

"It's peaceful in heaven"

Eight students of Mary Immaculate School in Kirksville, ranging from pre-school to sixth grade, talk about receiving Sacraments of Initiation during this past school year.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

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Celebrating strength and unity on World Refugee Day



Participants in the 2021 World Refugee Day celebration gather around tables and booths under the MU Healthcare Pavilion in Clary-Shy Park in Columbia. The theme for the event was "Together, we heal, learn and shine." — Photo by Jay Nies

By Jay Nies

Their valley of tears had been transformed into an oasis of second chances and new beginnings.

Several hundred people from near and very far gathered under a Columbia park pavilion June 21 to celebrate World Refugee Day.

"This is about unity and what it means to be a welcoming community," said Samantha Moog, director of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri's (CCCNMO) Refugee Services, which sponsored the event.

Its purpose was to highlight the strength, courage and resilience of refugees throughout the world, including the millions of refugees who are still seeking a permanent home.

It was also a chance for individual refugees and families to celebrate together with volunteers, partner organizations and the community at large.

"It's about celebrating refugees, their strength and their amazing stories," CCCNMO Executive Director Dan Lester stated.

Refugee Services' good work was on full display.

"It's good to draw attention to God's love and work in action here," Mary Phillips, a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia, told Ms. Moog.

"Life-saving effort"

CCCNMO Refugee Services, an affiliate of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services, is the only official refugee-resettlement agency in central Missouri.

Since its founding in 1975, Refugee Services has helped more than 4,000 refugees who faced war, persecution and forced migrations in their homelands

See REFUGEES, page 14

A ring and a prayer: Priest to add a blessing to the love story that saved his life

By Father Mike Coleman

On Saturday, June 26, I am honored to be celebrating the wedding Mass of Taylor Manes and Chase Freidel of Holy Spirit Parish, who just completed her nursing degree at Truman State in Kirksville.

Beyond the joy of celebrating the wedding of such a precious young couple, I know that without their love story, I would most certainly be dead.

"God love you"

I first met the Freidel family in 2010, when they moved to Moberly where, I was pastor of St. Pius X Parish.

The parents, Dr. Denise and Dr. Brad, moved with their children to start a new path on their medical journey.

The Doctors Freidel came to visit me at St. Pius X School to see about the possibility of enrolling their three children: Chase (grade seven), Bayli (grade five) and Jake (grade two)

in St. Pius.

Dr. Brad and Dr. Denise were upfront about telling me they had not been active in their Catholic faith and that their children had not received any sacraments.

They wanted to change that, so I was happy to receive their children at St. Pius.

I taught seventh-grade religion each day, so I got to see Chase on a daily basis. She let me know that she wasn't all that excited about attending a Catholic school and not even sure how she felt about God.

Chase was a very polite and diligent student and began attending Mass with her parents and siblings.

A few weeks after the Freidels arrived, I hosted the NET (National Evangelization Team) to give a retreat to the St. Pius seventh- and eighth-graders.

See LOVE STORY page 15

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Carmelite Nuns' prayer ministry email

The Carmelite Nuns' ministry is to pray for the intentions of the people and church of Jefferson City. Please email them at: Carmelofjc.prayer@gmail.com.

The Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is Friday, July 16.

Pray for deceased priests

June 27 — **Msgr. Thomas J. McCartan**, St. Bonaventure, Marceline (1970)

June 29 — **Fr. Stephen S. Sandknop**, St. Joseph, Canton (1976)

July 5 — **Msgr. Ralph G. Kutz**, St. Aloysius, Argyle (2000)

July 8 — **Msgr. John H. Dreisoerner**, Sacred Heart, Eldon (1999)

Administrative Professional Needed

The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, Laurie, Mo. is seeking an Administrative Professional to manage the Shrine's office administration and programs. Programs include 4 pilgrimages, plus our summer Masses. This person is the Ambassador for the Shrine; spreading the joy of our beautiful surroundings and wonderful celebrations of the Eucharist; greeting and communicating with our pilgrims, supporters and volunteers; and sharing our devotion to Mary as Mother of the Church. The position handles our database of donors and supporters, coordinates all Shrine activities, and provides administrative support to our Chairman of the Board, plus participating in marketing and distribution of our marketing materials. Skills are needed in Word, Excel and Publisher; training is provided for our database entry and management. The person must be a self-starter and work with minimal supervision. Communication skills are a must. Please submit a resume to Don D. Drake at dondrake@yahoo.com.

Wellness Case Coordinator



The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City has an opening for a part-time Wellness Case Coordinator.

The Wellness Case Coordinator serves as an advocate for priests and deacons within the Diocese of Jefferson City. This individual is responsible for educating priests and permanent deacons so that they can take care of their own health, and if needed, can act as an advocate and liaison between the priest/deacon and their medical provider(s).

This is a part-time, virtual position with some travel within the diocese.

The ideal candidate will be a RN, LPN or Nurse Case Manager with a Missouri state nursing license, or a social worker with healthcare experience.

Qualified candidates should send a resume to HRDir@diojeffcity.org.

Links to livestreamed Masses

For a list of links to parishes offering livestream Masses, visit diojeffcity.org. Select the "News & Events" tab and click on "Video Masses." The link to the livestreamed Masses is on the left.

Mass times for Jonesburg, Montgomery City, Wellsville

The following Mass times for Jonesburg, Montgomery City and Wellsville will take effect the weekend of July 3-4:

•**Jonesburg:** 8 a.m. Sundays, St. Patrick Church

•**Montgomery City:** 5:30 p.m. Saturdays, 10 a.m. Sundays, Immaculate Conception Church

•**Wellsville:** 4 p.m. Saturdays, Church of the Resurrection

Mass times for Brookfield, Hurricane Branch, Indian Grove and Marceline

The following Mass times for Brookfield, Hurricane Branch, Indian Grove and Marceline will take effect on July 1:

•**Marceline:** 4 p.m. Saturdays; 10:45 a.m. Sundays; 8:15 a.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fri-

days, St. Bonaventure Church

•**Brookfield:** 9 a.m. Sundays, 8:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Immaculate Conception Church

•**Hurricane Branch:** 6 p.m. on the first, third and fifth Sat-

urday of the month; 10 a.m. on First Fridays, Mission of St. Joseph

•**Indian Grove:** 6 p.m. on second and fourth Sundays of the month, St. Raphael Church.

Meditating on the Mysteries



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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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People gather around the impressive stone grotto outside the St. Boniface Chapel in Koeltztown June 12 to pray the Rosary in honor of the Sacred Heart.

— Photos by Shawn Kell

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Bishop McKnight

It's not just about the sacrament; it's about communion

See related article, Page 7

It's not just about the Sacrament of Holy Communion; it's about the communion of the Church.

There's been much interest in whether the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) intends to restrict some politicians from receiving Holy Communion, based upon our Church's pro-life teachings.

Church (canon) law, however, states the local diocesan bishop — not an episcopal conference — is the sole authority to make this determination for any Catholic in his diocese.

Nonetheless, the U.S. bishops' conference has understood itself as having a specific religious and moral mission in the political order to form consciences, contribute to the public debate, and advocate for key public policy issues.

In approaching public officials and administrations in pursuit of this mission, the conference has historically adopted a stance of engagement, dialogue and critique.

Indeed, in a 2004 document of the USCCB entitled "Catholics in Public Life," the

bishops stated:

"We need to do more to persuade all people that human life is precious and human dignity must be defended. This requires more effective dialogue and engagement with all public officials, especially Catholic public officials."

The Holy Father has placed encounter, dialogue, honesty and collaboration at the heart of his approach to public conversation, not confrontation or threats, and he has repeatedly indicated he is not in favor of using the Eucharist as a means to discipline politicians.

The U.S. bishops have also appreciated the need to keep the Eucharist out of the political fray over the years. "Catholics in Public Life" emphasized that pastoral approach.

To change hearts and minds, we cannot merely threaten punishment.

At our virtual General Assembly held June 16-18, the bishops approved a motion for work to begin on drafting a teaching document on the Eucharist, which will include some discussion of the importance of personal integrity when one approaches Communion (termed

high for the body of bishops.

It was clear from the intensity and passion expressed in the interventions made that each bishop deeply loves the Eucharist.

And there should be no doubt that the bishops are fully united in advocating for legal protections of the unborn and against the destruction of human life at its earliest stage.

We all share the profound moral imperative to enact legal protections for those whose lives are threatened by the grave evil of abortion.

The discussion, while difficult at times, was a healthy exchange. I am particularly grateful to Archbishop José Gomez, the archbishop of Los Angeles and president of the USCCB, for allowing everyone to speak, which was the aim of Archbishop Mitchel Rozanski's good-faith motion of which I spoke in favor.

This practice, which gave everyone time to listen to each other, is in keeping with the synodal way urged by the Holy Father, Pope Francis. We need more, not less, of this kind of discernment in the Church,

rather than simple parliamentary decision making. All of us could make more room for the Holy Spirit, to discern God's will rather than decide things on our own.

In this vein, I was grateful for the letter sent last month from Cardinal Luis Ladaria, SJ, prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, who counseled us to follow a path to unity for the bishops and the Church.

Cardinal Ladaria's description of the kind of dialogue that must take place was particularly helpful. He said that an

In the short time I have been a bishop, I have learned that discussions in smaller groups and in person are more fruitful. I have seen this firsthand in the listening sessions held in our diocese following the scandals that erupted in the summer of 2018, as well as the process of discerning a new pastoral plan for our diocese last year.

Therefore, I supported the effort to have in-person regional and provincial meetings with bishops in the local area in advance of crafting any document that will touch upon "Eucharistic consistency."

The fact that the meeting ended with a commitment by the USCCB's president to organize meetings for the bishops on regional levels is

"It was clear from the intensity and passion expressed in the interventions made that each bishop deeply loves the Eucharist. And there should be no doubt that the bishops are fully united in advocating for legal protections of the unborn and against the destruction of human life at its earliest stage."

— Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

extended and serene dialogue among the bishops should lead to unity and consensus.

He also noted that dialogue with elected officials should aim at learning about their lives, why they take the positions they do, and what they know about the Catholic faith.

In other words, as bishops enter this dialogue with each other and with elected officials, there must be an openness to learn as well as share their own views.

This is in keeping with the vision of the Church Pope Francis advocated on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the synod of bishops, that is, a Church that is both *ecclesia docens* and *ecclesia discens* — a teaching Church and a Church that learns by discerning.

heartening to me.

Before becoming a bishop, I worked at the USCCB. I learned that bishops return home to pray about what took place and discuss further with fellow bishops off-line. This allows their views to mature and prepares them for the next set of meetings.

I have every confidence that this dynamic will continue in this moment, and I have hope that the bishops will find the right way forward with the help of the Holy See.

As we bishops continue our discernment about what message is needed now about the Eucharist, I ask for your prayers that the virtues of charity and patience of St. Joseph may be ours, as well.



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

Appointments are not normally scheduled in the month of July.

JUNE

Jun 27 50th Anniversary Mass for Reverend John W. Groner, St. Robert Bellarmine Church, 3 pm, St. Robert

JULY

- Jul 6** Deacon Formation Class, 6:30 pm, Catholic Center,
- Jul 10** Installation of Reverend Monsignor Gregory L. Higley, JV, as Pastor, 4:30 pm, Sacred Heart Parish, Columbia
- Jul 11** Installation of Reverend Monsignor David D. Cox, as Pastor, 10:30 am, St. Stanislaus Church, Wardsville
- Jul 13** Deacon Formation Class, 6:30 pm, Catholic Center

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Diocese of Jefferson City

Bishop McKnight's July prayer intention for our Local Church

We pray for our country at this moment in history, that the dreams of life, liberty and happiness remain in our hearts as well as the desire that we will always be one nation under God.



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

Oramos por nuestro país en este momento de la historia, que los sueños de vida, libertad y felicidad se arraiguen en nuestros corazones, así como el deseo de que siempre seamos una nación ante Dios.

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

Fr. John Groner: 50 years of answering Holy Spirit's distinct calling

"Stand with the poor," says J.C. native who has served throughout the diocese and in the Peru Missions

By Jay Nies

Father John Groner grew up in a family that did everything together and left no one behind.

"We saw that everybody is important, that nobody gets excluded," said Fr. Groner, pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in St. Robert and St. Jude Parish in Richland.

His brother, Robert, had muscular dystrophy and needed considerable help getting around.

"I can remember at the stadium, the only stadium in town, three of us would carry him down the steps to the row we were sitting in," the priest recalled.

That familial ethic of inclusiveness has been tinting and tempering Fr. Groner's vision of Priesthood for the past 50 years.

"I believe that a priest is a servant of the people," he said. "I'm here, first and foremost, to offer the Eucharist. The next thing is to give dignity and respect to parishioners. That means listening to their ideas and working with them."

Fr. Groner has ministered in Columbia; Marcona, Peru; Monroe City and Indian Creek; the diocesan Mission Office; Freeburg; Hannibal; Mexico; and for the past 22 years in St. Robert and Richland.

At each, he has blended the complimentary roles of evangelizer, administrator,

sacramental minister, spiritual guide and friend.

"I cannot speak the Word of God to a people until I love them," he insisted. "Loving God, others and myself is the key to all."

He observes his priestly anniversary each year on Pentecost, wherever it lands.

"The Holy Spirit is the One Who pulled me and pushed me — or maybe just invited me — into the Priesthood," he said.

An imperishable crown

Fr. Groner grew up in a family that never missed Sunday Mass and almost always went together.

He spent a few weeks each summer in Freeburg visiting his uncle, Monsignor Bernard Groner, who was pastor of Holy Family Parish.

"We didn't talk much about the Priesthood," Fr. Groner recalled. "We just did things together."

Young John excelled in athletics at Immaculate Conception School and Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City.

His eighth-grade teacher at I.C. encouraged him and the other 11 boys in his class — she called them the Twelve Apostles — to think about Priesthood.

But young John was interested in other things.

He was the only sophomore in his class to be chosen for the Helias varsity football and track teams, and one of only two sophomores who made the traveling basketball team.

"My whole life was sports," he said. "Then, everything changed."

He was walking down the 1200 block of East McCarty Street when the Holy Spirit abruptly convinced him to begin formally discerning the Priesthood.

"I walked straight into Immaculate Conception Church and told the priest, 'I want to go to the seminary,'" he recalled.

His parents, John and Lydia Groner, were supportive but not excessively enthusiastic.

"I was still young," he noted. "They knew I still had a lot of time to think about it."

That fall, he transferred to St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary high school in Hannibal.

"It's a decision I've never regretted," he said.

He continued on to Conception Seminary in northwestern Missouri for eight years of college and theology studies.

At the end of each year, he had to decide again whether to return.

"I kept thinking, 'If they don't kick me out, I'm coming back!'" he said.

His years in formation coincided with the Second Vatican Council and the early years of putting its teaching into practice.

"Those were exciting times, because everything was new," said Fr. Groner. "Everything was being turned upside-down. In a sense, a whole theology was being rediscovered."

He and his classmates were being encouraged to help make the Church more collaborative and attuned to the work of the Holy Spirit in the world.

A homiletics teacher at Conception told him to be as concerned about reaching the person behind the pillar in the back of church as with the ones sitting in the front pew.

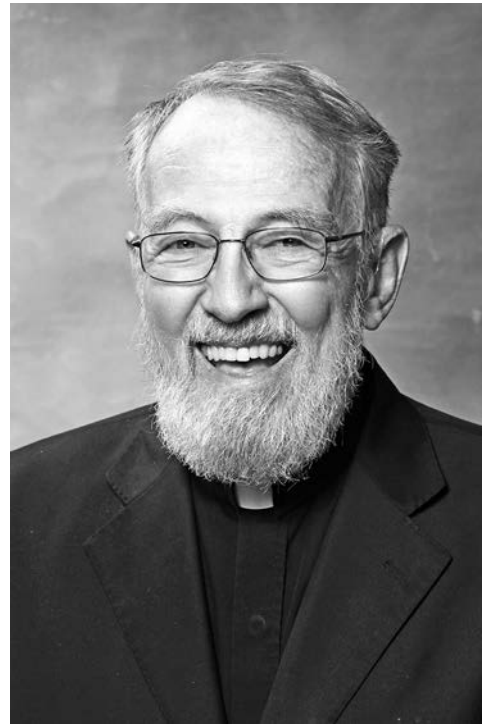
"That has really stuck with me for all these years," he said.

A priest forever

Fr. Groner was given a choice of days for his priestly ordination.

"I picked Pentecost!" Fr. Groner said triumphantly.

On the Church's birthday in 1971, in Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City,



Father John Groner

Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe, now deceased, ordained him to the Holy Priesthood.

"I had the wildest vestment on that you can imagine!" Fr. Groner recalled.

He remembers laying prostrate before the altar.

He also remembers missing his father, who had died the previous year.

"I wished he could have made it," Fr. Groner said with a pause and a faraway expression.

The new priest's uncle, Msgr. Groner, had been in the hospital for two months.

"He couldn't be at my ordination, so the first thing I did was go and tell him I was ordained," he recalled.

Msgr. Groner died a week later.

"That was the first funeral that I had," said Fr. Groner. "It was like he was waiting for me to be ordained, and after that, he was ready."

"Stand with the poor"

Fr. Groner believes that if God hadn't called him to be priest, he might have become a farmer or a construction worker.

He still enjoys building things up and helping things grow, materially as well as spiritually.

He spent two years as an as-

sociate pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes in Columbia before volunteering to serve in the diocese's missions in Peru.

"It was a big thing that was going on in our diocese, and I wanted to be a part of it," he said.

He completed an immersion program in Spanish language and Peruvian culture before taking up priestly duties in Marcona, a coastal mining town.

Through Monsignor Ralph Keyes, now deceased, a longtime missionary to Peru from this diocese, Fr. Groner got to know Dominican Father Gustavo Gutiérrez, a fearless advocate for the poor.

"This was a time when the Church in Peru was needing to be more aligned with the poor — standing with their concerns and the need for justice," said Fr. Groner.

"I was educated and formed into that understanding."

He helped oversee the construction of the sisters' residence in the *pueblo joven*, an enclave of people living in makeshift housing.

He ministered to their souls while trying to help them overcome serious obstacles to earning a decent living.

"My understanding of the missions when I went down there was doing what I could for the poor," he said. "I eventually realized that mission actually means standing WITH the poor and working with them to remove whatever is keeping them from doing what they are fully capable of doing."

Fr. Groner became aware that God was ministering to him through his parishioners.

He brought that conviction with him back to Missouri, where he led the diocesan Mission Office for seven years and pastored local parishes.

"The people I've been with have been faithful Catholics, having wonderful thoughts and ideas and bringing them to fruition in supporting the work of the Church," he said.

He helped get Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) established in this diocese and has been active in Cursillo, Resi-

See FR. GRONER, page 23

How much will you need to retire? Let's talk.



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Diocese receives Community Partner Health Care Hero Award from SSM Health for ministry, support during pandemic

By Jay Nies

Switchboard attendants at SSM St. Mary's Hospital-Jefferson City had Father Louis Nelen's and Father Jeremy Secrist's phone numbers on speed-dial during the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic last year.

Armored with layers of protective gear, they and other priests ventured into restricted areas of the hospital, administering sacraments and helping the staff reveal God's healing presence to the sick and dying.

"There were weeks that we could have had Fr. Nelen on the payroll for as many times as he came in for us," Joshua Allee, SSM St. Mary's director of mission effectiveness and pastoral care, told Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

Mr. Allee said the priests' duties consisted mostly of "anointing patients as they were dying, oftentimes from COVID, and being present to the staff."

Father James Finder, who carries out many Catholic chaplain duties at the hospital, was vulnerable to the COVID infection and had to limit his contact with patients for a while.

Even Bishop McKnight was called upon one snowy morning to minister to a dying patient when no other priest could get to St. Mary's.

He observed how the medical and support personnel carried out their duties efficiently and respectfully while working under unimaginable stress.

He recalled having to wear so much protective equipment, patients couldn't tell that he was a priest.

"It was surreal," he said. "But I was amazed at all the holy work the people around me were doing."

Other Catholics throughout the area offered whatever support they could, such as Catholic school students sending care packages and notes of encouragement to the hospital staff.

For all of these things, SSM

Health's Central Missouri Region selected the Jefferson City diocese to receive the Community Partner Health Care Hero Award.

SSM Health introduced the award this year to recognize employees, physicians, providers and community members who exemplified SSM Health's values throughout the pandemic.

Michael Baumgartner, regional president of SSM Health in Mid-Missouri, and Mr. Allee presented the award to Bishop McKnight, who accepted it on behalf of the diocese.

"We're so excited to have you as a partner," said Mr. Allee. "Clearly, those notions of charity and stewardship really came together during this pandemic."

Mr. Baumgartner said support from the community, including spiritual support, was invaluable to the front-line



Michael Baumgartner, regional president of SSM Health in Mid-Missouri, and Joshua Allee, director of mission effectiveness and pastoral care for SSM St. Mary's Hospital in Jefferson City, presents SSM Health's Central Missouri Region's Community Partner Health Care Hero Award to the Jefferson City diocese on June 11. Bishop W. Shawn McKnight accepted the award on behalf of the diocese.

— Photo by Jay Nies

Hospital and see it as an important part of the community," he said.

He also sent thanks to the hospital staff for helping the priests of the diocese get vaccinated as soon as they were eligible, so they could carry out their ministries more safely.

"Thank you very much for acknowledging our presence as we acknowledge yours," said Bishop McKnight. "We're very grateful for you for helping us minister spiritually to the Catholics and all the people in our communities."

"It's so vital for us in terms of what it means to be Church," he added.

The bishop expounded on what he observed during his visit to the hospital during what he referred to as "the COVID nightmare."

"To be with people in the midst of their service and their work right there in the environment!" he said. "All of the extra (personal protective equipment) they had to wear and the atmosphere and how much pressure they were under, every second of their working day."

"And dealing with the human reality and tragedy of people who are very ill, and families that are worried for them and can't be there," he

you're right there."

Behind the mask

Mr. Allee noted that the pandemic has faded but not ended for hospital personnel.

He asked for continued prayers for strength and consolation "for the people who are caring for those who are making their journey home to God."

"It's so important to know that we have the support and prayers of the wider community in the work that we do every day," he stated.

Mr. Baumgartner suggested watching a 36-minute documentary video produced by SSM Health, titled, "Behind the Mask."

It presents up-close portraits of the pandemic as experienced by patients and front-line hospital caregivers and staff.

"It's very powerful," he said.

"Behind the Mask" can be watched online at:

ssmhealth.com and search "behind the mask documentary."

"It's so important to know that we have the support and prayers of the wider community in the work that we do every day."
— Joshua Allee, SSM St. Mary's director of mission effectiveness and pastoral care

healthcare workers — doctors, nurses, housekeepers, dietary employees and all whose daily experiences revolved around the pandemic.

He said most of them now seem tired but relieved and more aware of simple joys such as shaking hands and seeing people's faces again.

"Touch is so important to our ministry," Mr. Allee noted. "Being able to do that again means so much."

"And having patients' loved ones at the bedside or even in the building as they're making their journey," he said. "For a while, it was only with FaceTime and phone conversations."

Battle-tested

Bishop McKnight thanked Mr. Baumgartner and Mr. Allee for the recognition.

"I happily accept it on behalf of the priests and the people who have such a good relationship with St. Mary's



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Eight M.I. School students in Kirksville welcomed into the Church

By Jay Nies

The Holy Spirit was on the move during this past year at Mary Immaculate School in Kirksville.

Eight students ranging from preschool through sixth grade sought and received Sacraments of Initiation since classes resumed last fall.

"I felt like after I got baptized, I was closer to God," said Kylee Waddle, who will be in sixth grade this fall. "It's exciting and ... I feel good."

"It was fun," said Lincoln Gaugh, who is going into third grade. "Monsignor baptized me. He poured water on me. I was tipping my head over the water."

"Does this mean you're Catholic now?"

"Yes!" Lincoln fired back.

"Why is that important?"

"Because Jesus is Catholic!" he said.

Six of the eight neophytes invited their principal, Ann Gray, to be their godmother.

In fact, that's one of the reasons Charlie Hays wanted to get baptized.

"We wanted to have a godmother," said Charlie, who was baptized with his twin sister, Stella.

Both will be in second

grade in the fall.

"It was pretty exciting," said Charlie. "Me and Stella were excited to go there. We were in church and Monsignor putted holy water on our head."

"And it got Charlie's glasses all wet," said Stella.

"But not Stella's!" Charlie noted.

All eight have familial ties to Mary Immaculate Parish or to the Mission of St. Rose of Lima in nearby Novinger.

Monsignor David Cox has been pastor of both for six years.

He, Mrs. Gray and the students' teachers helped prepare them for the sacraments they received.

Deacon David Ream and Patricia Lehr, pastoral minister and director of religion education for Mary Immaculate Parish, helped the children's parents prepare.

"We all worked together," said Mrs. Gray.

The weight is over

Christian Bergman and Aiden Bergman will be in seventh grade in the fall, and Kylee will be in sixth.

All three received Baptism and First Holy Communion at the same Mass this spring.

Lincoln Gadh, who will be in third grade this year, was baptized in time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and his First Holy Communion with his class.

"It was exciting," said Aiden. "I feel like it was a good step — a good step to being Catholic, and it was pretty emotional because we were talking about it for a long time, my mother and me.

"It's important because I've been taught to be Catholic," he said. "It's a good religion and I like it a lot. And I've been waiting for it. And it felt good."

Christian was also looking forward to receiving the sacraments for a long time.

"And then when it happened, I felt relieved," he stated. "It was a first big step."

The next step is "staying afloat" and doing what God wants him to do," he said.

Msgr. Cox noted that the older students have been going to Mass and taking religion class since they arrived at Mary Immaculate.

"It's like they belonged already and now they really are official," he said.

Kylee used to come forward for a blessing at Communion during all-school Masses. She had to learn something new for her First Holy Communion.

"I was used to doing 'this,'" she said as she crossed her arms over her chest.

"But then, I remembered I was supposed to go like 'this,'" she said, taking the posture for Holy Communion.

She felt nervous but "in a good way," she said.

For Christian, receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation felt like having a weight lifted from his shoulders.

"Every time we talked about it in class, it was that your sins will be forgiven," he said. "So that really stuck in my mind after the years of talking about it."

A similar sense of calm came over him when he received Holy Communion.

"They said there would be a lot more responsibility with it, but I felt more relieved," he



Mary Immaculate School Principal Ann Gray and Monsignor David Cox join students in the sanctuary of Mary Immaculate Church in Kirksville. These eight students received Sacraments of Initiation during the recently concluded school year.

said. "I felt like the road ahead was a bit cleaner after that."

Aiden, Christian and Kylie said they've been talking to God more openly since receiving their sacraments.

"I just thank God for everything that I have," said Kylie, "and tell Him I'm thankful to have a roof over my head and all of that."

"I talk about what I did and ask him to help me keep doing what I'm doing," said Aiden.

"I say, 'Thank You and keep up the good work!'" said Christian.

Into Paradise

Stella and Charlie are looking forward to receiving their First Holy Communion with their class next year.

Their mom teaches third and fourth grade at the school. "You don't see God, but I still believe in Him," said Charlie.

"Because he's our Heavenly Father!" said Stella. "I want to get to go to heaven with Him."

"The opposite of heaven is not a good place!" Charlie noted. "Heaven is better."

"It's peaceful in heaven," said Stella.

Charlie said he hopes there will be dinosaurs in heaven when he gets there.

A house of prayer

Nolan McKim, age 5, and Jesse Groves, age 3, were in pre-school together this year.

Nolan will move up to kindergarten in the fall.

He said his favorite Bible story is "where there's a city that's golden," (Revelation 21).

He also likes the story about "Noah's big boat," (Genesis 7-8).

"They took two of every animal and they

made it rain for a week, and God made it flood," Nolan recounted. "God and his friends survived. And this world, the evil got washed away."

"Then they got out of the boat and took all the animals out with them," he said. "Then they saw a rainbow!"

Nolan knows how to pray the "Our Father," "Angel of God" and the mealtime prayer.

"Sometimes, I talk to God," he said. "I like saying the 'Our Father.' It's my favorite prayer."

Their pre-school teacher, Caroline Kreps, who goes by "Miss K," said there's nothing like seeing faith and knowledge of God awaken in young children.

"My goodness! It's amazing," she said.

Her students pray together throughout the school day, and they get to spend time at the "prayer place" in their classroom.

"We go there to calm down or to pray, and they like to watch Bible stories on the iPad in their free time," she said.

See MARY IMMACULATE, page 11

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Bishops vote to draft teaching document on the Eucharist

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

The U.S. bishops approved a plan to draft a document to examine the “meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the Church” following a lengthy debate during their spring general assembly.

The action to move forward passed with 168 votes in favor and 55 votes against it. There were six abstentions.

The results, announced June 18, the final day of the virtual spring assembly, allow the bishops’ Committee on Doctrine to draft the document and present it for discussion when the bishops reconvene in person in No-

vember.

For more than two hours June 17, 43 bishops shared their views on whether such a document was necessary at a time when Catholics are returning to regular Mass attendance as pandemic restrictions ease, or if it should even be considered lest it be perceived as fracturing the unity of a Church already faced with numerous challenges.

The bishops reached no consensus during the discussion. They voted electronically immediately after the second day of the meeting concluded late in the afternoon.

As expected, viewpoints



The Eucharist rests on a paten at the altar in the Cathedral of St. Peter in Wilmington, Del., May 27, 2021. — CNS photo/Chaz Muth

varied among the bishops.

Most bishops welcomed the idea of strengthening

teaching about the Eucharist, especially given that the bishops have embarked on a multiyear National Eucharistic Revival initiative that is part of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ 2021-2024 strategic plan, “Created Anew by the Body and Blood of Christ: Source of Our Healing and Hope.”

In a prerecorded presentation, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairman of the doctrine committee, reviewed an outline of the document, which would include three parts, subtitled “The Eucharist, A Mystery to be Believed,” “The Eucharist, A Mystery to be Celebrated” and “The Eucharist, A Mystery to be Lived.”

As proposed, each part includes three topics that would

be addressed including, respectively, the Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion; unity, beauty and identity as the “fount and apex of the whole Christian life”; and moral transformation, Eucharistic consistency and missionary discipleship.

He said the document was developed in light of the decline in the belief among Catholics in the Real Presence in the Eucharist as well as the long absences from regular Mass attendance, which may have led people to place less significance on the Eucharist in their lives.

He said the committee wanted to address the “need therefore for a unified and strong revival for the meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the Church.”

A consensus seemed to develop around a proposal from Bishop Michael W. Warfel of Great Falls-Billings, Montana, who suggested that the bishops convene regional gatherings throughout the summer to discuss the content of the document.

Bishop Rhoades said such gatherings would be welcomed because they would offer the doctrine committee more input on the content of the document. He added that he did not think it would delay development of the document.

Bishops discuss developing national pastoral on youth, young adults

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

In a June 17 presentation to the U.S. bishops at their annual spring assembly, which was virtual again this year, Dallas Bishop Edward J. Burns announced a proposal to develop a new national pastoral framework on accompanying youths and young adults in the Church.

He said the work will be presented to the body of bishops for review at their November 2022 meeting. It will be developed by the bishops’ Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

After his presentation, the bishops voted on the proposal, with the tally announced June 18, the final day of their meeting. The measure passed with 222 voting in favor of it. Seven bishops voted against; there were no abstentions.

Bishop Burns, a member of that committee and the youth episcopal liaison to World Youth Day 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal, said this new pastoral framework would be in light of “Christ Lives” (“*Christus Vivit*”), Pope Francis’ 2019 reflections on the previous year’s Synod of Bishops on young people.

That work encouraged young people about their place in the Church and also urged older people not to stifle the enthusiasm of the young.

“A church always on the defensive, which loses her humility and stops listening to others, which leaves no room for questions, loses her youth and turns into a museum,” Pope Francis wrote in “Christ Lives.” “How, then, will she be able to respond to the dreams of young people?”

Bishop Burns said the 2018 synod urged Catholic leaders to come up with a plan to accompany youths and young adults and he said the proposed document he was announcing was an attempt to do just that.

The bishops developed a similar resource document for young adults in 1996 called “Sons and Daughters of the Light.”

“The landscape has shifted in the past 25 years,” Bishop Burns said, stressing that a new look at current challenges in the light of faith can provide a “chance to shape and lead our young people.”

The audience for the new document will be Catholic leaders and emerging leaders, he said, with the hope to unite young people and raise them to “something greater” while celebrating their diversity and acknowledging the realities they face.

It will be “rooted in Jesus Christ and the sacramental life of the Church,” he added.

The pastoral framework “will not have all the answers,” but it will provide direction, he said. He also urged fellow bishops to reach out to him with ideas and input.

The bishop’s message was prerecorded, but he took questions and comments in the online format afterward.

In their comments, the bishops supported the proposed document and also had some advice about things it should address.

Bishop Barry C. Knestout of Richmond, Virginia, said one aspect that should be highlighted is social media’s current influence and how it “fights against our sacramental understanding of encountering one another.”

Retired Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona, emphasized the need to talk to young people and listen to them for this work which was echoed by Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, California, who urged the committee to listen to concerns and anxieties of young people and focus on issues that are important to them.

Bishop John E. Stowe of Lexington, Kentucky, said: “We’re often preaching to the choir with our work with young adults and young people” and urged the committee to remember to reach out to the nones — those who do not have or no longer have a religious affiliation — and also those who “fall outside our normal realms of ministry.”

“Don’t forget them,” he said.

Bishops OK draft of framework for marriage, family life ministry

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

The U.S. bishops approved a draft document that provides a pastoral framework meant to strengthen marriage and family ministry in parishes and dioceses.

Bishops voted 212 to 13 in favor of the plan, with four abstentions, in results announced June 18, the final day of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ spring general assembly.

Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life

and Youth, which drafted the document, described its contents to the full body of bishops June 16, the opening day of their three-day virtual meeting.

“The framework addresses many challenging areas by providing guidelines for pastoral care,” the archbishop told the assembly in a prerecorded presentation.

Titled “Pastoral Framework for Marriage and Family Life Ministry in the United States: Called to the Joy of Love,” the document has been under

See MARRIAGE, page 11

QUESTION CORNER

Site of the Ascension / When to leave Mass?

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Q. Where did the Ascension take place? Matthew and Mark tell us that the apostles are to go back to Galilee, but Luke says that they should stay in Jerusalem until Jesus has risen. (Louisville, Kentucky)

A. On the top of the Mount of Olives outside of Jerusalem's Old City is a small hexagonal chapel that commemorates the site of the ascension of Jesus.

St. Luke narrates in the Acts of the Apostles how the disciples gathered with Jesus and "as they were looking on, He was lifted up and a cloud took Him out of their sight." Then, Luke notes, "they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath's journey away" (Acts 1:9-12).

In the weeks following His rising from the dead, Jesus appeared to the apostles and disciples on a number of occasions, both in Jerusalem and in Galilee.

On Easter itself, He appeared to Mary Magdalene, to the women at the tomb, to Peter, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus and to the 10 apostles in Jerusalem (when Thomas was not present).

A week later, when Thomas was with them, He appeared again to the apostles in Jerusalem. Later, He appeared to seven disciples as they were fishing near the shore of the Sea of Tiberias (Jn. 21:1) and to 11 disciples on a mountain in Galilee (Mt. 28:16).

The ascension marks the final departure of Jesus for heaven following this series of apparitions. From then on, the disciples were to live by faith and communicate with Jesus through prayer and the sacraments.

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (No. 659) explains the sequence, "Christ's body was glorified at the moment of His resurrection, as proved by the new and supernatural properties it subsequently and permanently enjoys.

"But during the 40 days when He eats and drinks familiarly with His disciples and teaches them about the kingdom, His glory remains veiled under the appearance of ordinary humanity.

"Jesus' final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of His humanity into divine glory, symbolized by the cloud and by heaven, where He is seated from that time forward at God's right hand."

Q. When is it proper to leave church at the end of Mass? Do you have to stay for the recessional hymn to end, or can we leave after the blessing, while the recessional is still being sung? (city and state withheld)

A. You should remain in church while the recessional hymn is being sung. Singing is a part of worship — particularly so if it is a hymn meant to be sung by the entire congregation.

It bothers me when I see people leaving church early — sometimes, alas, even right after Holy Communion — in a rush to get to the parking lot.

What's the urgency, I think, and isn't God worth the extra few minutes? I have read — and I understand — that technically the Mass finishes when the priest blesses us and the deacon or priest tells us that the Mass is ended.

But for the sake of simple politeness, one ought not distract others in the congregation by leaving before communal worship is concluded.

See FR. DOYLE, page 23

Papal Audience June 23, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Today we begin a new cycle of catecheses on important themes in St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians. This Letter is vital for an appreciation of both the person of the Apostle and his teaching on central aspects of the Christian message, such

as the grace of Christ, the freedom it brings and the demands of our new life in the Spirit. Paul begins by forcefully reaffirming the Gospel, which he had preached to the Galatians. The Letter also reveals Paul's courageous pastoral care for this young Church, which had been shaken by those who believed that pagan converts were obliged to observe the prescriptions of the Mosaic law. In response, the Apostle proclaims the newness brought by Christ and its expression in the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In our reflections on the Letter to the Galatians, we will come to see that the authentic way to share the liberation brought by the crucified and Risen Savior is through a humble and fraternal love, trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit at every moment of the Church's pilgrimage through history.

I cordially greet the English-speaking faithful. May tomorrow's celebration of the Solemnity of the Birthday of St. John the Baptist inspire us to imitate his humble witness to the Lamb of God. Upon you and your families I invoke the joy and peace of the Lord. May God bless you!



Honoring the dead for Memorial Day



Elaine Gramlich, Jody Gramlich, Elise Gramlich, Caleb Rohrbach, Charlotte Rohrbach, Kelly Rohrbach and Lillian Rohrbach gather after placing flags over the burial places of deceased veterans at Ss. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Boonville the morning of May 28, in anticipation of Memorial Day. They and Laura Gramlich (not pictured) placed about 130 flags, including on three Civil War veterans' graves.

— Photo by Theresa Krebs

A delegation representing Bruce and Melody Uhlmeyer, Cora and Izzy Winkelman, Jace and Jax Hall, Marcia Hardin and Liam, Matthew, and Abby Magill gathers in Shrine of St. Patrick Cemetery in St. Patrick before placing flags on all the veterans graves on May 28. Later, parishioners Dan and Myrna Daughtry treated the volunteers to a wiener roast and s'mores.

— Photo from the St. Patrick, Missouri Facebook page



On fathers and Christian masculinity

By Dr. R. Jared Staudt



The Year of St. Joseph points us to Jesus' adoptive father, Joseph, as the essential model for fathers. Joseph not only manifests genuine masculinity, he also images God's own fatherhood, as Pope Francis makes clear in his apostolic letter, *Patris Corde*: "In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over Him and protected Him, never leaving Him to go his own way." Jesus, though

the Son of God, obeyed Joseph, learned from him, and worked with him, acknowledging Joseph as a true expression of God's own fatherhood.

God does not just use fatherhood as an image of Himself, because He Himself is Father, even within His own triune life. Earthly fatherhood comes forth from Him and should manifest His life and love. St. Paul speaks of honoring the "Father, from whom all fatherhood in heaven and on earth is named" (Ephesians 3:15). God wants everyone to be able to see His own fatherly love and called certain men to share in His own paternal gift of bringing forth life and caring for others. Every father is called to be liked Joseph, "an

earthly shadow of the heavenly Father" for his own family.

Our culture, however, often denigrates masculinity, sometimes viewing even its proper expressions as toxic. We too often see maleness in its fallenness — dominating and selfish — rather than showing self-sacrificial service. In fact, later in Ephesians, Paul speaks of the true vocation of the husband and father: "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her" (5:25). He also speaks of the role of fatherhood: "Do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (6:4). Paul shows us the goal of fatherhood —

sacrificing himself for the flourishing of the family by putting the good of his wife and children before his own desires.

No matter what the contrary voices of our culture say, we need strong men and fathers. God created man and woman in complementarity, and they need each other to thrive, helping the other in relation to their own strengths and weaknesses. Children need the strong presence of a father to discipline and teach, as Paul reminds us. Study after study has shown that fathers have the largest impact on the faith of their children. Christian Smith explains in his sociological study, *Young*

See STAUDT, page 18

A celebration in Ordinary Time

By Lucia A. Silecchia



Recently, I celebrated a birthday. It was not a milestone year, but a happily ordinary one that was a beautiful time to count blessings, celebrate friendships, and enjoy the company of loved ones.

But, coming up soon lies another landmark that I often let slip by without notice. In a very real way, however, that day — the anniversary of the day on which I was Baptized — is far more important in the eternal scheme of things. So, this year, I resolve to pay a bit more attention to the events that unfolded on that day long ago, when I was merely 36 days old.

Do not fear, dear family and friends! No new party or additional cake is needed.

Nevertheless, this anniversary is one worth celebrating. So, as I look ahead to this special day in my own life's journey, I have a few plans...

I am hoping, that day, to visit the Church where I was Baptized. In his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis wrote "The history of our friendship with God is always linked to particular places which take on an intensely personal meaning; we all remember places, and revisiting those memories does us much good." For me, the "history" of my "friendship with God" began and grew in the parish church of my childhood. Being home, in gratitude for the Baptism celebrated there, truly brings "much good" to me.

Years ago, when St. John Paul II returned, as pontiff, to his Polish hometown of Wadowice, he, too, visited the church where he was Baptized. There, he reflected, "I...embrace the threshold of the house of God, the parish church of Wadowice, and in it the Baptistery, in which I was joined to Christ." So, a pilgrimage to this "threshold" seems to be a good way to celebrate the anniversary of my Baptism. I am fortun-

nate to be able to do so frequently.

I know, however, that time, distance, and the sad reality of church closings may make such pilgrimages impossible for many. Yet, there are still so many ways to celebrate this important day when it rolls around for you. So, I have some ideas for your festivities...

First, learn the date of your Baptism, as well as your First Holy Communion, Confirmation and First Reconciliation. We remember, with very good reasons, the anniversaries of weddings and ordinations — the sacraments that set the course of lives given in service and love. But, these sacraments draw graces and strength from earlier sacraments whose anniversaries are often lost to time. For me, July 9, as well as April 25, May 25, and December 4 are all days that changed my life in profound ways that I will not fully understand on this side of eternity.

On your Baptismal date, remember in prayer the priest or deacon who Baptized you, however long ago that may have been. The priest who Baptized me also witnessed the marriage of my parents. I did not know him, but years after his death I am grateful for the gift of his priesthood and the graces my family received when he celebrated these sacraments with us.

Remember, too, your godparents who brought you to that important moment in your life — whether you remember that day or not. If they are still living, perhaps a phone call would be a happy recollection of that occasion. If they have left this life, maybe their children would welcome a call. As always, your godparents can be remembered in prayer.

Your parents, or other adults and loved ones who brought you to the waters of your Baptism would also welcome your greetings or your prayers on what was an important day for them, as well as for you.

If you have photographs of that day, try to find them and see the joy on the faces of those gathered to celebrate such a sacred event.

If you have godchildren of your own

— particularly those who are young — consider calling or writing a note to them, sharing with them the importance of your Baptismal day. This just may launch their own tradition of celebrating their Baptis-

mal days.

Think, with gratitude, about all of those who have helped you in the journey

See SILECCHIA, page 18

REFLECTION

Out of chaos

By Mark Saucier

We do mission work in Yucatan. Among the many attractions of that Mexican state is the Chicxulub Crater, formed some 66 million years ago when an asteroid crashed into earth, leaving a hole 12 miles deep and over 90 miles wide.

The collision caused tsunamis, wildfires and a sulfur haze that blocked the sun. The Chicxulub event caused massive extinctions, including the reptilian reign of the dinosaur.

It was cataclysmic, but important. Only when the dinosaurs were gone did mammals have a chance to thrive and evolve, initiating the lineage that led to *homo sapiens*. Without Chicxulub, we wouldn't be here.

Consider the moon. It influences our oceans, our climate, even our orbit. It inspires poetry, encourages romance, and calms the troubled heart.

But Earth had no moon until a smaller planet, Theia, slammed it. The impact vaporized the earth's crust. The gasses gathered around what was left of Theia, eventually forming the night light that comforts and guides.

When the Belgium priest Georges Lemaitre articulated the Big Bang Theory in 1927, he saw convulsive upheaval at the core of our cosmic birth.

He postulated a point of singularity, a single primordial point, that exploded nearly 14 billion years ago. It happened with unimaginable force and inconceivable heat. It is still reverberating throughout the universe today.

In the smallest fraction of a second, space and time were formed. The embryonic particles of the universe turned into atoms, and atoms into molecules, and molecules into elements.

Far from destroying matter, this explosion created it.

Today, from supernovas to the seed germinating in the ground, upheaval and impermanence, calamity and change are still inescapable.

No life is immune to this. We all have chapters in our stories when something cataclysmic happened, something that upended our life or threatened to destroy it.

We have our deaths and disabilities, our sicknesses and suicides, our grave faults and grievous failures.

We've had our loves that disappoint, and we have disheartened those who love us. Some of it might have been avoided, but much of it could not.

The lesson of Chicxulub, Theia and the Big Bang is that while the world can seem unbearably harsh, it is always incredibly resilient and creative. We can make it through the hard times and even find growth in them.

Fr. Lemaitre was fond of referencing Isaiah's hidden God, "hidden even in the beginnings of the universe."

In almost 14 billion years, that's the only thing that hasn't changed.

Msgr. McCorkle passes away two weeks after 100th birthday

Diocese's first centenarian priest was a pastor, teacher and renowned artist

By Jay Nies

Monsignor David Cox knew which painting he wanted to take home with him.

It was the first one Monsignor Louis McCorkle painted after a failed cataract surgery left him blind in one eye.

"It's a symbol of your bravery and courage," Msgr. Cox explained to his old friend, a consummate artist, "that you would continue to paint and even try something new when you had every reason to get angry and walk away."

Msgr. Cox gave the homily at Msgr. McCorkle's Funeral Mass on June 17.

A retired priest of the Jefferson City diocese since 2002, Msgr. McCorkle died peacefully on June 13 in the St. Stephen Infirmary at Conception Abbey in Conception, Missouri, where he had been a resident for 12 years.

He had just turned 100, becoming the first priest in the diocese's 65-year history to do so.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated on June 17 in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Conception — where Msgr. McCorkle was ordained 68 years ago — with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight presiding and priests of the Jefferson City diocese and of Conception Abbey concelebrating.

His paintings and sculptures garnered national and even international acclaim.

Many now adorn Conception Seminary College, where he completed his seminary formation, and the Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center and Cathedral of St. Joseph Rectory, both in Jefferson City.

"He viewed the world not

just with an artist's eye but an artist's soul, to find the beauty and truth within," said Monsignor Marion Makarewicz, a former student and colleague of Msgr. McCorkle's.

He said his old friend had devoted his Priesthood to revealing the often-hidden beauty of the Gospel in the world around him.

"He carried an attitude of reverence through his life, especially in the kind way he treated people," Msgr. Makarewicz stated.

A priest forever

Msgr. McCorkle was the second-to-last surviving priests of the founding priests of this diocese.

He was born on May 18, 1921, in St. Louis, a son of Claude W. and Emma Angle (Ludwig) McCorkle.

The family moved to Normandy in St. Louis County when he was 6.

While he was in 10th grade, a friend stirred his interest in Catholicism and introduced him to the first of many priest friends.

"Not only did he go through a conversion and become Roman Catholic, he also managed to bring most of his family into the Church," Msgr. Cox noted.

Young Louis took instructions at St. Barbara Parish in St. Louis and was received into the Catholic Church at age 19.

He began spending time at the Passionist Preparatory Seminary near his home and eventually entered priestly formation with the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ.

Later discerning that God was calling him to be a country priest, he became a seminarian for what was then the Diocese of St. Joseph, which covered all of northern Missouri at that time.

He continued his forma-

tion at St. Gregory's Seminary in Mount Washington, Ohio; Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West in Norwood, Ohio; and Conception Seminary in Conception, Missouri.

The late Bishop Charles H. LeBlond of St. Joseph ordained him to the Holy Priesthood on May 14, 1953, in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Conception.

Msgr. McCorkle served as associate pastor of the former Immaculate Conception Parish (now part of Holy Family Parish) in Hannibal from 1953-56; as a teacher and director of students at the former McCooney High School in Hannibal from 1953-58; as chaplain of the former St. Elizabeth Hospital (later Hannibal Regional Hospital) from 1956-58, 1959-60, 1963-64, and 1970-2002; as pastor of the former Holy Cross Parish in Ilasco from 1958-60 and 1970-96; and at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary from 1957-68 and 1970-2002.

He became a priest of the newly created Jefferson City diocese in 1956.

He served briefly as pastor of St. Michael Parish in Kahoka, of Sacred Heart Parish in Vandalia, and then of St. Joseph Parish in Fayette.

He retired from active priestly ministry in 2003 and continued living in the diocese until moving to the infirmary at Conception Abbey in 2010.

Say uncle

Bishop Joseph M. Marling C.P.P.S. (+1956-69), founding bishop of Jefferson City, announced the establishment of a high school seminary less than six months after the diocese was created.

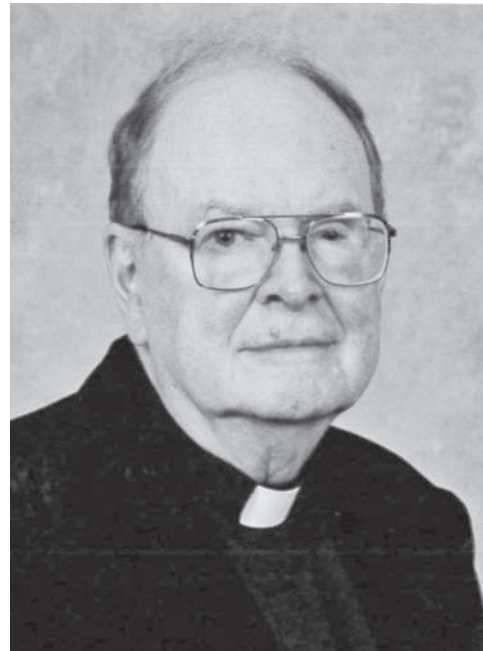
Msgr. McCorkle, already stationed in Hannibal, informed the bishop that the city's vacant former orphanage was available.

The bishop authorized the purchase of the building and grounds and appointed Msgr. McCorkle to supervise the renovation and furnishing of the building, and then to serve on the faculty.

He taught social studies, music and religion before giv-

ing his first art class at the school in 1967.

He came to be known as "Uncle Lou" to the many whose spiritual and artistic gifts



Msgr. Louis McCorkle (1921-2021)

—File photo, circa 1997

he helped discover and cultivate through his teaching.

"I like to see the students discover they can do things they didn't think they could do," he told *The Catholic Missourian* in 1993.

He got his nickname while his nephews were seminarians there. It came to be used by colleagues, students and alumni as a term of respect and friendship.

"It was like he was the unofficial patriarch of the whole seminary," said Msgr. Cox.

True colors

Benedictine Father Pachomius Meade, a Palmyra native, monk and artist at Conception Abbey and vice rector and dean of students of Conception Seminary College, had Msgr. McCorkle for class.

"He demonstrated a certain kind of gentleness and joy in his own Priesthood," Fr. Pachomius noted, "which was an example unto itself."

He also embodied the possibility of being an artist while being a priest.

"The idea that you can do both — that I wouldn't have to set aside my artistic talent to serve God, and that, in fact, it could be used in a way that serves God — that meant the world to me," he said.

Msgr. McCorkle loved the

Mass and encouraged seminarians to be respectful in the chapel.

"He might have given the impression that he was kind of meek and would let certain things pass," said Fr. Pachomius. "But when the chips were down, he was no shrinking violet. He wanted us to understand that if you're going to live this kind of life, you have to have a certain kind of conviction in it."

Artists and prophets

"Uncle Lou definitely loved God and loved the Church," said Msgr. Cox, who taught with him for 19 years. "He truly was a man of God and reflected his love for Jesus in the way he lived and the way he ministered to others."

Msgr. Cox asserted that artists are like prophets.

"They help us to see beauty and truth and goodness with clearer eyesight," he said. "Things to which angels long to look, artists and prophets reveal to us."

Msgr. McCorkle remained a beacon of hope and steady joy through the happiest and saddest of times.

"It's like a painting," Msgr. Cox stated. "There's only one picture that's painted, but all the people who look at it are changed by it. They witness something beautiful. And no matter how many people see it, it continues to carry out its function."


Family ties

Msgr. Makarewicz said Msgr. McCorkle lived a life of a sacramental ministry, using art and genealogy and the preaching of the Gospel to transform the things of this world into occasions for an encounter with God.

"He was an artistic priest and a priestly artist," said Msgr. Makarewicz, who was one of Msgr. McCorkle's students and later taught there with him.

He noted that Msgr. McCorkle had a keen interest in genealogy and published a significant work, titled *Of Viking Glory*, detailing centuries of his family history.

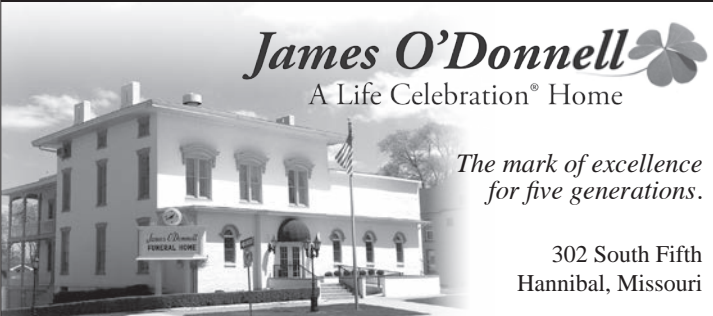
See MSGR. MCCORKLE, page 17

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A blessing and a course



MARY IMMACULATE

From page 6

"All connected"

Msgr. Cox said all eight Mary Immaculate students who were initiated this year had studied the sacraments with their classmates, learned why they're important and gone to Mass regularly.

"So there was a desire on their part to receive the Sacraments," he said. "Except Jesse, who's very young, the rest of them were asking their parents if they could be baptized."

He said Catholic schools are great for awakening the faith in young people and by extension in their families.

"And these are very good kiddos!" he noted.

Like a good godmother, Mrs. Gray has been praying for them as long as she's known them.

She believes the all-school Masses at Mary Immaculate are "truly uplifting." The students listen attentively, participate actively and answer questions during the homily.

"They hear it all and they know a lot," she said.

She believes the Holy Spirit moves freely and actively among the students, faculty and staff at the school.

"We feel like a family," she said. "We're God's family, but we feel like we're all connected."

It's not perfect, and everyone needs to learn from their mistakes.

"But we get to deal with them in an openly Christian manner," said Msgr. Cox. "Even with staff and parents, we can say, 'Let's go up to church and pray before we have this discussion.'"

1,000 plus one

Most Catholics know young people who are awaiting Sacraments of Initiation, couples who need to have their marriage blessed, or families that could be practicing their faith more actively.

Msgr. Cox said the key to helping them get to a better place is to start with prayer.

"Because when you pray for people, that changes things," said Msgr. Cox, who will become pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in Wardsville and St. Margaret of Antioch Parish in Osage Bend on July 1.

"And even though they don't necessarily know that you're doing it, something is, in fact, happening."

Then, when the time is right, a friendly invi-

tation is in order.

"You start saying, 'We can do something about this if you'd like to,'" he said.

Sometimes, the invitation will need to be repeated.

"It can be like, 'I've said this 1,000 times, but this person has never heard it,'" he said.

The message is always clearest when accompanied by the strong witness of a young person who's come to know and love the Lord.

"When families see that this is something that's transforming their children or helping their children to be better people, they take notice," he said.

He noted that it takes an entire parish to support a Catholic school.

"And when there's a Catholic school, it brings life into the parish that isn't there when you don't have a school," he said. "There are parishes that would give anything to be able to have a school, and here we are with this great blessing. We should never take it for granted."

"We're not alone"

Several of Mary Immaculate School's young new Catholics asked for prayers.

"Keep us safe," said Lincoln.

"For wisdom," said Christian.

"That He keeps leading me in the right way," said Kylie.

"That He guides me through my life and helps other people guide me through and helps me guide other people to be Catholic, too," said Aiden.

"Miss K" said she's happy to be back at Mary Immaculate School.

"I went here when I was a kid," she noted, "and I think the foundation I was given here has kept me strong in my faith, even when life gets tough."

That's what she wants for her students.

"I hope that when life gets tough for these guys, they know they're not alone," she said. "Because that's what (this school has) done for me. We're not alone. God's always watching us."

"I hope they find their home," she added. "And my home is here with this Church and with this parish."



Members of St. Joseph Parish in Palmyra gather around the "Blessing Box," a mini-food pantry recently installed outside the parish hall. "Our mini food pantry, named the Blessing Box, was made to provide immediate access to food," the parish's May 30 bulletin stated. "Take what you need, leave what you can. We do not know what has caused a person's emergency food need. However our Blessing Box provides food and our prayers that they receive lasting help."

— Photo by Cathy Fohey

MARRIAGE

From page 7

development for more than three years.

The framework incorporates a comprehensive overview of marriage ministry and outlines activities that pastoral ministers can initiate for Catholics living in a variety of family situations, Archbishop Cordileone said.

It grew from the bishops' belief that Catholics families and married couples need more support from the Church at large.

It is meant to offer parishes resources and ideas for ministry through a pastoral plan for marriage and family life. It emphasizes the importance of family members to be "missionary disciples" and their role "to be actively engaged in evangelization."

It draws extensively from Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation "The Joy of Love" (*Amoris Laetitia*) as well as teachings from Pope St. John Paul II and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

It presents "pastoral approaches" to contemporary family situations with the hope that people "experience the Gospel of the family as a joy that 'fills hearts and lives.'"

The document offers four "pillars" for ministry: prayer and relationship with Christ; formation; accompaniment; and advocacy.

It begins with an emphasis on prayer and building a relationship with Jesus and explains Church teachings on marriage as "the permanent, faithful and fruitful union of one man and one woman."

It also stresses the family is the domestic Church and offers ways to guide families to pray together, regularly attend Mass and receive Holy Communion and "develop a family spirituality."

Various guidelines for ministry activities are included under each of the four pillars.

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Catholic News Service
Arlington, Virginia

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Religious Freedom Week June

22-29 is an opportunity for Catholics across the country to take a "stand for the freedom on which this country was founded: The freedom to live out our

faith publicly," said Arlington Bishop Michael F. Burbidge.

"This freedom includes the right to serve the common good, as our faith compels us, through various religious charities and ministries," he said in a June 21 statement.

"All Americans, regardless of faith, enjoy countless blessings made possible by this freedom," added Bishop Burbidge, who is a member of the USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty.

He also is chairman of the bishops' Committee on Communications.

The weeklong observance al-

ways begins on the feast of two English martyrs who fought religious persecution, Ss. Thomas More and John Fisher, and ends with the feast of two apostles martyred in Rome — Ss. Peter and Paul. Each day of the week focuses on different religious

liberty topics of concern for the Catholic Church in the U.S.

Resources prepared by the USCCB for Catholics to "Pray — Reflect — Act" on the daily themes can be found at:

usccb.org/
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Father Austin Okoli, a missionary priest from Nigeria who is concluding his pastorate of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg and Church of the Resurrection Parish in Wellsville, offers Mass in St. Joseph Cemetery in Martinsburg on May 31, Memorial Day.

— Photo from the St. Joseph Catholic Church-Martinsburg, MO Facebook page

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Fr. Aubuchon thanks the God of Miracles for allowing him to return to full-time ministry

By Jay Nies

One of Father Christopher Aubuchon's doctors sees a miracle in the young priest's impressive recovery over the past year.

Fr. Aubuchon wholeheartedly agrees.

"I told him that I firmly believe it to be true, but to hear him, a doctor who specializes in heart transplants, expressed this is truly incredible and affirming!" Fr. Aubuchon stated in a Facebook post to friends on June 7, the seventh anniversary of his priestly ordination.

Exactly a year and a day previously, the 33-year-old priest was placed on the National Donor Registry after being diagnosed with severe cardiomyopathy, a result of a powerful viral infection.

He had already spent weeks recovering in the Intensive Care Unit at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City.

Prayers ascended from points throughout the diocese, including an outdoor Rosary prayed by about 150 people outside St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City.

Father Michael Coleman, a fellow priest of the diocese, offered up the discomfort of his own cancer treatments in supplication for Fr. Aubuchon's healing.

God said "yes."

Tests in January of this year revealed tremendous progress in the healing of Fr. Aubuchon's heart.

"By the Grace of God, the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary and my dear saint-friends in heaven, along with the prayers of so many wonderful people, I was officially removed from the National Heart Transplant List on Jan. 26, 2021!" Fr. Aubuchon wrote.

His heart had been functioning at about 15 percent of normal capacity when he was first diagnosed with congestive heart failure and severe cardiomyopathy in February of 2020.

Four extended hospital visits and a year of medical leave later, it has risen to about 40 percent.

"Truly miraculous and amazing because I was told

by my doctors that this kind of recovery, without receiving a heart transplant, is rare," Fr.



Father Christopher Aubuchon

Aubuchon declared.

This made him and his family, doctors, nurses and friends "ecstatic, overjoyed, beautifully overwhelmed, to say the least!" he said. "There are no words!"

"So thank You, thank You, thank You, O Lord!" he wrote. "And friends, please know deeply of my immense gratitude for your many prayers, support and love you have shown to me throughout my journey of the Holy Priesthood over the past seven years, of my heart health

challenges over the past year, and throughout my life."

He singled out his family and as well as the doctors and medical professionals who have been so instrumental in his survival and ongoing healing.

"I cannot thank those wonderful doctors and nurses enough, who by the Grace of God, truly helped to save my life," he wrote. "May God abundantly bless them and their wonderful healing work!"

He expressed gratitude to his fellow priests of the diocese and to Bishop McKnight for the support they have shown him over the past year.

He thanked Father Adam Johnson and Father Andrew Mattingly, priests and former classmates who allowed him to live in community with them at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Kansas City while he was awaiting a transplant.

He also thanked the priests and parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia for welcoming him and looking out for him since he was assigned there as a priest in residence last October.

"They got to watch me be healed, come back into ministry and pray for me face-to-

face over these past several months," he wrote. "God is so very good!"

His doctors hope to see his heart function rise to 50 percent, which is considered the "low-end" of normal.

"I still tire out quicker now than before I got sick," he noted, "but I feel 100 times better than a year ago."

He asks for continued

prayers for his ongoing recovery as he prepares to begin his new assignment as associate pastor of St. Peter Parish in Marshall, St. Joseph Parish in Slater and the Mission of Holy Family in Sweet Springs.

In the meantime, "I love you all and am keeping you close to my heart in deep prayer, with abundant joy and tremendous gratitude," he wrote.

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DIocese of Jefferson City

REFUGEES

From page 1

begin new lives in central and northeastern Missouri.

It does so in cooperation with numerous local organizations, agencies and congregations, as well as many individual volunteers.

Refugees are people who are forced to flee their country due to persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

"Refugee resettlement is really a life-saving effort," noted Cristal Backer, director of development and outreach for CCCNMO.

From the many, one

The international theme for World Refugee Day 2021 was "Together, we heal, learn and shine."

At the Columbia event, groups and sponsoring organizations set up booths and activities under the pavilion.

Colorful banners created by volunteers and refugee groups from several nations flapped in the summer breeze.

Children delighted in meeting Columbia firefighters and police officers and exploring a fire engine and patrol car.

Youngsters also decorated flowerpots, created jewelry, made chalk pictures on the ground, built models out of toothpicks and jellybeans, played badminton, musical chairs and the beanbag toss,



and hung out on the playground.

Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture gave away plants for people wishing to start a garden at home.

People feasted on fare from local food trucks while young dancers moved to the beat of popular music from several countries.

Catholic Charities distributed information about its services as well as employment and volunteer opportunities.

CCCNMO staff members provided free blood-pressure checks, while the Columbia/Boone County Health Department offered COVID-19 vaccines.

"Poetry Spoon," a Colum-

bia native who holds a degree in poetry from Oxford University, sat with individuals and composed free verse based on what they told her.

Giving back

Hussein Al Hraishawi, 17, was born in Iraq and arrived in Columbia as a refugee with his family in 2017.

He attended the World Refugee Day celebrations in Columbia in 2018 and 2019 and was disappointed that one could not be held during COVID-plagued 2020.

"For me, it's the best event of the year," he said. "You meet different people, you see different cultures, you learn from them."

This year, he took a leading role in helping former Refugee Services Associate Director Grace Wildenhaus organize the event.

"Just seeing all the faces out here, all the smiles, all the people who are really happy to see each other," he said, "that's what makes it worthwhile."

He enjoys volunteering for Refugee Services because of all the help he and his family received when they arrived in December 2017.

"They helped me, so I need to give back," he said.

The turnout for this year's celebration, the first to be held in an open-sided pavilion, surpassed his greatest expectations.

"We all come from different countries, and each person here has a story," he said. "And



— Photos by Jay Nies

if each of these people told you their story, it would affect you mentally."

They would include war, violence, ethnic and religious persecution, the death of loved ones, and time spent in unsafe and unsanitary refugee camps far from home.

For Refugee Services' clients, the stories don't end there. "That's why today's a celebration," said Hussein.

Born in 2003, he never experienced peacetime in Iraq.

He's proud of his Iraqi heri-

gees won't hold them back.

"I know that their parents' hope for them in coming here is simply to have the chance to be kids and grow up into adults who can have an education, a chance at really pursuing a life without the fear for own survival," Mr. Mazimano, a case manager for Refugee Services.

He began working there just over two years ago and has served as a case manager, children's education coordinator and refugee medical assistance coordinator.

He noted that refugees all over the world are displaced through a multitude of circumstances.

"And when they gain citizenship or they gain asylum here, it's a chance at getting to rebuild a new life in a new place," he said. "That's what we're celebrating today, all those new beginnings."

The world is now experiencing the worst refugee crisis in history, with at least 79.5 million people having been forced to flee their homes.

Among them are nearly 26 million refugees, around half of whom are under the age of 18.

Less than 1 percent of refugees will ever reach resettlement.

Mr. Mazimano prays that people who can help will do so. "Circumstances like this will always happen," he asserted. "It will always be the case

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.

tage and misses members of his extended family back home, but he's grateful for the opportunities available to him in the United States.

He studies history passionately and enjoys listening to older people share their memories.

"My hope and my dreams, all of them are here," he said.

Opening doors

Looking out at the scores of children and young people at the celebration in Columbia, David Mazimano said he hopes their experiences as refu-

See CELEBRATION, page 17



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LOVE STORY

From page 1

NET is a group of 10 to 12 young people, ranging from recent high school graduates through college students. I had seen them inspire young teens for many years.

When Chase arrived at school the morning of the retreat, I told her that by the end of the day, she would be totally in love with Jesus.

Sure enough, after the retreat was over Chase sought me out and said: "You were right, Fr. Mike! I fell in love with Jesus today!"

By the end of her eighth-grade year, Chase, accompanied by her younger siblings, joined the Church at the last all-school Mass of the year.

She was one of the first in her class to commit to attending Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, which would be opening that fall.

Chase graduated in 2015, the first class to go all four years through the school.

During her years at Tolton Catholic, Chase got involved with TEC (Teens Encounter Christ), and I used her countless times to lead retreats with her peers and younger teens.

I have heard her give her witness countless times but I still get goosebumps each time I hear her speak about how Jesus became Lord of her life and "my best friend."

Chase was also an accomplished athlete and in her senior year helped lead the Tolton Trailblazers track team to the first of two consecutive state championships.

You're welcome

Shortly after I was transferred to Holy Spirit Parish in 2018, I was thrilled to hear that the Freidels would also be moving to Centralia.

Dr. Brad had retired and Dr. Denise would begin working for Boone Hospital Center at the Centralia clinic.

Chase had kept in touch during the years after Tolton Catholic. Each year, she calls me on Father's Day and my ordination anniversary to thank me for being "my spiritual dad."

Each of the years I was stationed at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia, the Fre-

idels would attend the Christmas Eve Mass I celebrated and then bring me out for dinner afterwards.

Chase was a nursing-school student at Truman State and was often home on weekends. She would always bring her boyfriend to Mass — a medical student at Kirksville — Taylor Manes.

Taylor is a very polite young man and we would sometimes get into faith discussions after Mass.

In March of 2020, when the pandemic hit and schools closed, Chase returned to Centralia.

The Freidel family invited Taylor to stay with them since his family home is in Nevada, Missouri.

I wasn't at all surprised



Chase Freidel, Father Michael Coleman and Taylor Manes

when Taylor called me shortly after Easter to tell me he wanted to join the Catholic faith. He had finished his preparation in Kirksville and was eager to join.

I got the appropriate permissions and on April 30, I was honored to celebrate Mass and baptize and confirm Taylor and give him his First Holy Communion.

Doctor's orders

At that point in the pan-

demia, we were still limited to 10 people in attendance. Chase asked Dr. Brad and Dr. Denise to be his godparents and Confirmation sponsors.

After Mass, Dr. Denise pulled me aside and told me that while I was leading Taylor

center of their relationship.

I was very honored when he said he wanted me there as well.

After the proposal, Dr. Denise came and sat with me in the pew as Chase and Taylor alternated between laughter and tears, celebrating their new engagement.

After we talked for a few minutes, Dr. Denise looked at me and said in a determined voice: "Your wheezing is even worse. Tomorrow you WILL come in for a chest X-ray."

Reluctantly, I did so.

That is how my cancerous tumor was discovered.

Never alone

Dr. Denise conferred with my primary care physician, Dr. Phil Stitzer, who is a member of St. Pius X parish in Moberly.

The next week, Dr. Denise took me to an appointment with a cancer doctor. He said I had a tumor resting over my heart and my lungs.

The tumor was the size of two baseballs. If the tumor had been undiscovered much later, it would have been too late for treatment.

An operation was immediately scheduled for the following week. The surgery took eight hours and 10 minutes.

One of my lungs was crushed, and I would need aggressive chemotherapy and radiation over the next seven weeks.

Since I was on oxygen and so weak from the chemotherapy and radiation, I needed to have someone staying with me the next few months. Dr. Denise took care of that.

The night I got home from the hospital, the first couple to stay with me was Dr. Stitzer and his wife Nancy.

I felt so blessed. Between my sisters in St. Louis, a couple of people I have been best friends with since my teenage years, parents of Fr. Tolton students, a couple of my brother priests and members of Holy Spirit Parish, I always had someone with me during those months.

Those same people also provided rides with me to my daily radiation and weekly chemotherapy treatments.

I had so many saints tending to me during those months.

I know Jesus has so many ways to work in our lives. For me, it was the listening ear of a doctor who would never have heard me wheezing without the Mass welcoming Taylor into the Church and without sitting next to me while Taylor proposed to Chase.

On June 26, I will proudly give Taylor and Chase the blessing of the Church at the end of their wedding Mass.

Then I will thank them for saving my life!



Father Michael Coleman, seated, watches Taylor Manes propose to Chase Freidel in Holy Spirit Church in Centralia this spring. Fr. Coleman has known Chase since she was in seventh grade at St. Pius X School in Moberly,

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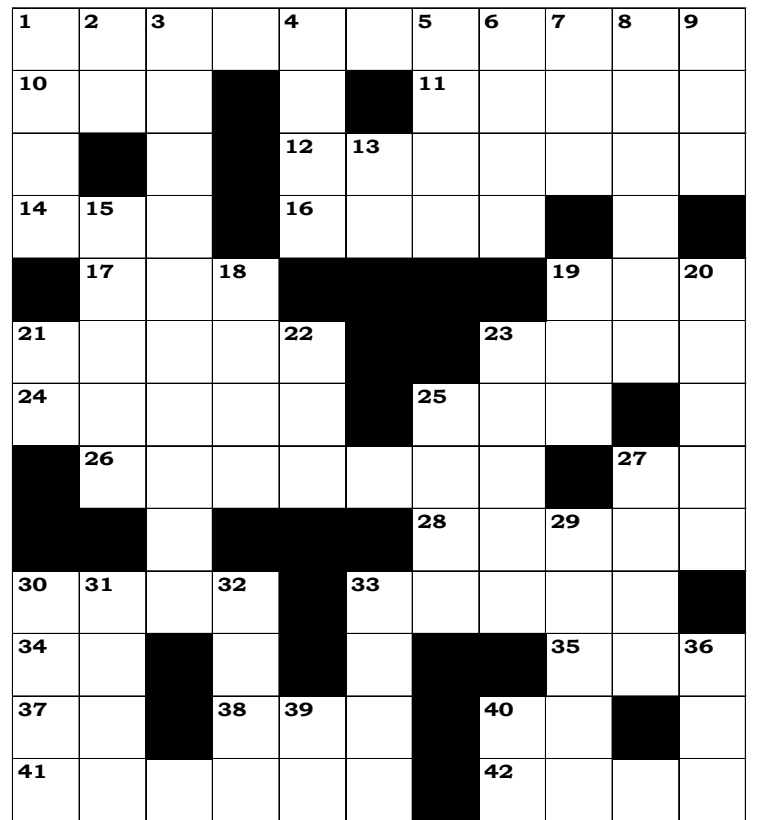
1. Feeling adventurous? Get out outdoors and try some of the many wild edible plants in Mo. as a tasty ____ to the same-o same-o.
10. ____! Humbug! said Ebenezer Scrooge.
11. "His fame spread to all of ____, and they brought Him all who were sick," (Matthew 4:24).
12. Watercress is an aquatic plant; the fresh greens of which can add a ____ kick to salads or sandwiches. It also can be sautéed with butter until wilted.
14. St. Joan of ____; the female warrior of Orleans & a patron saint of France.
16. To be, in old Rome.
17. Letters meaning "also known as," referring usually to aliases.
19. Letters for Federal Unem-

- ployment Insurance.
21. Perhaps surprisingly, all parts of the common dandelion are considered edible. Roots can produce a coffee-like drink. Leaves and ____ go good in salads. The flower part adds color to a salad or can be deep-fried.
 23. Elderberries are high in vitamin C but do not eat them raw. After cooking they are very tasty in ____, muffins and jellies. The flower clusters can be steeped for tea or deep-fried for an elderberry fritter.
 24. "Daddy sang bass (mama sang ____), me and little brother would join right in there..." —song from Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues" album, 1968.
 25. "____ the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming..." —from "The Star Spangled Banner."
 26. Pawpaws, or Mo. bananas, are 6-12 in. banana-shaped fruits with a custard-colored pulp. They can be eaten raw or as a banana substitute in many ____ recipes, including ice cream.
 27. MU nemesis.
 28. Strange, frightening.
 30. "Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, mak-

- ing the ____ of the opportunity," (Colossians 4:5).
33. ____ mushrooms are a sought after favorite wild edible in Mo. But other mushrooms — inky caps, Dryad's saddle and turkey tail — are also edible and tasty whether deep-fried, sautéed, sweetened or used in teas or soups.
 34. You may need one to buy alcohol.
 35. "The chief priests declared that Jesus profaned the Sabbath by curing the sick on that day. Pilate interrupted them and said in a jeering voice, 'It is evident none of you were ____ on that day or you would not have complained about it,' —from *The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Visions of Sister Anne Catherine Emmerich, 1774-1824*, mystic, stigmatic, visionary.
 37. Letters for Northern Ireland, the six-county state in the north of Ireland which is both adamantly Protestant and British.
 38. Place for a ring?
 40. The Dept. of ____ oversees the biggest industry in our State.
 41. "Here am I, captain of a legion of Rome who served in the Libyan ____ and learns and ponders this truth: There are in life but two things, love and power, and no one has both," —from a recently discovered inscription.
 42. What you might bend in prayer.

DOWN

1. "...you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry out, '____, Father!'" (Romans 8:15).
2. Letters for the second biggest metro area in the U.S.
3. Cattail heads can be boiled and eaten like corn on the cob. Pollen can be used as flour or as ____ in soups. The cores of cattail shoots can be eaten raw or prepared like asparagus or sliced into a stir fry dish or pickling them. Roots can be baked, boiled or grilled until tender and eaten like an artichoke.
4. Persimmons (when they are ____!) have a sweet flavor that is hard to beat. The pulp can also be used



- in bread baking. Persimmon tree leaves can be steeped for a sassafras-flavored tea. The seeds can be roasted and ground for caffeine-free coffee.
5. Cleopatra's killers.
6. What you do on a computer keyboard.
7. Anger.
8. During epidemics, "the Christians cared for their own, and pagans as well. Pagans who survived saw a model of ____ that surpassed anything, personal or institutional, typical of their culture," —*The God That Did Not Fail*, Robert Royal, ch. 4: Christian Paradoxes.
9. Letters for Effective Annual Yield (i.e., the true expected return on a yearly investment).
13. Prefix for chew or cape.
15. The father was distressed at the amount of x-____ material his children could be exposed to on the internet.
18. Shepherd-prophet of divine judgement calling the chosen people from hollow prosperity to God; 37th book of the Bible.
19. On Christmas Eve in 1923, Pres. Calvin Coolidge began a tradition when he lit a 48-foot Balsam ____ tree with 2,500 red, white and green bulbs for Christmas as a national Christmas tree.
20. "No, that one shall not be your heir; your own ____ shall be your heir," (Genesis 15:4).
21. Cousin to Rd. or Ave.
22. Golden agers (abbr.).
23. Pumpkin eater? Or, the apostle whose name is at the head of every list of the 12 Apostles.
25. Delicious sandwich cookie.
27. "You shall not ____," (Exodus 20:13).
29. "The kingdom of the world now belongs to our Lord...and He will ____ forever and ever," (Revelations 11:15).
30. "If conservation can become a living reality, it can do so in Mo. This is because Missourians, in my opinion, are not completely industrialized in ____ and spirit, and I hope will never be," —conservationist Aldo Leopold, 1947.
31. Garfield's clueless dog friend.
32. "My country 'tis of ____"; —from the song "America" written by Samuel Francis Smith in 1831. The melody is the same as Britain's national anthem, "God Save the Queen." Nevertheless, it served as a de facto U.S. national anthem before "Star Spangled Banner" was officially adopted in 1931.
33. Wal-____.
36. A brand of jeans.
39. Pres. Bill Clinton's presidential library is in this State (abbr.).
40. This State has more ocean front property than any other State (abbr.).

ANSWERS on page 19

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CELEBRATION

From page 14

that somehow, somewhere, there will be turmoil, there will be war.

“So for the people who aren’t in that situation, I pray that they care,” he said. “I pray that they extend their hands. I pray that they put themselves in the shoes of people who aren’t as lucky.”

He noted that nobody is responsible for the circumstances into which they’re born.

“You have to understand that people anywhere and everywhere are an extension of yourself,” he said. “So don’t look at giving to someone else as taking from yourself.

“No one gets where they are without the help of another,” he noted. “So I say, always say reach back, open a door and give where you can.

“Not because you’re above them,” he added, “not because you’re better, but because circumstances have allowed you to. It’s because others have given to you.”

Servant leaders

With a 13-member staff working in Columbia and Jefferson City, Refugee Services provides essential services to arriving refugees, especially in their first 90 days here.

Volunteers of numerous faith backgrounds play a crucial role in welcoming refugees and providing services to them.

The agency currently serves refugees and other migrants from the Burma/Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Honduras, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan,

Syria and Ukraine.

All of them are thoroughly vetted for security through multiple federal departments, including the U.S. State Department, before arriving here.

Many previously lived in refugee camps for years. Most arrive with little more than the clothes on their backs.

Refugee Services-provided assistance, funded through government grants and through contributions to Catholic Charities, includes: finding and helping to pay for suitable housing, used furniture, clothing and food; providing English-language instruction, driver’s training and employment strategies and placement; and offering interpreter services, health care facilitation, community information and

referral, and extensive case management/counseling.

Refugee Services provides these services to all eligible populations regardless of faith, culture or situation.

“Our programs are designed to empower and equip clients with skills, resources and tools to build their lives in the United States,” said Mrs. Backer.

Refugee Services staff members collectively speak more than 10 languages. Each brings decades of expertise and often personal experience.

“Never give up!”

Hussein requested prayers for peace throughout the world.

“We need to pray for God to bless all the people around here and those who are out of

the country,” he said.

He offered some advice to people who are arriving here as refugees and are preparing to begin a new life here.

“Let this be a new beginning,” he said. “You can’t change the past, so don’t dwell on it too much.”

“Find a good job,” he continued. “Study. Don’t leave school until you’ve got your diploma. Keep going and never give up.

“That’s my rule: Never give up!” he stated. “My goal is to keep chasing my goal! Whatever life brings for me, I’m ready for it. If I fall, I will keep standing back up. To the end of the road, until I die!

“God has something better in mind for you,” he said. “You can do it. You CAN do it! If someone tells you can’t, don’t listen to them.”

MSGR. McCORKLE

From page 10

“I was always inspired by the fact that at an age when most people would be winding down, Msgr. McCorkle constantly updated his research and publishing skills,” said Msgr. Makarewicz. “He took to modern computer technology and the Internet with great skill.”

Msgr. McCorkle continued updating his research and compiled a second volume to his family genealogy. He corresponded with many people around the world who could count on him for accurate and detailed records.

Msgr. Makarewicz believes all of that effort reflected a profound respect and gratitude for people who are elderly and for those who went before him.

“I see that as a sign of true reverence for life in this world,” Msgr. Makarewicz stated.

In collaboration

Msgr. McCorkle remained sharp and inquisitive and could often be found looking up Greek words while studying Scripture in his room at the infirmary.

“Here was this guy who into his upper 90s was still learning, still immersed in and still learning the Word of God,” said Father Daniel Merz, a former student.

He said the name “Uncle Lou” was fitting because Msgr. McCorkle was always a steady presence but never the central figure.

“More a beloved uncle than a dad or grandpa,” said Fr. Merz, who further likened him to “a worker bee of the Church.”

“He was a man of very deep spirituality,” said Fr. Merz. “He kept his head down, kept his eyes open, prayed, loved the Lord, did his job, lived to be 100 and

made an impact — faithful the whole way through.”

Many of Msgr. McCorkle’s former students still treasure the projects they created in his class.

“One reason we hold onto those is that there is some of his artwork mixed with ours,” said Fr. Merz.

Back at Conception

In 2000, Blessed Pope John Paul II elevated then-Father McCorkle to the dignity of a Prelate of Honor, with the title Reverend Monsignor, upon the recommendation of Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos.

He continued leading seminarians on visits and pilgrimages to Conception and giving retreats while there. So it seemed fitting that when the renovation of the infirmary was completed in 2010, he was invited to move there.

He continued offering Mass in the infirmary chapel and enjoyed visiting and interacting with the Benedictine monks and the seminarians.

“He was a very much loved member of the community at our infirmary, especially by our nursing staff,” Fr. Pachomius noted.

In January of this year, his primary physician determined that Msgr. McCorkle should be placed on hospice care.

The priest suffered a serious stroke on June 11, and a vigil was commenced to accompany him through his death two days later.

Bishop McKnight thanked the monks at Conception and the infirmary staff for welcoming Msgr. McCorkle into their home.

“You took good care of him for 12

years,” the bishop noted.

“Worth the wait”

One of the monks at Conception Abbey said Msgr. McCorkle’s motto was “*Ars Gloriarum Deo!*” (“Art for the glory of God!”).

Bishop McKnight said he was a most unusual priest.

“He was an artist and a diocesan priest and a teacher,” the bishop stated. “And in each piece of his art, we see one aspect of his soul’s view of the world.”

Preceding Msgr. McCorkle in death were his parents; his brothers, Clifton “Murray” McCorkle and Floyd McCorkle; and his sister, Dolores McCorkle Kubiak.

Surviving are numerous nieces and nephews, including Nancy Pierce and Judy Eckelkamp, who kept in close contact with him in his later years.

Burial was in the McCorkle family plot at Salt Fork Cemetery in Blackwater, Missouri.

“What a dear priest who taught us much in art but also much in the fruits of the Spirit: gentleness and joy!” Fr. Pachomius stated.

“A life very well lived and someone we should aspire to be like,” said Katie Wilkerson Gleeson.

“A gentle and wonderful man,” said Rod Massman. “Rest in peace, Uncle Lou!”

“I can only imagine the colors and the splendors that he will see when his sight, purified by the Word, alights upon heaven, and when the Beatific Vision fills him completely,” stated Fr. Merz.

“I can almost hear him now saying aloud for all of us to hear, ‘This is worth the wait!’” Fr. Merz continued. “In fact, this is worth TWO centuries of wait!”

Persistent joy

Ms. Moog visited with “Poetry Spoon,” who created an original poem for her in the heat of the afternoon.

“Joy sticks to me like sweat. Like a T-shirt, like a smile that never quite fades. When today is over I will sleep soundly and when I wake up, my smile will still be here.”

“That really sums up how I feel right now,” said Ms. Moog.

She noted that Refugee Services is gearing up for a large increase in the number of refugees to be resettled in Columbia and Sedalia.

She suggested praying, wishing, hoping and working “for people to embrace their neighbor, embrace all parts of their community.”

Refugee Services relies heavily on community support to carry out its work.

•To donate money, visit ccnmo.diojefcity.org/give and select “Refugee Services” from the dropdown menu.

•To contribute needed items such as hygiene supplies, furniture and housewares, contact Associate Director of Operations Senad Music at smusic@ccnmo.org or 573-658-0354.

•To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Refugee Services Volunteer Coordinator Diana Twombly, at dtwombly@ccnmo.org or 573-540-1123.

Need more info about an event or want to see more events?
Visit the diocesan EVENT CALENDAR at diojeffcity.org/events.
Want your event listed?
Fill out the ONLINE FORM at diojeffcity.org/event-listing.

Fundraisers & Social Events

Jun. 26

Russellville, St. Michael K of C Festival, with BBQ chicken/pork steak dinners dine-in, carry-out or drive-thru, 11 am-5 pm

Jun. 27

Bahner, St. John's Altar Society ice cream social, 5:30-9 pm; **Linn**, St. George Parish picnic (drive-thru or carryout), 11 am-7 pm

Jun. 29

Columbia, Vitae Foundation Columbia pro-life event & dinner, 6:30 pm, Hampton Inn & Suites, for info or to register visit vitaefoundation.org

Jul. 2-3

Cuba, K of C barbecue, 10 am-6 pm, Mace's Supermarket parking lot

Jul. 9

Montgomery City, K of C drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm

Jul. 11

Meta, St. Cecilia Parish picnic,

11 am-6 pm, Citizens Civic League Park; **St. Martins**, St. Martin Parish picnic, 11 am-7 pm

Jul. 15-18

Hermann, St. George Parish rummage sale, Thurs. & Fri. 7 am-7 pm, Sat. 7 am-4 pm, Sun. 7 am-noon

Jul. 18

Indian Creek, St. Stephen Parish annual Swinkey Picnic, 11 am-5 pm; **Wardsville**, St. Stanislaus Parish drive-thru picnic, 11 am-7 pm

Jul. 25

St. Elizabeth, St. Elizabeth Community Picnic, 11 am-6:30 pm, Community Center

Jul. 31

Centralia, Holy Spirit Parish St. Anne Sodality garage sale, 8 am-noon

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

26-27 Junio

Marshall, Retiro de Parejas, Iglesia de San Pedro, favor de inscribirse llamado a Marcelino Chavez al 660-631-3748

29 Julio-1 Agosto

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

7-8 Agosto

Marshall, Retiro de Jovenes, Iglesia de San Pedro, favor de inscribirse llamado a Marcelino Chavez al 660-631-3748

Meetings & Conferences

Jun. 28 & 29

VIRTUAL, Catholic Disaster Preparedness Training, noon-1 pm, to RSVP call 573-635-7719 or email pmallinckrodt@cccncmo.org

Jul. 14

VIRTUAL, Catholic Charities refugee resettlement program orientation, 5:30-6:30 pm, for info or to register, contact Diana Twombly at 573-442-7568 or dtwombly@cccncmo.org

Liturgical

Jul. 25

Mexico, Sung Latin Mass, noon, St. Brendan Church

Jul. 31

Columbia, Profession of candidate Terrie Foltz to the Secular Franciscan Order, 5 pm Mass, St. Thomas More Newman Center

Aug. 15

Mexico, Sung Latin Mass for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, noon, St. Brendan Church

Retreats & Spiritual Renewal

Aug. 6-8

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

Youth & Young Adults

Jul. 11-17

Jefferson City, CHRISTpower service retreat for high school teens, Helias Catholic High School, for info visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/christpower

Jul. 18-22

Henley, Camp Siena for high school girls, Camp MoCoMi, for info visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-siena

Jul. 18-23

St. Robert, Camp Maccabee for high school boys, for info visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-maccabee

Jul. 24

Laurie, "Courage" youth pilgrimage with Maggie Craig, 8 am-5:30 pm, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, for info visit thenationalshrineofmarymotherofthechurch.com

Jul. 31

Jefferson City, JP2 Young Adults Summer BBQ, 5-11 pm, Memorial Park Pavilion, for info email alloch92@gmail.com

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@heliascatholic.com

Health & Wellness

Jul. 6

Loose Creek, Blood drive, 2-6 pm, Loose Creek Community Center

Jul. 25

Columbia, Blood drive, 8 am-1 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center MPR

STAUDT

From page 9

Catholic America, that "the faith of Catholic fathers is powerfully determinative of the future faith of their children (125). The same can be said for general wellbeing and success. When fathers are absent or refuse to exercise their role, a moral and spiritual vacuum appears. A strong majority of felons, for instance, grew up without fathers in the home.

St. Joseph helps us to understand the strength of Christian fatherhood. First, like any good husband, Joseph listened — not just to his wife but also to God. Woken up frequently by angels, he demonstrated obedience and trust, quickly leaving everything behind to follow God's instructions and to protect his family. We also know Joseph for his work as a carpenter and builder, content to live simply and to work hard. Importantly, he also taught Jesus how to work, showing that fathers model and teach by drawing their children into

their life and work. And we can also learn from Joseph's humility, serving the Incarnate God and His Mother without even a single recorded word in the Gospels.

This humility points us to the essence of Christian fatherhood. Although living with two perfect people, Joseph was still called to lead. He quietly and humbly did what was needed for his family and taught his own maker how to share in his work. Fathers do not lead in order to be in charge or to get their own way. They lead because God asks them to care for and protect their families. Fathers and mothers share in the great and beautiful partnership of family life, although fathers cannot simply sit back and let mom take the lead in the spiritual life, as they are often tempted to do. Like Joseph, fathers should act firmly and lovingly to put God and the family before self, obeying God and leading the family in the right

direction. They are called to model faith, work, and sacrifice to their children.

On Father's Day we can affirm that masculinity and fatherhood are not just good — they are essential to understanding God and His plan for human flourishing. If our culture turns around, it will be because, in large part, Christian men stand up and fight. As Christians, we cannot give in to the culture's attempt to denigrate masculinity and fatherhood or to pit men and women against each other. We can use this celebration to affirm the essential role that our fathers play, leading their families like St. Joseph.

Dr. R. Jared Staudt is a Catholic writer, speaker, scholar and educator for the Archdiocese of Denver. His column is distributed by the Denver Catholic, the official publication of the Archdiocese of Denver.

SILECCHIA

From page 9

of your life since you were anointed priest, prophet and king on the day of your Baptism. Think, with humility, about whether or not you have ever helped lead another along the path of life toward their Baptism, or onward after it.

Reflect, for a while, on the name that you were given on the day of your Baptism. The patron saints to whom you were entrusted or the loved ones in whose honor you were named may be occasions for happy contemplation. I carry the names of two beloved maternal grandmothers: my own grandmother, Lucy (herself named for Italy's much-loved Santa Lucia), and the maternal grandmother of Christ, St. Ann (for whom my childhood parish was named.) In these ways, my name links me to the Communion of Saints.

Perhaps, also, bring to prayer all those who are preparing for Baptism; those who have strayed from their Baptismal promises; and all those searching to know God.

And, finally, find the words of the Baptismal vows — promises you made, or that were made for you on that special day. Take time, quietly and alone, to pray them once again with gratitude, with hope, and with joy. Ask for the strength to live them faithfully — and, with my best wishes, enjoy this important celebration in ordinary time.

Lucia A. Silecchia is a Professor of Law at the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America. "On Ordinary Times" is a biweekly column reflecting on the ways to find the sacred in the simple. Email her at silecchia@cua.edu.



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Kurt & Tonya Schaben, 17 years
Andy & Kelly Schwartze, 15 years

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul

Vernon & Barbara Zeller, 64 years
James & Clara Imhoff, 63 years
Tom & Joyce Adair, 60 years
Irl & Lynn Lutz, 55 years
Ken & Linda Schuster, 54 years
Wayne & Dianne Klein, 49 years
Darryl & Nancy Kempf, 48 years
Edward & Sandra Larm, 48 years
Michael Sr. & Donna Pomajzl, 48 years
Mark & Virginia Thomann, 48 years
Dave & Janet Joynt, 47 years
Tom & Marsha Fitzgerald, 46 years
Kent & Marcheta Friedrich, 46 years
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Tony & Michelle Imhoff, 32 years
Mark & Patricia Stretz, 32 years
Judy & Cynthia Florek, 28 years
Phil & Beth Rumbaoa, 27 years
Rick & Jennifer Marshall, 27 years

Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels

Edward & Pat Reder, 52 years
Michael & Robin Kleffner, 35 years
Derrick & Lindsay Otto, 11 years
William & Angela Rowden, 10 years

Camdenton, St. Anthony

Frank & Mary Lou Ilgenfritz, 63 years
Ron & Janice Ohmes, 62 years
Don & Annabelle Savio, 61 years
Tom & Sue Herbst, 56 years
John & Rosemarie Losito, 55 years
Jim & Ann Hummbert, 53 years
Bill & Kris Paul, 50 years
Dave & Alice Reinke, 49 years
Steve & Angelia Rowles, 49 years
Bob & Mary Beth Callanan, 43 years
Jim & Jan Martin, 42 years
Dennis & Kathy Jones, 40 years
Mark & Barb Anderson, 35 years
Rick & Maureen Weber, 31 years
Duane & Tara Randle, 15 years

Chamois, Most Pure Heart of Mary

Larry & Vivian Boss, 61 years

Fayette, St. Joseph

Charles & Lou Thompson, 50 years
John & Pat Merk, 47 years
Randy & Kathy Redenius, 47 years
David & Nancy Holtwick, 38 years
Doug & Leigh Ginter, 35 years
Brian & Jennifer Spielbauer, 20 years

Folk, St. Anthony of Padua

Joseph & Delores Scheppers, 58 years
Allan & Janice Heckman, 53 years
Lawrence & Shirley Veit, 35 years
Kenny & Lori Huhn, 33 years
Mark & Jennifer Baumhoer, 27 years
Keith & Sarah Huhn, 25 years
Russell & Denise Woehr, 21 years
George & Jennifer Storm, 13 years
Justin & Ashley Bax, 10 years

Frankenstein, Our Lady Help of Christians

Fred & Theresa Thoenen, 62 years

Freeburg, Holy Family

Jack & Jean Berhorst, 59 years
Fred & Phyllis Wieberg, 59 years
Norbert & Anne Falter, 56 years
Dan & Betty Berhorst, 50 years
David & Mickey Herzing, 48 years
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Bryan & Kristi Beck-Brune, 20 years
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Matthew & Amanda Reichel, 13 years
Lucas & Erin Lee, 10 years
Jason & Cristy Roettgen, 10 years

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph

John & Peggy Kolb, 50 years

Jefferson City, St. Peter

William & Betty Wehmeyer, 57 years

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate

Tom & Cheryl Hawkins, 52 years
Bob & Janie Theobald, 52 years
Mike & Mary Carol Early, 48 years
Dan & Sandy Lammers, 41 years
Kevin & Paula Brawner, 40 years
Charles & Cathy Kelly, 40 years
Brian & Darice Todd, 36 years
Pat & Tammy Kriegshauser, 32 years
Dan & Deborah Holte, 31 years
Joaquin Maldonado & Katherine Velez, 31 years
Bob & Michele Behnen, 19 years
Brian & Michaela Altenhofen, 10 years

Koeltztown, St. Boniface

Jim & Bev Loehner, 38 years
Larry & Carol Jones, 28 years
Steve & Stephanie Laux, 23 years

Ladonia, St. John

David & Julia Troesser, 40 years

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake

Mike & Pam Scherer, 52 years
J.R. & Dianne Richardson, 25 years

Loose Creek, Immaculate Conception

Tom & Ruth Kliethermes, 36 years

Marceline, St. Bonaventure

Laroy & Mary C. Quinn, 66 years
Mark & Katrina Burstert, 35 years

Marshall, St. Peter

Jim & Jan Backes, 50 years

Martinsburg, St. Joseph

Richard & Sandra Primus, 56 years
Norbert & Kathy Dubbert, 44 years
Alvin & Dorothy Schafer, 43 years
Bob & Carolyn Nation, 20 years

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows

Jim & Jan Backes, 50 years

Milan, St. Mary

Rex & Paula May, 53 years
Dennis & Sherri Ryan, 43 years
John & Janice Morehead, 38 years
Mario Chaparro & Liana Hernandez, 20 years
Justin & Stephanie Oaks, 18 years

Palmyra, St. Joseph

Tony & Mary Beth Lenzini, 53 years
Clinton & Linda Reeves, 51 years
Greg & Kathryn Cox, 46 years
Gilbert Jr. & Rosemarie Hudson, 45 years
Herb & Alice Schwartz, 45 years

Rich & Kim Donelson, 41 years
Steve & Kim Bunten, 36 years
Larry & Helen Huber, 35 years
Kerry & Monica Bross, 30 years
Doug & Amy Hoerr, 28 years
Darin & Joelle Goodwin, 23 years
Bernard & Shelly Hirner, 22 years
Joe & Deanna Jones, 15 years
Jared & Gina Pontius, 14 years

Perry, St. William

Glenn & Kathy Heppermann, 40 years

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart

Herman & Georgia Mebruer, 63 years
Wilfred & Evelyn Luebbert, 61 years
Paul & Mary Catherine Bexten, 60 years
Joe & Betty Frank, 59 years
Jerry & Marlene Haller, 56 years
Ralph & Mary Jane Bexten, 51 years
Dennis & Jonie Bruemmer, 40 years
Steve & Julie Siegler, 35 years
Ken & Christy Fick, 30 years

Rolla, St. Patrick

Deacon Michael & Mary Brooks, 50 years

Russellville, St. Michael

Lance & Lynn Stegeman, 43 years
Kent & Debbie Malzner, 30 years
Josh & Brandy Jurgle, 22 years
Paul & Elaine Buschjost, 18 years
Matt & Katie Strobel, 18 years
Dan & Nichole Voegeli, 16 years

St. Martins, St. Martin

Ed & Anna Mae Schaefer, 65 years
Larry & Shirley Schwarzer, 51 years
Dan & Wanda Schaefer, 40 years

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle

Gilbert & Hermina Strobe, 57 years
Joe & Deanne Twehus, 25 years

Taos, St. Francis Xavier

Louis & Barbara Eiken, 60 years
Harry & Cathy Bernskoetter, 55 years
David & Darla Eiken, 36 years

Tipton, St. Andrew

Mike & Tracy Gengler, 25 years

Vienna, Visitation

Roger & Kathleen Steuber, 50 years
Alan & Teresa Fick, 39 years
Gary & Nancy Stratman, 34 years
Don & Joyce Kilmer, 18 years
Ron & Elizabeth Rowden, 14 years
Gerald & Joan Newport, 10 years

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus

Stephen & Linda Fischer, 50 years
Charles & Carolyn Halderman, 50 years

Marriages

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Alyssa Biggs & James Nelson**

Marshall, St. Peter — **Dilma Almazá & Jaime Umaña**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Madison Libbert & Logan Pinnell**

Birthdays

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **George Henke**, his 94th; **Dorothy Young**, her 94th

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Helen Campbell**, her 90th on June 5

Deaths

Canton, St. Joseph — **Josef Fellingner**

Columbia, Our Lady of the Lourdes — **Ron Novak**

Frankenstein, Our Lady Help of Christians — **Generose C. Dudenhoefter**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Marcella Kempker**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Melva C. "Corky" Rackers**

Loose Creek, Immaculate Conception — **Henry W. Nilges**

Marshall, St. Peter — **Vincil Butner**

Monroe City, Holy Rosary — **Roger Crowe**

Palmyra, St. Joseph — **Alma C. Schwartz**

Rolla, St. Patrick — **Larry French, Vita French**

St. Clement, St. Clement — **Richard Tepen**

St. Patrick, Shrine of St. Patrick — **Kathleen Uhmeyer**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Wilma Grothoff**

Vienna, Visitation — **David M. Deeken**

Sacraments of Initiation

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Alexsander & Julia Muñoz Vasquez**

Marshall, St. Peter — **Jannifer Bethel, Austin Fizer, Heather McCracken, and Alex Reynolds**

St. Robert, St. Robert Bellarmine — **Andrea and Annabel Ayala, Ellyia and Taz Bagby**

Vandalia, Sacred Heart — **John Kliever**

Crossword puzzle answers

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

Spring cleaning



First-, second- and third-graders at St. George School in Hermann head back to school on April 23 after picking up trash and pinecones in St. George Cemetery in observance of Earth Day.

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

Hallway pass



Graduating eighth-graders of Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School in Columbia take one last walk as a class through the hallways of the school on May 21 before their graduation.

— Photo by Principal Elaine Hassemer

I'll be right over



After starting their day with their Baccalaureate Mass, graduating eighth-graders of St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City help each other through the adventure course at Binder Park on May 12.

— Photo from the St. Joseph Cathedral School Facebook page



Museum quality

Third-graders at Immaculate Conception School in Loose Creek staff their Live Museum of Famous Missourians May 7, with each doing research, dressing up and taking on the persona of one of many celebrities from the state's history.

— Photos from the Immaculate Conception School, Loose Creek Facebook page



Off the beaten path



Members of the Sacred Heart High School National Honor Society chapter in Sedalia pick up trash along their designated stretch of highway for a service project on May 1.

— Photo from the Sacred Heart School, Sedalia, MO Facebook page



God gives Abraham and Sarah a son

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were very old, and they did not have any children.

Sarah decided that her slave, Hagar the Egyptian, would become Abraham's wife. Abraham and Hagar had a son named Ishmael.

Several years later, God appeared to Abraham and told him that Sarah would have a son the following year.

God's promise came true. When Abraham was 100 years old, Sarah gave birth to a son named Isaac.

"God has given me cause to laugh, and all who hear of it will laugh with me," Sarah said. "Who would ever have told Abraham that Sarah would nurse children! Yet I



have borne him a son in his old age."

Isaac grew, and when he was weaned, Abraham held a great banquet.

One day, Sarah noticed Ish-

mael playing with Isaac. She became very upset.

"Drive out that slave and her son!" Sarah demanded of Abraham. "No son of that slave is going to share the in-

heritance with my son Isaac!" Abraham became greatly distressed, but God told him not to worry.

"Heed the demands of Sarah, no matter what she is asking of you," God said, "for it is through Isaac that descendants shall bear your name. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a great nation of him also, since he too is your offspring."

The next morning, Abraham gave Hagar some bread and water. He placed Ishmael on her back and sent her away.

Hagar wandered in the wilderness of Beer-sheba until she ran out of water.

Then she put Ishmael down under a shrub and sat down opposite him.

"Let me not watch to see the

child die," Hagar said to herself as Ishmael started to cry.

"What is the matter, Hagar?" God's messenger called from heaven. "Don't be afraid; God has heard the boy's cry in this plight of his. Arise, lift up the boy and hold him by the hand; for I will make of him a great nation."

God opened Hagar's eyes, and she saw a well of water. She filled her waterskin and gave Ishmael a drink.

And, as God promised, He was with Ishmael as he grew up.

Read more about it... Genesis 16, 18 and 21

1. Who were Abraham's two sons?

2. Which son's descendants would bear Abraham's name?

Bible Accent

In Genesis 22:1, we read that when Isaac was a young boy, God decided to test Abraham.

God told Abraham to take Isaac to the land of Moriah and offer him as a burnt offering.

The next morning, Abraham saddled his donkey, cut some wood and set out with Isaac and two servants.

On the third day of travel, Abraham saw the place where God wanted him to go. He told the servants to stay behind while he and Isaac went to worship God.

When Abraham and Isaac

came to the place of which God had spoken, Abraham built an altar, arranged wood on it and placed Isaac on the wood.

As Abraham reached for his knife, a messenger of God called from heaven.

"Do not lay your hand on the boy," the messenger said. "For now I know that you fear God, since you did not withhold from me your son, your only one."

Abraham then saw a ram caught by its horns in the thicket and offered it as a burnt offering.

"Because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your son ... I will bless you and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore," the messenger told Abraham.

Trivia

What were Abraham's and Sarah's names before God changed them? (Hint: Genesis 17:5, 15)

Answer: Abram and Sarai.

Saint Spotlight



St. Hedwig was born in 1373 to King Louis of Poland and Hungary and his wife, Elizabeth of Bosnia. Hedwig's father died when she was 10, after which she became queen of Poland. She married Grand Duke Jagiello of Lithuania, who converted to Christianity. This royal marriage was key to converting the people of Lithuania to Christianity. As queen, Hedwig dealt with many revolts and tried to find peaceful solutions to conflicts. She encouraged perpetual adoration. Hedwig died in 1399, and we remember her on July 17.

Puzzle

Using the hints provided, answer the questions about Abraham.



1. What did God say He would make of Abraham? (Genesis 12:2) _____
2. What did God establish with Abraham? (Genesis 17:2) _____
3. Where did Abraham bury Sarah? (Genesis 23:19) _____
4. How old was Abraham when he died? (Genesis 25:7) _____



Answers: 1. a great nation; 2. a covenant; 3. in the cave of the field of Machpelah; 4. 175.

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More than recipes, these cookbooks contribute to faith development

Dinner Party with the Saints, by Woodeene Koenig-Bricker; recipes by Celia Murphy. Paraclete Press (Brewster, Massachusetts, 2021). 175 pp., \$17.99.

Gather Together: Recipes and Reflections to Inspire Faith and Friendship Around the Table, by Catherine Fowler Sample. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2020). 180 pp., \$17.95.

Reviewed by Daniel S. Mulhall
Catholic News Service

These two books are new additions to the cookbook field, although neither one is primarily about cooking.

Both books are hybrids, being composed of stories and recipes.

Both have much to offer the reader.

Woodeene Koenig-Bricker is a journalist who has published several books to support the spiritual journey, including *365 Saints*.

In *Dinner Party with the Saints*, she continues to mine the rich Catholic heritage of the holy ones of God.

Koenig-Bricker here envisions what would happen in heaven if various saints came together to share a potluck meal for honored guests.

Each chapter contains a part of a continuing story of the saints speaking with each other as they arrive at the par-

ty, along with a segment providing historical information about each saint and ends with a recipe for cooking the item the saint brings to the potluck.

The recipes (by Celia Murphy) are clearly written and easy to follow; no special cooking skills or experience would be needed to make these foods.

The information about the saints provides a well-researched trove of information that explains who they were and why they are considered saints.

The original story of the dinner party, which provides the focal point for the book, is a clever way to tie the various strands of the book together.

While there is much to like about the story, certain aspects about how one would host a dinner party in heaven are a bit baffling. Would a person be hungry or thirsty in heaven? Does a garden in heaven need the sun? And what's this about Teresa of Avila's red high-heel dancing shoes?

That said, the story provides an interesting way to learn a great deal about several saints.

Catherine Fowler Sample is a writer for television shows and movie productions. She also is a national speaker on the topics of dating and relationships.

In *Gather Together*, she offers 12 personal essays reflect-

ing on personal events in her life (meeting her husband, having her first child, moving, etc.) and 12 recipes for complete meals for eight that one could make when gathering to celebrate such events in our own lives.

The essays are well written and very touching. The reader joins with the author in experiencing the events described.

We are not simply told a story but invited to experience what the author experienced.

The recipes for the full-course meals are well thought out and written so that even the novice cook will be able to cook the meal successfully.

While all of the meals are inviting, some are truly inventive — have you ever considered stuffing a pumpkin and baking it to make the main course of a dinner?

Some of the recipes are taken from other sources (including the stuffed pumpkin) and these sources are appropriately credited. The only downside to the recipes is that cutting them in half for a smaller dinner party would be difficult.

There is much to like in both of these books. You might consider enjoying them with a nice glass of wine — or beer, if you follow St. Brigid.

Mulhall lives in Louisville, Kentucky, where he likes to cook.

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Movie Ratings



General
Patronage

Spirit Untamed (PG)



Adults and
Adolescents

Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway (PG)



Adults

The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It (R)
Cruella (PG-13)
A Father's Legacy (not rated)
Finding You (PG)
Here Today (PG-13)
In the Heights (PG-13)
Monster (R)
Profile (R)
A Quiet Place Part II (PG-13)
Those Who Wish Me Dead (R)



Morally
Offensive

The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard (R)
Spiral: From the Book of Saw (R)
Wrath of Man (R)

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

Pope Benedict XVI Reader introduces readers to a brilliant theologian

It would be difficult to overestimate the impact that Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has had on the Catholic Church.

He served the people of God as a priest, an advisor at the Second Vatican Council, a bishop, a cardinal, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and the 265th pope.

But in addition to his influence as a churchman, Joseph Ratzinger also stands out as one of the most significant thinkers in recent history. He is the author of more than 60 books, numerous articles and countless homilies.

Catholics and non-Catholics alike have been inspired and challenged by his theological writings.

For many people, it can be difficult to know where to begin.

The Pope Benedict XVI Reader (wordonfire.org/benedict), a 384-page hardcover

book from the Word on Fire Institute, with a foreword by Bishop Robert Barron, offers a point of entry for anyone seeking a deeper engagement with his teachings.

This wide-ranging collection draws together some of the finest excerpts from Ratzinger's books, interviews, speeches, audiences, and homilies, with insights on a variety of topics, including the Trinity, the person of Jesus Christ, the Church, Mary and the saints, the Bible, the liturgy, prayer, the Second Vatican Council, and the challenge of living the faith in the modern world.

What emerges is a fascinating portrait of a man whose legacy of scholarly erudition, pastoral gentleness, and deep and abiding love for Christ and His Church continues to awe the world.

"This collection of Ratzinger-

See RATZINGER, page 23

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FR. GRONER

From page 4

dents Encounter Christ (REC) for prison residents, and Marriage Encounter for married couples.

In preaching and teaching, he uses everyday examples to make God's message understandable.

As a spiritual father, he tries to be a good parent to his parishioners and the people of the larger community.

"You have to teach them," he said, "and at the same time, you have to let them grow up!"

He has always believed in the presence of the Holy Spirit in the daily life of ordinary believers.

"What I find so exciting is that God enters our history, our time, and continues to complete us, return us to the way we were created," he said.

A shot in the arm

Midway through his first year of theology at Conception, Fr. Groner didn't feel like himself.

He had lost a lot of weight and was always thirsty.

His doctor attributed the symptoms to stress.

Then his bloodwork came back. Fr. Groner had Type 1 diabetes.

"I went straight to the hospital," he said. "They drew up some insulin and gave me the syringe."

That's when he started giving himself up to five shots a day.



Father John Groner greets a parishioner during St. Robert Bellarmine Parish's 75th anniversary celebration in 2017.

— File photo by Eddie O'Neill



Father John Groner's priestly ordination on Pentecost Sunday, 1971.

He has come close to dying several times and must always be aware of sudden drops in his blood sugar.

For years, he was inseparable from his service dog, Lilly. Trained with help from a family in St. Elizabeth, she was alert to subtle differences in his behavior and body chemistry and would warn him.

"She has given me a way

to remain an active parish priest, and that has meant everything to me," he told *The Catholic Missourian* in 2009.

Lilly died in 2018. Fr. Groner now has an electronic monitor that helps in a similar way.

He believes God has had a reason for helping him avoid an early death.

"Evidently, there's more work for me to do!" he said.

A new season

Now 76, Fr. Groner will retire on July 1 from being a pastor but not from being a priest.

He's already scheduling weekends to fill-in for pastors who have to be away from their parishes.

He enjoys spending time with people and hopes friends and former parishioners will keep him on their radar.

He's convinced that the Holy Spirit is working overtime to move the Church toward its eternal destiny.

"Our world is changing so fast, and the Church has to keep up!" he said. "But first, we have to look and see what that change really is."

He believes there's nothing better for someone who's called to be a priest than to be able to answer that call.

He asked for prayers for the Holy Spirit to continue guiding him — "and to help me live to be 100!"

RATZINGER

From page 22

er's writings, from across many years and on a range of themes, is meant to give an overview of his thought to those already acquainted with it and an introduction to those unfamiliar with it," Bishop Barron, auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles and founder of the Word on Fire Insti-

tute, writes in the foreword. "I hope that, as this great man comes to the end of his earthly pilgrimage, this book might function not only as a summation of his thought but, more importantly, as a humble tribute to him."

wordonfire.org

Daily Readings

Sunday, Jun 27

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wis. 1:13-15; 2:23-24
Ps. 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13
2 Cor. 8:7, 9, 13-15
Mk. 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

Monday, June 28

St. Irenaeus, bishop and martyr
Gn. 18:16-33
Ps. 103:1b-2, 3-4, 8-9, 10-11
Mt. 8:18-22

Tuesday, Jun 29

SS. PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES
Acts 12:1-11
Ps. 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
2 Tm. 4:6-8, 17-18
Mt. 16:13-19

Wednesday, Jun 30

The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church
Gn. 21:5, 8-20a
Ps. 34:7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Mt. 8:28-34

Thursday, Jul 1

St. Junipero Serra, priest (USA)
Gn. 22:1b-19
Ps. 115:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
Mt. 9:1-8

Friday, Jul 2

Gn. 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67
Ps. 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5
Mt. 9:9-13

Saturday, Jul 3

St. Thomas, Apostle
Eph. 2:19-22
Ps. 117:1bc, 2
Jn. 20:24-29

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for July:

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

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FR. DOYLE

From page 8

I find it helpful if the priest remains at the altar for the first verse or two of the recessional hymn and structures it so that the procession of liturgical ministers reaches the back of church as that hymn is ending.

Ideally, of course, worshippers would then spend a few minutes in private, silent prayer of thanksgiving before leaving church.

On this side of heaven, we are never closer to the Lord than when we've just received Him in the Eucharist.

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

Pope advances sainthood causes, including martyred Polish nuns

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Francis recognized the martyrdom of 10 nuns who were brutally murdered by Soviet soldiers in Poland at the end of World War II and declared venerable Robert Schuman, who is considered one of the founding fathers of European unity.

The pope signed the decrees during a meeting June 19 with Cardinal Marcello Semeraro,

prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

Recognizing the martyrdom of the 10 religious women, members of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth, clears the way for their beatification.

Nine of the 10 were born in Poland.

According to Vatican News, Sister Paschalina Jahn and the other sisters were killed between February and March

in 1945 at different locations where they were assisting the sick and the elderly.

Poland's Institute of National Remembrance — an organization dedicated to investigating war crimes committed between 1917 until 1990 — announced in March the discovery of the remains of three more nuns murdered by Red Army soldiers.

While the sisters' cause moves toward beatification,

the cause of Schuman is still in its early stages.

Excelsior!



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Country Store - Sandwich Stand

Pope Francis greets Mattia Villardita, 27, from northern Italy, dressed as Spider-Man, during his general audience in the San Damaso Courtyard at the Vatican June 23, 2021.

— CNS photo/Vatican Media

Priest's mother dies in Uganda

Nabweesi Donata, mother of Father Boniface K. Nza-bonimpa, a missionary priest from Uganda serving in the Jefferson City diocese, died on June 21 in Uganda. He cannot attend her funeral, due to travel restrictions. He will offer a Memorial Mass for her at 10 a.m. on Monday, July 5, in St. Boniface Church in Brunswick.

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