant woman gets to see an ultrasound image of her baby, she is much less likely to get an abortion.

She was impressed to see so many people marching for life through the streets of downtown Jefferson City.

"It was amazing to see how many people came from all different places — even different states — to support such a good cause," she said.

Kristen Robertson believes Missouri is making good progress.

have to stand up for them," she said.

Grace Borgmeyer believes the day was well spent.

"The best part was hanging out with your friends while also standing up for what I believe in," she said. "I would love to attend again."

Blake Kliethermes found out that Missouri is one of the leading states in trying to eliminate abortions completely, and that the state only has one abortion clinic left.

"I learned that there are many different ways to do an abortion, and they are all just as bad," he said.

"It was very interesting and I would go again if I get a

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.

ing the procession cross and the image of the Divine Mercy.

"They weren't asked to do it, they just did it," she said. "They totally put themselves in the moment and joined in and participated 100-percent."

"I'm very, very proud of all

Diocesan Deanery Map

(Effective July 1, 2021)



New deanery establishments, effective July 1, 2021. The parishes in Rhineland and Meta are included in different deaneries than listed in the Official Decree (see page 16), as the pastors for those parishes reside in a different deanery.





LEFT: Tahki Chievous, a student at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, proclaims a reading during Mass with the Fr. Tolton Legacy Society on April 18 in the St. Thomas More Newman Center Chapel in Columbia. **RIGHT:** Carlot Dorvé plays an Easter anthem on the flugelhorn.

— Photos by Jay Nies

LEGACY

From page 1

“When you claim to be the Universal Church, you can’t pick and choose and come up with your own interpretations of Universal,” he added.

Presiding at the Mass was Father Paul Clark, associate pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish and a chaplain at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia.

Students from Tolton Catholic proclaimed the readings and served as greeters.

Deacon Seibert reminded everyone that great responsibility comes with honoring and celebrating Fr. Tolton.

“When institutions bear his name, you must honor him, knowing he was a man of charity, a follower of Jesus, a lover of God,” said Deacon Seibert.

God said ‘yes’

While studying in Rome, Fr. Tolton thought he would be sent to Africa as a missionary. But shortly before ordination, he found out he would be missioned back to Quincy, Illinois, where he had grown up.

Some people there had hated him and tried to keep him out of their school.

But others had recognized God’s light in him and actively helped him pursue knowl-

edge, holiness and Priesthood. It was quite a homecoming.

“I can’t begin to imagine the thoughts when this man

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 rich beautiful blackness, made in the image of God his creator, first showed up to serve in a white community,” said Deacon Seibert.

Fr. Tolton came to believe that the Catholic Church was the only hope for lifting up Black people and reconciling a nation that had been torn apart by slavery and division.

He honed his preaching skills and put his beautiful singing voice to good use.

Many Black Protestants and many white Catholics alike came to see him as a threat.

He continued to minister with grace and weathered many difficulties before eventually being reassigned to Chicago.

There, he served as pastor to some of the city’s poorest

and most vulnerable individuals until he died of heatstroke and exhaustion at age 43.

He never stopped loving his faith and the Church. He held onto his welcoming heart to the end.

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

“Fr. Tolton is bigger than the racism that encompassed most if not all of his life,” Deacon Seibert declared. “He had a vision to defeat and overcome the segregation that we still find in our communities and especially in our churches.”

Namely, he stayed focused on Christ and on doing what God wanted him to do.

“Fr. Tolton knew Jesus was hated first, so his own spirit, his own light couldn’t be extinguished,” said Deacon Seibert. “Man told Fr. Tolton, ‘no,’ but God told Fr. Tolton, ‘yes!’”

Accordingly, Fr. Tolton embodied the Easter joy of the disciples who beheld Jesus’s risen body, wounds and all.

“Believers know that Jesus moves us in ways that we can’t explain,” said Deacon Seibert. “Jesus is risen and came amongst us because there is continued work to be done.”

Sent forth

Before, during and after the Mass, Carlot Dorvé rendered joyful anthems of the Baroque and Classical traditions on the flugelhorn.

This was the fifth annual Fr. Tolton Legacy Mass at the Newman Center.

The Fr. Tolton Legacy Society’s purpose is to increase awareness of Fr. Tolton and the significance of his life.

Society co-chair Michelle Sisson-White urged everyone to take Deacon Seibert’s words to heart, answering the world’s negativity with truth, faith and a singular focus on

Christ.

“Let them truly see that we are God’s sons and daughters, and that we hold what He did in our hearts and in our spirits,” she said.

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By Father Don Antweiler

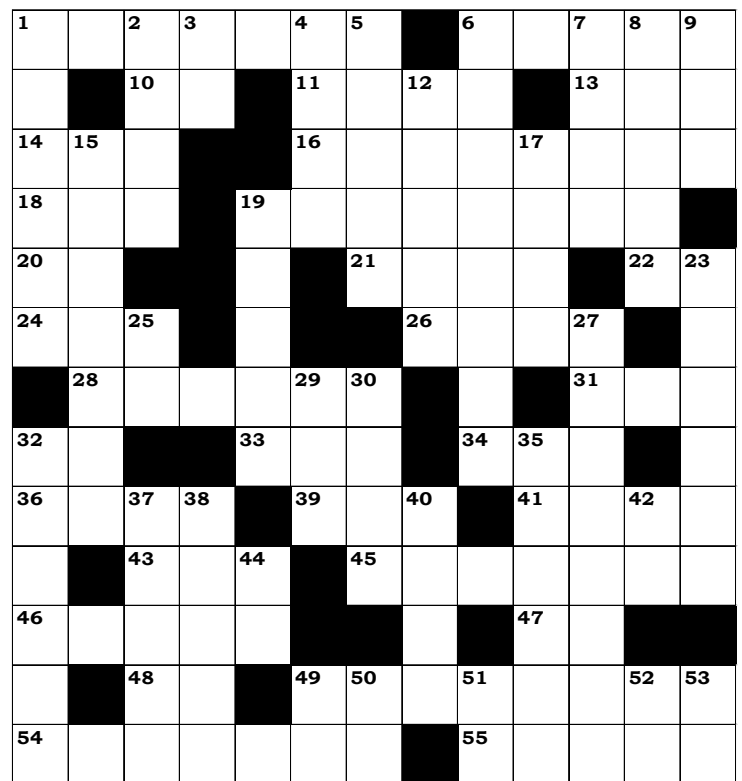
ACROSS

1. From the start of the Lewis & Clark expedition at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, John Colter was a valuable member of the expedition, esp. for his crack ___ and rifle skills.
6. "May the winds of destiny carry you ___ to dance with the stars," —Johnny Depp.
10. Asner or Sullivan.
11. Wicked king of Israel; husband of the notorious Jezebel who persuaded him to abandon Yahweh and establish the god Baal in Israel. His rule began the sapping of the national life of Israel (1 Kings 16:1–22:53).
13. Name of a Russian modular space station; assembled in orbit from 1986-1996; succeeded by the 5-nation International Space Station in 1998.
14. I'll be with you ___ second (2 wds.).
16. Colter's ___ journey in 1807-08 took him through the remote wilds of present day Yellowstone Park region. He was the first white man to see what would be called Colter's Hell.
18. With permission, Colter left the Lewis & Clark expedition on its return trip to St. Louis, striking out on his own as a mountain man and ___ trapper.
19. Petrol.
20. Dorothy's Auntie ___.
21. Though some of Mo.'s neighboring States have built them, Mo. has traditionally been opposed to building ___ roads in the State.
22. Letters for the city famous for cable cars and Fisherman's Wharf.
24. Hitter's stat.
26. "I thoroughly disapprove of duels. If a man should challenge me to (to a duel) I would go to that man and take him kindly and forgivingly to a retired quiet spot and ___ him," —Mark Twain.
28. After years of perils and fierce hardships in the mountains and with desperate encounters with Am. Indians, including a legendary ___ from the Blackfeet, Colter, dogged with misfortune, returned to St. Louis with little to show for his mountain man years and feats.
31. "All you birds of the ___, bless the Lord," (Daniel 3:80).
32. Letters before the name of a priest, perhaps.
33. The fortune teller told customers their future by reading ___ leaves.
34. St. Scholastica or St. Teresa of Avila.
36. Abbr. for association.
39. Uniform Resource Locator (___) is basically a web address.
41. Dim but endearing big-tongued dog that lives with Garfield and Jon.
43. The white ___ tree, pre-

45. He lost everything after a so called friend got him to invest in what turned out to be a ___ scheme.
46. The "Oh ___!" candy bar was once made by Nestle and now by the Ferrara Candy Co. of Chicago. There are different stories about the origin of the name.
47. Ending for corn.
48. Short for the parishes at Brookfield and Montgomery City.
49. My dad is ___ who says he does nothing all day long and still can't get it all done in just one day (2 wds.).
54. John Colter left few personal ___ and was reticent with the few people capable of writing of his extraordinary explorations and adventures, almost becoming one of the forgotten men of history. Nearly a century would pass before his amazing life in the exploration of the West was appreciated.
55. Small children.

DOWN

1. "Bring me a three year old ___, a three year old she-goat, a three old ram..." (Genesis 15:9).
2. I hold my grandchildren ___ and dear to my heart.
3. 6 points in football (abbr.).
4. U.S. agency responsible for the Martian rovers.
5. "Touch me and see, because a ___ does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have," (Luke 24:39).
6. In 2018, there were over ___ (1.3, precisely) baptized Catholics in the world (2 wds.).
7. This Arab country on the Persian Gulf is the oldest independent State in the Arab world.
8. To other trappers, Colter reported a sulfurous place of hidden ___, smoking pits and shooting water. They didn't believe such tall tales.
9. "The most important thing is to ___ and inspire people so that they can be great in whatever they want to do," —Kobe Bryant.
12. If you think your boy may have injured his arm, bring him in and I'll take ___ at it, said the doc (2 wds.).
15. 4th book of the Bible.
17. "If you ___ the soil, it shall no longer give you its produce," (Genesis 4:12).
19. "The body matters a lot for Christians, but it matters only so much. ___ saints come in all different shapes and body sizes," —Matthew Kelly.
23. Colter settled on the Mo. River in the still frontier county of Franklin, Mo., near present day Marthasville. There he found good trapping and ___ as well. He remained friends with William Clark (of Lewis & Clark) who lived in St. Louis and knew Daniel Boone who lived in the area.
25. "A child ___ God's belief that the world should go on," —American poet Carl Sandburg.
27. Colter married an Am. Indian named Sally and had a son Hiram. He died in 1813 at only 40 years old and was buried on a nice ___ bluff overlooking the Mo. River. In a final bit of misfortune, the Mo. Pacific RR, unaware of him and his grave, took down the bluff to use as fill for roadbeds.
29. "Un ___;" a little, in Paris.
30. Wyatt, for example.
32. "You are a human being first! A husband or a wife first; a ___ or mother first; a son or a daughter first; a friend first. How sad it would be to fail at one of these positions, whatever your success in your career," —Barbara Bush, from *Pearls of Wisdom* by Jean Becker.
35. All the vowels.
37. The ___ drive-in chain at one time featured real roller skating car hops.
38. This word refers to narcotics and illegal drugs.
40. "Awake, ___ and harp! I will wake the dawn," (Psalms 57:9).
42. 2 in Roman numerals.
44. Home State of Mammoth Cave, the longest cave system in America—405 miles! (abbr.).
49. He served on the City Council's ___ Hoc committee.
50. Letters on a car meaning rally sport. Ford, Audi and Porsche use it for racing-focused road cars.
51. Letters for triton, a very dissonant jarring musical interval of 3 adjacent whole notes. It is rarely used because people prefer harmony. It has been said to have been banned by the Catholic Church. There has never been an official ban, only a great bias and preference for peaceful satisfying harmony for worship.
52. Suffix for employ or absent.
53. Prefix for say or crow.



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ANSWERS on page 23

FR. GRONER

From page 7

a town in northeastern Colombia.

"We had three priests and three churches in town, with about 30,000 people apiece, and 45 mission stations," he recalled.

The town is now part of one of the poorest dioceses in the world.

"Our parish there, even with all the people being Catholic, didn't have enough money to support us," he noted. "We

had to rely on the March distribution from the (SVD) generate to pay the bills."

The country was engulfed in a 50-year civil war, and drug cartels were wreaking havoc.

"You had five major drug families fighting for territory, and you had socialists and communists waging war against each other," he said. "It was very dangerous to be at the wrong place at the wrong time."

Holy obedience

Fr. Groner was just getting to know his parishioners in El Banco when he got summoned back to the United States.

The SVD Southern Province needed him to help establish a ministry to the growing Hispanic population in the Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana.

Six months later, a priest and lay missionary in El Banco were driving out to one of the missions when a wheel came off of their Jeep.

It flipped several times and landed in a ditch. The priest spent three months in the hospital, and a lay missionary seated in the passenger side was paralyzed.

"Both of them were about 5 feet in height," said Fr. Groner, who is significantly taller. "Had I still been there, I would have been in the front seat of that car, and I would have been killed."

Shortly thereafter, Fr. Groner needed an emergency appendectomy.

"My appendix exploded on the operating table," he said. "If I were still in my parish in Colombia, I would have had to drive four hours to Santa Marta to get that surgery. I wouldn't have made it."

Town and country

Stationed at St. Edward

Church in New Iberia, Louisiana, Fr. Groner helped minister in the southern half of the Lafayette diocese.

"That was new mission territory in '96 and '97," he noted. "You had a lot of seasonal

Peter Church.

Making waves

Fr. Groner's mission field also includes the high seas.

As an appointed chaplain of the Apostleship of the Sea, he has ministered to Catholic tourists on 21 ocean cruises all over the world.

The Apostleship of the Sea is an international organization under the Vatican Dicastery for integral human development in Rome. It ministers to seafarers at ports, as well as cruise ship ministry.

The U.S. affiliate is headquartered in Port Arthur, Texas.

"My provincial reminded me that this is working time, not vacation time," he noted. Nonetheless, "it's a pretty fun ministry."

Fr. Groner is also chaplain for religious activities of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

"That's something I've been interested in my whole life," he said.

In the hearts of all

Fr. Groner has found life on mission to be unpredictable and exciting.

"You're always a heart attack away from a new assignment," he quipped. "And hopefully it isn't your heart!"

He noted that from the 1920s to the 1950s, the United States was the largest source of Catholic missionaries in the world.

"We were sending out more priests, sisters and brothers than any other country," he said.

Now, many U.S. dioceses are relying on missionary priests from other countries to help meet people's pastoral needs.

Confident that the Lord will continue to provide in His own time and way, Fr. Groner is content to do his best and not sweat the rest.

"You have to enjoy the time you get," he said. "Don't take life too seriously."

He is grateful for people's prayers.

Fr. Groner's mailing address is: St. Peter Catholic Church, 207 E. 16th Ave., Pine Bluff, AR 71601.

**"God kind of planted in my head from that time forward that maybe He's calling me to be a priest."
— Father Eric Groner SVD**

workers coming to work in the catfish, shrimp, sugarcane and rice industries."

Having spoken and heard almost no English in his previous assignment, he had to relearn some of his native tongue.

"Once you've learned a new language and adapted to a new culture, that's what seems normal to you," he said.

He then ministered for nine years at Sacred Heart Parish in Greenville, Mississippi, followed by five years at St. Mary Parish in Cleveland, Texas, and a year at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

He then served for six years as pastor of St. Rita Parish in Fort Worth, Texas, where he was entrusted with shoring-up the parish school.

He celebrated the silver jubilee of his religious profession in 2015 back in Techny, along with his Divine Word classmates and Holy Spirit Sisters who had professed in the same year.

Last August, he became pastor of St. Peter and St. Raphael Parishes in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and St. Justin Parish in neighboring Star City.

It presented a dramatic change of scenery.

"The Dallas-Fort Worth area has 8.2 million people," Fr. Groner noted. "The whole state of Arkansas has about 3 million."

He arrived during the pandemic.

"Most of our parishioners caught COVID last January and thought it was the flu," he said.

The parishes are gradually opening back up, and Fr. Groner is looking forward to resuming a full slate of ministries, including a soup kitchen near St.

Caring for creation



Volunteers from the St. William Parish youth group in Perry finish up their spring clean-up along their adopted stretch of highway on April 18. The parish has been incorporating the roadside clean-up into its preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation to help young people learn to take responsibility for their community and environment. "We believe here at St. William that we're all trustees and stewards of our surroundings," said Cassie Gonzales, secretary and bookkeeper for St. William Parish and the Mission of St. Frances Cabrini in Paris. "A clean stretch of highway in and out of Perry reinforces that fact." — Photo by Cassie Gonzales

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Want your event listed?
Fill out the ONLINE FORM at diojeffcity.org/event-listing.

Fundraisers & Social Events

Apr. 30

Morrison, Assumption Parish drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm

May 1

Jefferson City, Pregnancy Help Center of Central Missouri Bubbles & Bounces 5K Walk/Run, 8:30-11 am, Memorial Park main pavilion, for

SR. LINDA

From page 6

Joseph of Carondelet, and she loves who she's becoming with help from God and her community.

"I want others to find the happiness that I have found," she said. "Not necessarily to be sisters, but to be able to separate that process of discerning and deciding, which is where the difference came for me."

She described discernment as an ongoing, intentional process of reflecting on how best to serve God in every situation, with the help of the people she's with.

"Every morning, I renew my vows, recommit myself to this life and try to discover how to live it to the best of my ability," she said.

The women she lives with now and the ones she's been in community with in the past have all been part of the process.

"Thanks to them, I'm living more intentionally now than ever before," she said.

She loves seeing how God's patience with her has affected others in her family.

"God didn't just call me to this," she said. "It has been an evolution, a change for my en-

RELATIONSHIP

From page 9

ed in "Gaudium et Spes," authentic love, both the giving and receiving love through a sincere gift of self, is the fulfillment and meaning of each of our lives — and is possible with Christ.

Filled with the love of God, which has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, we are given the assurance of being infinitely loved and capable of loving without limits.

Mother Agnes Mary Donovan is superior general of the Sisters of Life and a corresponding member of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

info or to register visit friendsofphc.org; **Macon**, Immaculate Conception School Spring yard sale, 7 am-1 pm

May 2

St. Anthony, St. Anthony of Padua Parish Spring carry-out chicken & roast beef dinner, 11 am-3 pm; **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 vitae.foundation.org

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

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

May 14

Loose Creek, K of C drive-thru chicken dinner, 4:30-7:30 pm, Immaculate Conception School

May 21

Freeburg, Holy Family Parish BBQ & Cruise-in, 5 pm-midnight, parish parking lot; **Linn**, Vitae Foundation inaugural Pro-Life Golf Classic, 1-6 pm, Osage Country Club, for info or to register visit vitaefoundation.org

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

17-20 Junio

Sedalia, Cursillo de Hombres, Sagrado Corazón, favor de inscribirse llamado a Luis Osvaldo Diaz al 660-829-5213

29 Julio-1 Agosto

Sedalia, Cursillo de Mujeres, Sagrado Corazón, favor de inscribirse llamado a Luis Osvaldo Diaz al 660-829-5213

Meetings & Conferences

May 1

VIRTUAL, Cursillo Region 6 Spring Encounter via Zoom, 7:45 am-2 pm, for info email elonbrg@gmail.com or call 573-819-3002

May 4

Jefferson City, Nutrition counseling class, co-sponsored by Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, 5-6 pm, The Linc, for info email RJennings@cccnmo.org

RJennings@cccnmo.org

May 11

Jefferson City, Nutrition counseling class, co-sponsored by Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, 5-6 pm, The Linc, for info email RJennings@cccnmo.org

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@cccnmo.org

May 15

VIRTUAL, "The Antiphons" workshop, Jefferson City Diocese Chapter of National Association Pastoral Musicians, 10 am-noon, for info or to register call 573-645-6579 or email npmjeffcitydio@gmail.com

May 18

Jefferson City, Nutrition counseling class, co-sponsored by Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, 5-6 pm, The Linc, for info email RJennings@cccnmo.org

Liturgical

May 9

Laurie, May Crowning of Mary and Mother's Day Mass, 10:15 am, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church

May 24

Laurie, Mary, Mother of the Church feast day Mass, with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, 7 pm, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church

Retreats & Spiritual Renewal

May 7-9

Moberly, Engaged Encounter weekend, St. Pius X Parish, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/engaged-encounter

May 16

Starkenburg, Spring Pilgrimage, with Rosary procession, Stations of the Cross, confessions, Benediction, and Mass,

FR. DOYLE

From page 8

at the resurrection of the dead" (No. 412).

So the choice is yours to make, but the Church's preference is clearly for traditional burial. And as you mention, if the option is made for cremation, the cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum.

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

noon-3 pm, light lunch available with COVID restrictions, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows

May 22

Laurie, Spring Pilgrimage with speaker Dr. Gregory M. Thompson, 8:30 am-5:30 pm, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church

Jun. 4-6

Belleville, IL, REFLECT retreat for mid-life singles, King's House Retreat Center, for info or to register, visit ReflectRetreat.com, email reflect.stlouis@gmail.com or call 314-283-0044

Youth & Young Adults

May 5

VIRTUAL, Diocesan-wide 6th & 7th Grade Vocation Day, 8 am-2:30 pm, for info call 573-635-9127 or email followme@diojeffcity.org

Jul. 18-22

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

Aug. 2-6

Jefferson City, Ancient Rome "Summa Camp" for grade school students, 7:30 am-5 pm each day, St. Peter Interparish School, for info or to register email mrehagen@heliacatholic.com

Health & Wellness

May 3

Freeburg, Blood drive, 1-6 pm, American Legion Hall, upper level

May 4

Meta, Blood drive, 2-6 pm, Citizens Civic League, main room

May 14

Fulton, Blood drive, 2-6 pm, St. Peter Church multipurpose building

May 25

Hermitage, Blood drive, noon-5 pm, St. Bernadette Parish Center

In search of Easter eggs



Children take part in St. George School's annual Easter Egg Hunt April 9 in Linn. The school initiated the event two years ago as a fundraiser to help a local family pay for medical needs. Junior-high students organized this year's event as an act of service and to remind them of all the good God has done for them. They collected donated supplies, stuffed eggs, and then distributed and facilitated grades Pre K-5 in the hunt. Through the generosity of the community, they were able to stuff over 2,300 eggs and raise \$744. This year's event is in honor of Archie Jaegers, whose older brothers attend St. George, and Lisa Rickey, a St. George teacher who is fighting brain cancer. Students had hoped to help the Jaegers family last year but could not due to the pandemic. Both got to attend this year's event. "This event reminds us of the resurrection and renewing our spirit of service to others, even in every day or every-season activities that we enjoy," said Lisa Grellner, principal.

— Photo by Lisa Grellner



Children take part in this year's St. Joseph Egg Hunt on April 4 in Hurricane Branch.

— Photos from the Saint Boniface Saint Joseph Saint Raphael Catholic Churches Facebook page

Help for mothers, babies



Isabella Cardwell, a 10-year-old fifth-grader at Mary Immaculate School in Kirksville, displays some of the items she was able to buy for the Lifeline Pregnancy Care Center in Kirksville with money from a fundraiser she organized. She baked 42 dozen and 10 half-dozen cinnamon rolls in the school kitchen with her mother, Mindy Cardwell, and her grandmother, Margie Kurz. She raised \$800. Last year, she sold homemade potholders she had woven to raise money for supplies for the local Humane Society.

A voice for democracy



Rhea Krumpelman, a member of St. Bonaventure Parish in Marcelline, receives second-place honors for her essay in the statewide Missouri Voice of Democracy Essay Contest sponsored by the VFW.

— Photo by Michael Krumpelman

At your service!



Brea James (back row, third from left), a parishioner at Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Boonville and teacher at Boonville High School, gather with a group of freshmen students to help clean up Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery as part of the Boonville school district's Day of Service.

Jesus washes the apostles' feet

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

Jesus and the apostles gathered in Jerusalem for a meal prior to the Passover feast.

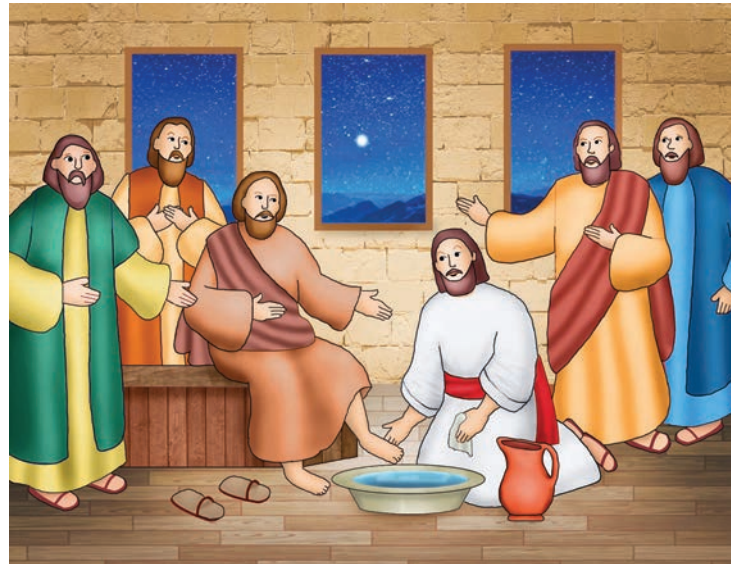
Jesus knew that His hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He also knew that one of the Twelve, Judas Iscariot, had been induced by the devil to betray Him.

Jesus rose from the table, took off His outer garments and tied a towel around His waist. He poured water into a basin and began to wash and dry the apostles' feet.

Soon it was Simon Peter's turn.

"Master, are You going to wash my feet?" he asked in surprise.

"What I am doing, you do



not understand now, but you will understand later," Jesus said.

"You will never wash my feet," Simon Peter protested.

"Unless I wash you, you will

have no inheritance with Me," Jesus replied.

"Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well," Simon Peter said.

"Whoever has bathed has

no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all. Not all of you are clean," Jesus said, for He knew that Judas Iscariot would betray Him.

"Do you realize what I have done for you?" He asked the apostles when He had finished washing their feet. "You call Me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

Jesus explained that no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him.

"If you understand this,

blessed are you if you do it," He said.

"I am not speaking of all of you," He continued. "I know those whom I have chosen. But so that the Scripture might be fulfilled, 'The one who ate My food has raised his heel against Me.' From now on I am telling you before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe that I AM.

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives the one who sent Me."

Read more about it...

John 13

1. Which apostle was to betray Jesus?

2. Who did not want his feet washed at first?



Saint Spotlight

St. Rose Venerini was born in 1656 in Viterbo, Italy. She was engaged to be married but entered a convent after her fiancé died. She chose to become a teacher, and in 1685 she opened a free school for girls. In 1692, an Italian bishop asked

her to train teachers and administer a school in his diocese. She later set up schools all around Italy. The order she founded, the Venerini Sisters, was recognized after her death. St. Rose died in 1728, and we remember her on May 7.

Bible Accent

After Jesus washed the apostles' feet, He told them some disturbing news.

In John 13:21, we read that Jesus was deeply troubled.

"Amen, amen, I say to you, one of you will betray Me," He told his friends.

The apostles looked quizzically at one another, trying to figure out to whom Jesus was referring.

The apostle whom Jesus loved was sitting next to Him at the supper table. Simon Peter nodded at this apostle so he would ask Jesus for more information.

"Master, who is it?" the apostle asked.

"It is the one to whom I hand the morsel after I have dipped it," Jesus answered.

Jesus dipped the morsel and handed it to Judas Iscariot.

After Judas took the morsel, Satan entered him.

"What you are going to do, do quickly," Jesus told Judas.

Judas took the morsel and left at once.

Some of the apostles assumed that since Judas was the one who was in charge of the money bag that Jesus had told

him to buy food for the coming Passover feast or to give something to the poor.

In actuality, Judas had slipped into the night to betray Jesus.

In John 18:1-14, we read that Judas led a band of soldiers and guards from the chief priests and the Pharisees right to Jesus so He could be arrested.

Essay

What was the new commandment Jesus gave to His apostles? (Hint: John 13:31-35)

Answer: Love one another.

Puzzle

Using the hints provided, fill in the blanks in the sentences about Old Testament prophecies that Jesus fulfilled.

1. Out of _____ I called my son. (Matthew 2:14-15)
2. From you shall come a _____, who is to shepherd my people Israel. (Matthew 2:6)
3. I will open my mouth in _____. (Matthew 13:34-35)
4. And they took the 30 pieces of silver ... and they paid it out for the _____. (Matthew 27:3-10)



Answers: 1. Egypt; 2. ruler; 3. parables; 4. potter's field.

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New books offer unique perspectives on long road to sainthood

Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood, edited by Michael R. Heinlein. Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Indiana, 2021). 96 pp., \$9.95.

The Saint Makers: Inside the Catholic Church and How a War Hero Inspired a Journey of Faith by Joe Drape. Hachette Books (New York, 2020). 256 pp., \$28.

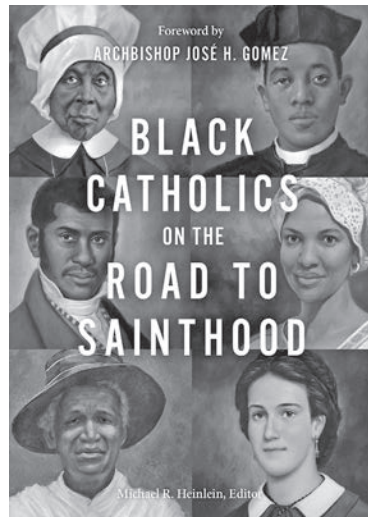
Reviewed by Timothy Walch
Catholic News Service

Sainthood. It's a matter of faith that Catholics who die in a state of grace join the communion of saints in heaven. Indeed, the Church has codified that recognition in the celebration of All Saints' Day each Nov. 1.

For a few extraordinary Catholics, however, the recognition of sanctity takes a more public form.

In a process known as canonization, Vatican officials examine the lives of certain Catholics to determine if they are, indeed, worthy of special commemoration.

When the Church is con-



vinced of the truth of sanctity, the pope grants formal sainthood.

The process of canonization can be arduous, so supporters seek to advance these causes through books and articles.

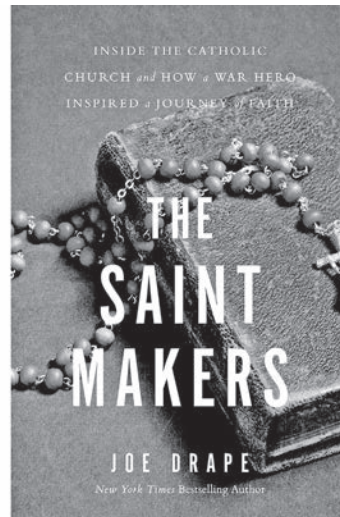
Two recent books offer insight into the process; both are informative contributions to our understanding of the canon of saints.

Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood is a compilation of personal reflections issued by the publishing division of Our Sunday Visitor. Editor Michael R. Heinlein focuses on six African American Catholics recognized by the Church for additional consideration.

The six are Pierre Toussaint; Mother Henriette Delille, who founded the Sisters of the Holy Family; Father Augustus Tolton; Mother Mary Lange, who founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence; Julia Greeley; and Sister Thea Bowman, a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration.

Fr. Tolton and Julia Greeley were born in parts of what is now the Jefferson City diocese.

All six led exceptional lives of service and sacrifice and have been recognized as either "Servants of God" or "Vener-



able," the first two steps on the road to canonization. "By their stories of faith and virtue," notes Heinlein, "they show us how to respond to the call of holiness, bringing healing, reconciliation and peace to our wounded nation and world."

This is a timely book that emphasizes the importance and contributions of people of color to our nation and our Church. The book includes numerous testimonials from prominent Black Catholics as well as a foreword by Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Saint Makers by Joe Drape provides a different approach to canonization. A Jesuit-educated journalist, Drape concentrates on the cause of Father Emil Kapaun, a priest of the Diocese of Wichita, Kansas, and a military chaplain during the Korean War.

Drape begins his journey with an introduction to Fr. Kapaun as a parish priest in Kansas and as member of the Chaplain Corps.

With the onset of the Korean conflict, Fr. Kapaun joined the 1st Cavalry Division on the field of battle.

On the evening of All Saints' Day, 1950, Fr. Kapaun and other members of his battalion were captured by Chinese troops. Even though he was a prisoner, Fr. Kapaun never stopped being a priest; his bravery and leadership provided great solace to his fellow prisoners.

Fr. Kapaun carried on for the next several months but shortly after Easter his health declined. He was malnourished and a blood infection put

Movie Ratings



Adults and Adolescents

Francesco (not rated)
Resurrection (PG-13)
A Week Away (not rated)
Yes Day (PG)



Adults

The Father (PG-13)
Godzilla vs. Kong (PG-13)
Roe v. Wade (PG-13)
Voyagers (PG-13)



Limited Adult Audience

Cherry (R)



Morally Offensive

Nobody (R)

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

his life in peril.

Dysentery further compounded his suffering, but still he ministered to his men. The Chinese took him away on May 21 and two days later he was dead. The body was dumped in a mass grave without ceremony.

Although gone, Fr. Kapaun was not forgotten among Korean War veterans and they worked tirelessly to bring his heroism to public attention after the war. Their penultimate achievement came when the priest, who held the rank of captain, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor April 11, 2013.

Fr. Kapaun's legacy of compassion also led to another honor. For several years, Church officials in Wichita compiled documentation on Kapaun's life and sanctity. This effort led to Fr. Kapaun being declared a "servant of God" in 1993.

The balance of Drape's book traces the campaign to take the cause to the next stage and convince the pope to declare Fr. Kapaun to be "Venerable." This effort required additional research and the employment of a special canon lawyer to plead the cause. Drape traces this effort up to March 20, 2020, when Fr. Kapaun's documentation was to be presented

formally to the Vatican.

Unfortunately, the pandemic put Fr. Kapaun's cause on hold and he still has the title "Servant of God." A declaration he is "Venerable" would confirm he led a life of heroic virtues.

In general, the canonization process requires confirmation of two miracles occurring through the sainthood candidate's intercession. The first would give Fr. Kapaun the title "Blessed," and with the second he would be declared a saint.

On March 4, 2021, the U.S. Defense Department announced the identification of Fr. Kapaun's remains among those returned from Korea to the United States in the 1950s and 1960s. He is interned among the men he served at the U.S. military cemetery in Hawaii.

Why is the process of canonization so important? Drape asks that question of one Vatican official, and the response was plain and rings true. "We all need models of sanctity," Drape was told. "They are the best images of Christ. They are the best of all of us. That is why we need saints."

Walch is a historian of American Catholicism and the author of *Parish School*.

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Sundays, 8 am, KRLL-AM 1420, California

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RECONFIGURE

From page 13

“The way it’s supposed to work, you discuss things in your deanery and your dean brings it to the Presbyteral Council,” said Msgr. Cox.

He was part of the process of reducing the number of deaneries from 10 to eight about 15 years ago.

“The idea was that the Presbyteral Council was unwieldy,” he recalled. “There were so many members, it was hard to listen to everybody.”

With even fewer deaneries, “things will be even more streamlined,” he predicted.

Father Mark Smith is pastor of St. Peter Parish in Marshall, St. Joseph Parish in Slater and the Mission of Holy Family in Sweet Springs.

He pointed out that the Latin phrase for the bishop’s liaison to a deanery is “*vicar forane*,” which is why deans add the letters “V.F.” to their signature in official correspondence.

It means “rural dean.”

He said a dean’s duties include convening regular meetings of the deanery’s pastors to coordinate the pastoral activity of their parishes.

The goal is to foster good ecclesial and pastoral work in a region of the diocese, he said.

He believes reducing the number of deaneries will mean having more pastors take part in these regular deanery meetings.

“This offers the possibility for a greater consultation and collaboration with parishes within the deanery,” he said.

Father Joshua Duncan, who recently became administrator of a parish for the first time, said the changes will go a long way toward laying to rest, once and for all, the “every pastor is an island” mentality.

“I’m always saying, we need to be working smarter, not harder,” said Fr. Duncan, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Glasgow and St. Joseph Parish in Fayette. “Pastors shouldn’t feel like they are reinventing the wheel every time they come to a new parish.

“The Church has sensible structures and processes that help us carry-out the work of the Church together,” he stated. “This is all about making the best use of them.”

Research with fetal tissue from elective abortion ‘deeply offensive’

Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life committee April 20 called on the Biden administration to fund research “that does not rely upon body parts taken from innocent children killed through abortion.

The bodies of children killed by abortion deserve the same respect as that of any other person,” said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

“Our government has no right to treat innocent abortion victims as a commodity that can be scavenged for body parts to be used in research,” he said.

His remarks were a reaction to a notice the National Insti-

tutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, posted April 16 in the grants area of its website announcing the end of a Trump administration ban on research involving human fetal tissue acquired from elective abortions.

In addition, NIH and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will no longer convene the Human Fetal Tissue Research Ethics Advisory Board.

“It is unethical to promote and subsidize research that can lead to legitimizing the violence of abortion,” Archbishop Naumann said in his statement.

“Researchers have demonstrated that we can do effective scientific research and develop efficacious clinical treatments without harvesting tissue from aborted babies. It is also deeply offensive,” he added, “to millions of Americans for our tax

dollars to be used for research that collaborates with an industry built on the taking of innocent lives.”

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Diocese of Jefferson City

COAT OF ARMS

From page 4

people think they’re not interested in heraldry “until you start talking about flags, and they get very excited.”

It’s because flags contain symbols and images that transcend and endure.

“Sports teams may come and go, and corporations might change their names, but the members of the Diocese of Jefferson City will always be able to identify with this Coat of Arms,” he said.

“It’s meant to convey something important, something shared, something eternal, something you can trust.”

Daily Readings

Sunday, May 2

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 9:26-31
Ps. 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32
1 Jn. 3:18-24
Jn. 15:1-8

Monday, May 3

Ss. Philip and James, apostles
1 Cor. 15:1-8
Ps. 19:2-3, 4-5
Jn. 14:6-14

Tuesday, May 4

Acts 14:19-28
Ps. 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21
Jn. 14:27-31a

Wednesday, May 5

Acts 15:1-6
Ps. 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5
Jn. 15:1-8

Thursday, May 6

Acts 15:7-21
Ps. 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10
Jn. 15:9-11

Friday, May 7

Acts 15:22-31
Ps. 57:8-9, 10, 12
Jn. 15:12-17

Saturday, May 8

Acts 16:1-10
Ps. 100:1b-2, 3, 5
Jn. 15:18-21

The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for May:

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

Sunday, May 9

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
Ps. 98:1, 2-3, 3-4
1 Jn. 4:7-10
Jn. 15:9-17

Monday, May 10

St. Damien de Veuster, priest (USA)
Acts 16:11-15
Ps. 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b
Jn. 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday, May 11

Acts 16:22-34
Ps. 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8
Jn. 16:5-11

Wednesday, May 12

Ss. Nereus and Achilleus, martyrs; St. Pancras, martyr
Acts 17:15, 22-18:1
Ps. 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14
Jn. 16:12-15

Thursday, May 13

Our Lady of Fatima
Acts 18:1-8
Ps. 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
Jn. 16:16-20

Friday, May 14

St. Matthias, apostle
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
Ps. 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
Jn. 15:9-17

Saturday, May 15

St. Isidore (USA)
Acts 18:23-28
Ps. 47:2-3, 8-9, 10
Jn. 16:23b-28

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FR. TOLTON

From page 11

man who lives on the farm where Fr. Tolton was born.

Seated in the front pew was Sister Loretta Keller, a Sparkill Dominican, who was baptized in the Brush Creek church and entered religious life from the former St. Peter Parish. She is living in retirement with Dominican Sister Susan Walker, principal of Holy Rosary School in Monroe City, who accompanied the singing at the Mass.

Others simply love the history of Fr. Tolton and are following his cause for sainthood.

Fr. Oligschlaeger noted that the former St. Peter Parish was founded as a mission of the for-

mer St. Paul Parish in Center.

The sacrament records for Brush Creek were kept in Center and were transferred to St. William Parish in Perry when the Center parish closed in the 1960s.

“That’s why Fr. Tolton’s baptismal record is at St. William instead of Holy Rosary,” said Fr. Oligschlaeger.

He noted that St. Peter Church and cemetery are due for some restoration.

Anyone who would like to contribute to the St. Peter Church roof and cemetery capital improvements may contact Holy Rosary Parish at 573-735-4718 or brosarymc@gmail.com.

Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows Starkenburg, Mo.

Annual Spring Pilgrimage MAY 16

Pilgrimage at noon — Rosary

Stations of the Cross

Confessions 12:30 pm

Benediction 1 pm

Outdoor Mass 2 pm

Light lunch available with COVID restrictions

Shrine & Valentine Hall handicap accessible.
For info, visit www.historicshrine.com
or call (573) 236-4390

From I-70...65 miles west of St. Louis, take Highway 19 south
for 7 miles to Big Spring, Highway K west for 6 miles, Highway
P south for 4 miles to Starkenburg and the Shrine.

Five top-5 lists drawn from the Vatican's Statistical Yearbook

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City
The countries in the world with the most people baptized Catholics continue to be, in order: Brazil, Mexico, the Philippines, the United States and Italy.

But, according to the Statistical Yearbook of the Church, as of Dec. 31, 2019, the order and even the countries are different when looking at the number of dioceses or other church jurisdictions, the number of ordinations of diocesan priests that year and the number of children under the age of 7 baptized over the previous 12 months.

The yearbook, which was published in March, contains more than 500 pages of charts and statistical data on Church life in every region of the world and almost every nation — China being the key exception.

The statistics range from the number of women religious — 630,099 — to the number of marriage nullity cases completed using “the briefer process before the bishop,” a process insti-

tuted by Pope Francis — 1,854.

According to the yearbook, Brazil had 177 million baptized Catholics by the end of 2019; Mexico had 115.5 million; the Philippines had 89 million; the United States had almost 74 million; and Italy had 57.8 million.

But the top-5 countries in terms of the number of dioceses, eparchies, prelatures and other jurisdictions were: Brazil with 278; Italy with 228; the United States with 195; India with 175; and France with 99.

One indication that the order of countries with the most Catholics can and will change is the statistics the book provides on the number of baptisms of children under the age of 7 (the yearbook provides separate statistics for the baptism of people over 7).

Throughout 2019, it said, there were more than 1.6 million baptisms of children under 7 in the Philippines; more than

1.48 million in Mexico; more than 1.05 million in Brazil; more than 595,000 in the U.S.; and more than 442,000 in Colombia.

The pope's Argentina came close to making the top 5 with 441,572.

As for ordinations to the diocesan Priesthood in 2019, two countries were tied for the top position: the United States and India, each with 415 new priests. Rounding out the top 5 were: Nigeria with 410; Brazil with 390; and Italy with 317.

The Statistical Yearbook also contains figures for the number of Catholic schools at every level and other institutions the Church runs to care for people in need.

The countries with the most Catholic hospitals, not counting dispensaries, are: India with 754; the United States with 551; Germany with 439; Congo with 419; and Brazil with 278.

Milan, Unionville Mass times

The summer Mass schedule for St. Mary Parish in Milan and the St. Mary Mission in Unionville will start on May 1 and end on Sept. 30.

Mass in English will be at 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays in Milan and at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays in Unionville.

Mass in Spanish will be at 11 a.m. on Sundays in Milan.

**Visitation
Spring Dinner
Vienna**
Drive-thru or Carry-out
May 2
from 11 am to 5:30 pm

**Golden Jubilee
Celebration**
honoring
Fr. Mike Quinn
**June 6
Hannibal**
Holy Family Parish,
1111 Broadway
3 pm Mass
Dinner reception following
(Admiral Coontz Armory, 301 Warren Barrett Dr.)
COVID guidelines will be followed
Mass also livestreamed at
[facebook/myholyfamilychurch](https://www.facebook.com/myholyfamilychurch)
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**“Gospels in Stained Glass”
Backroads Country Church Tour**
June 17, 2021
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