

## Pastoral Plan: “Our Call to Greater Communion”

As parishes continue to review their parish pastoral plans, parishioners are encouraged to re-read the diocesan pastoral plan adopted earlier this year.

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# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

October 15, 2021 • Vol. 65 No. 8

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## A Steward’s Journey: Parishes reviewing pastoral plans



This mural in the sanctuary of St. Brendan Church in Mexico represents the proclamation of Jesus’s death and resurrection, in Word and Sacrament.

— Photo by Jay Nies

## Discussions cease about possible sale of SSM St. Mary’s Hospital–Jefferson City

By Jay Nies

The big cross atop SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital–Jefferson City will stay lit for the foreseeable future, following an announcement from the Catholic healthcare provider that owns it.

St. Louis-based SSM Health announced Oct. 12 that it and Tennessee-based Quorum Health Corporation have mutually decided to end discussions about possibly transferring ownership of the hospital.

Instead, SSM Health plans to expand its services in the area and invest in the care it provides at SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital and Medical Group.

“To be clear, we will be undertaking steps to both stabilize and invigorate SSM Health services in this region,” SSM Health chief operating officer Steve Smoot wrote to hospital staff.

SSM Health is a Catholic, not-for-profit health system

founded by the religious congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.

Mr. Smoot stated further that SSM Health’s goal remains “to ensure a sustainable and thriving healthcare ministry for the people of Jefferson City.”

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight welcomed the announcement.

“SSM Health’s renewed commitment to our communities, in its decision to invest in St. Mary’s Hospital–Jefferson City, is very good news for all of us,” he said.

“This announcement means we will continue to have access to quality healthcare in a Catholic environment, which enhances the quality of life for all in our region,” he stated.

Bishop McKnight called on healthcare professionals and

See SSM ST. MARY’S, page 18

### Focusing on three things that will help the Church thrive

By Jay Nies

Parish life can be a taste of heaven, both for people seeking refuge and for those who have already found it.

Bringing that vision to life is hard work, but God multiplies the yield when priests and parishioners prayerfully cooperate and support His way.

That is the key to understanding the process by which parishes throughout the Jefferson City diocese are evaluating and renewing their three-year pastoral plans.

“How we do this can be a significant means of teaching about co-responsibility, how we are called to make decisions in the Church,” said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

“It means taking into account the clear authority of the pastor, the clergy, along with the responsibility of the laypeople, with all of their skills and expertise, to exercise a clear role in the making of important decisions,” he said.

Most parishes have created pastoral plans within the past year, focusing on the diocesan pastoral priorities of:

- fostering an authentic Catholic spirituality of stewardship;
- encouraging co-responsibility among laypeople and the ordained; and
- having every parish be universally recognized as a center of charity and sanctuary of mercy.

Parishioners took part in a process of identifying needs and the doable and sustainable steps they could accomplish in three years in order to advance the three pastoral priorities.

A thorough examination of all the

See PLANNING, page 19

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## Correction

Laurie Herzing, secretary of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Taos, was incorrectly listed under Rest in Peace in the Oct. 1 edition of *The Catholic Missourian*.

*We regret and apologize for the error.*

## Solemnity of All Saints

Since the Solemnity of All Saints falls on Monday (Nov. 1), it is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

While it retains the liturgical rank of "Solemnity," the obligation to attend Mass is not attached to this day.

Even though the obligation is abrogated, the faithful are still encouraged to attend Mass to celebrate this Mystery of our Faith.

## Pray for deceased priests

Oct. 17 — **Fr. Richard L. Kaiser**, St. Thomas Seminary, Hannibal (1970)

Oct. 19 — **Fr. Terence J. Mullins**, St. Joseph, Edina (1964)

Oct. 20 — **Fr. John P. Cowan**, Immaculate Conception, Owensville (1979)

Oct. 22 — **Fr. Adolph H. Puetter**, St. Francis Carraciola, Bourbon (1957); **Fr. Michael E. McHugh**, Holy Guardian Angels, Brinktown (1978)

Oct. 26 — **Fr. John J. Hans**, Immaculate Conception, Shackelford (1965); **Msgr. Joseph A. Vogelweid**, St. Peter, Jefferson City (1981); **Fr. Edwin N. Sturm**, St. Joseph, Martinsburg (1983)

Oct. 27 — **Fr. Patrick H. Hoffmann**, St. Joseph, Canton (1990)

Oct. 30 — **Msgr. Patrick J. Gilfillan**, Immaculate Conception, Macon (1964)

## FALL CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

**Monday, October 25**  
**Resurrection & St. Peter Cemeteries**  
**Jefferson City**

All floral arrangements and decorations must be removed before this date, and should be done by a person designated by the family. Unauthorized persons found removing flowers and decorations from graves will be prosecuted.

NOTE: Items in permanent vases that are part of the monument will not be removed. Cemetery reserves the right to remove any damaged items or faded flower arrangements.

[info@rccjc.org](mailto:info@rccjc.org) — [www.rccjc.org](http://www.rccjc.org)

## Marian Conference in Westphalia

**DATE: November 12-13**

St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia will host a two-day Marian Conference on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12 and 13.

This free event for the whole family will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday and from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday in St. Joseph Church, 125 E. Main St. in Westphalia.

All are invited and encouraged to take part in all or some of the activities, including speakers, music, the sacrament of reconciliation, Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, veneration of saintly relics, time for quiet prayer and other family-friendly activities.

The theme will be: "Receive Mary's grace and set the world ablaze for her Son."

Speakers and Topics will include:

- Father William Korte — "Mary's Consolation and Warnings for Souls";
- Father Lou Gardiola — "Why Did Fr. John Hardon set up the Marian Catechists?";
- Michael McGlenn — "Becoming Confident in God's Goodness";
- John Labriola, founder of the Catholic Family Foundation — "Onward Catholic

Soldier";

- Matt Whitney — "Unlike Most Men, What Does Jesus Say About Hell?" and
- Ed Van Buskirk — "Mary lived God's Recipe for a Wonderful Life."

Mass will be offered at 7 p.m. on Friday and at 6:30 a.m. (with Rosary and Adoration) on Saturday in the church.

Light snacks be served during registration at 5 p.m. on Friday.

A free-will offering will be taken up to help cover costs.

For information and to register online, visit:

[stjosephwestphalia.org](http://stjosephwestphalia.org)

## OLL parish mission in Columbia

**DATE: October 24 - 26**

**TIME: 6:30 pm**

National speaker and musician Lorraine Hesse ([lorrainehess.com](http://lorrainehess.com)) will lead a parish mission from Sunday through Tuesday, Oct. 24-26, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia.

Sessions will be held at 6:30 p.m. each evening in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 903 Bernadette Drive near Stadium Boulevard and I-70.

The theme will be "The Power of Mercy & Gratitude."

All are welcome and encouraged to attend any or all of the sessions.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during Monday night's session.

The sessions will be livestreamed for people who cannot attend in person.

Visit the parish's website at [ourladyoflourdes.diojeffcity.org](http://ourladyoflourdes.diojeffcity.org) for information.

## Life of the party

Members of the Ss. Peter & Paul Parish pro-life group gather next to their float in the Booneville High School Homecoming parade on Oct. 1.



### The Catholic Missourian

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

**Bishop W. Shawn McKnight**  
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# Missouri's Catholic bishops issue statement renouncing vengeance, call for alternatives to death penalty

## Following state's execution of man convicted of murder

By Jay Nies

Following a failed clemency request from Pope Francis, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and his fellow Roman Catholic bishops of Missouri issued a statement Oct. 6, expressing disappointment over the execution of Ernest Lee Johnson.

"Ernest Lee Johnson's crimes were heinous and deserved to be punished, yet as Missouri has shown itself to be a pro-life state, we should stop using the death penalty as a means of dealing with violent crimes," the bishops stated in their role as officers of the Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC).

The statement's signatories include: Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of St. Louis; Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. of Kansas City-St. Joseph; Bishop McKnight; and Bishop Edward M. Rice of Springfield-Cape Girardeau.

Mr. Johnson, 61, was executed by lethal injection at the state prison in Bonne Terre shortly after 6 p.m. on Oct. 5.

The bishops' statement followed an appeal from Pope Francis to Missouri Governor Mike Parson to commute Mr.

Johnson's sentence and "grant him some appropriate form of clemency."

The Pope's request was conveyed in a Sept. 27 letter from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

"This request is not based upon the facts and circumstances of (Mr. Johnson's) crimes," Archbishop Pierre wrote, adding: "Who could not argue that grave crimes such as his deserve great punishment?"

Nor was the pope's request based solely on Mr. Johnson's doubtful intellectual capacity.

"Rather, His Holiness wishes to place before you the simple fact of Mr. Johnson's humanity and the sacredness of all human life," Archbishop Pierre wrote.

He pointed to the courageous stands Missouri has taken in support of the dignity of life, "even at the earliest and most vulnerable state."

"For this we are very grate-

### CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF MISSOURI



*+ Mitchell T. Rozanski*

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski  
General Chairman  
Archbishop of St. Louis



*+ James V. Johnston, Jr.*

Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.  
Vice Chairman  
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph



*+ Shawn McKnight*

Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight  
Executive Chairman  
Bishop of Jefferson City



*+ Edward M. Rice*

Most Reverend Edward M. Rice  
Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Approved October 6, 2021

ful," Archbishop Pierre wrote. "Now, to reject the application of the death penalty in the case of Mr. Johnson would be an equally courageous recognition of the inalienable dignity of all human life."

After reviewing the case, Gov. Parson did not intervene.

"The state is prepared to deliver justice and carry out the lawful sentence Mr. Johnson received in accordance with the Missouri Supreme Court's order," the governor stated Oct. 5.

Missouri's bishops echoed many of the Pope's themes in their statement the day after Mr. Johnson was executed.

They offered their sincerest condolences and prayers for the families of the people Mr. Johnson killed in 1995.

"The lives of Mary Bratcher, Mabel Scruggs and Fred Jones deserve honor and remembrance," the bishops stated. "We pray for the comfort of their loved ones as they are forced to relive the trauma and pain of these crimes through this execution."

The bishops acknowledged that when horrendous crimes are committed, it is easy to call for vengeance and retribution.

"It may seem the only fair thing to do is take a life for a life," they stated, "but the death penalty does not make Missouri a safer or more civil state."

"The death penalty degrades us as a society and teaches our children that violence is the proper response to violence," they stated.

Mr. Johnson was convicted of first-degree murder in 1995 and sentenced to death for killing three employees of a

Columbia convenience store — 46-year-old Mary Bratcher, 57-year-old Mable Scruggs and 58-year-old Fred Jones — with a claw hammer.

The bishops, through the MCC, submitted a clemency request for Mr. Johnson last month.

His lawyer and advocates for clemency argued that his execution would be unconstitutional because a 2008 operation for a brain tumor left him with a diminished intellectual capacity. Surgeons had to remove roughly one-fifth of his brain tissue.

The Missouri bishops pointed out that when someone is executed, "the opportunity for them to undergo a conversion and repent prior to their final judgement may be lost."

"That important time for grace to work in a person's heart is taken away," they noted.

The bishops said they pray for the people of Missouri to look for ways to address such heinous crimes without resorting to the death penalty.

They noted that life in prison without parole is an appropriately severe punishment that isolates offending individuals from society.

The bishops asked Catholics and all people

of good will to join them in seeking alternatives to the death penalty for Missouri's most violent criminals.

"Even those who commit the most offensive acts do not lose their human dignity before God," the bishops stated.

Archbishop Pierre, in his letter, asserted that all of society benefits when all types of violence are restrained, "even the violence of a legal execution."

He pointed to an admonition from Pope Francis in his encyclical letter, "Fratelli Tutti" — "Do not let the atrocity of their sins feed a desire of vengeance, but desire instead to heal the wounds which those deeds have inflicted."

Missouri's bishops closed their statement with a prayerful appeal: "May God grant us His peace in these troubled times."

*Contributing to this report was Joe Kenny, a staff writer for the St. Louis Review, newspaper of the St. Louis archdiocese, and Catholic News Service reporter Carol Zimmermann.*



## Bishop McKnight's Calendar

**OCTOBER**

**Oct 15** Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Dinner, Presentation and Tour, 6 pm, Jefferson City

**Oct 16** Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Open House Blessing, Catholic Charities Center, 1 pm, Jefferson City; Opening of Diocesan Phase of Synod of Bishops and Mass of Thanksgiving for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 5:30 pm, Jefferson City

**Oct 17** Holy Hour for Diocesan Phase of Synod of Bishops, followed by Priests Social, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 5:30 pm, Jefferson City

**NOVEMBER**

**Oct 31** Knights of Columbus Council's 20th Anniversary Mass, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 10 am, Jefferson City

**Nov 4** Finance Council Meeting, 10 am, Chancery

**Nov 5** Priests Memorial Mass, St. Joseph Parish, 11 am, Westphalia

### Bishop McKnight's October prayer intention for our Local Church

For our local church of the Diocese of Jefferson City; that we may become a sign and instrument in the world of the presence of Christ through our communion in charity, faith, and the Eucharist.

### Intención del mes de octubre del Obispo McKnight por nuestra Iglesia Local

Por nuestra iglesia local de la Diócesis de Jefferson City. Para que seamos signo e instrumento en el mundo de la presencia de Cristo a través de nuestra comunión en la caridad, la fe y la Eucaristía.



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

# Pope calls Russian Catholics to work toward 'goal of communion'

**Fr. David Means worked toward, experienced great unity as a missionary in eastern Russia**

By Junno Arocho Esteves  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Catholics in Russia are called to be "an evangelical seed" that bears the fruit of communion and unity, especially with Orthodox Christians, Pope Francis said.

In a message published Oct. 10 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of four apostolic administrations in Russia after the fall of Soviet communism, the pope said it is important for Christians to walk together "to deepen our knowledge of one another and to advance, step by step, on the path of unity."

"By praying for all and serving those with whom we share the same humanity, which Jesus united to Himself in an inseparable way, we will rediscover ourselves brothers and sisters on a common pilgrimage toward the goal of communion, which God points out to us in every Eucharistic celebration," he said.

**"A great thrill"**

Father David Means, who

was serving as a Catholic missionary in eastern Russia from 1996 to 2009, believes God has been answering the pope's prayers for cooperation there for a long time.

Fr. Means is now pastor of Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish in Chamois and Assumption Parish in Morrison.

While in Russia, he got to witness and play a part in the rebirth of Christianity there after the collapse of the Soviet government.

He ministered to people who remembered their Catholic faith but hadn't been to church in over 60 years.

"It was a great thrill to get to know some of those survivors and to be part of the reemerging Church," he said.

Catholics are definitely a minority in a nation in which many people equate being Russian with being Russian Orthodox.

But cooperation flourished between Catholic and Orthodox priests during most of Fr. Means's time there.

"We were aware of the need for unity and prayed for the unity of the Eastern and Western arms of Christianity," he said.

**"Animated by hope"**

In 1991, after the Soviet breakup, the Vatican established two apostolic administrations in Russia, one in "European Russia" and one in Siberia.

In 1999, each of those jurisdictions was split into two apostolic administrations.

In the wake of the Catholic Church's post-communist res-



People light candles in front of a Catholic church during the Easter Vigil in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, Russia, April 4, 2015.

— CNS photo/Ilya Naymushin, Reuters

toration, St. John Paul II then transformed the four apostolic administrations into dioceses in 2002.

The move angered many in the Russian Orthodox Church at the time, who accused the Catholic Church of proselytism.

Pope Francis, in his message, said the anniversary was "not so much a remembrance of legal acts and formal realities" but rather a time for Catholics to "recall, with humility and gratitude," the Lord's goodness in their journey of faith.

Russian Catholics, he said, should aspire to become communities that are "animated by hope" as well as "open, in obedience to the supreme commandment of love, to meeting and sharing in solidarity with all, in a special way with the brothers and sisters of the Orthodox Church."

Pope Francis said he hopes the anniversary inspires Catholics in the country to bear witness to God's grace "with

simplicity and generosity," especially toward those "most in need and the neglected."

"Let us remain united in Christ," the pope said. "May the Holy Spirit, poured into our hearts, make us feel like children of the Father, brothers and sisters among ourselves and with everyone."

**Prayers in Russian**

Fr. Means noted that the Catholic and Orthodox churches both suffered profoundly under communist rule.

He recalled how in 1991, with the breakup of the Soviet Union, the bishop of Anchorage reached out across the Bering Sea to Magadan to see if there were Catholics there that still held on to their Catholic faith.

"That was the beginning of the Catholic Mission to Magadan," he recalled. "Many former Catholics returned to the formal practice of their faith."

At the same time, the Orthodox Church in Russia was also experiencing a resurrection.

Most Orthodox churches had also been confiscated and closed under Soviet rule.

"Now they, too, could reclaim their churches, begin their renovations and reopen seminaries to train a new generation of clergy," Fr. Means recalled.

When he and fellow Catholic priests first arrived in Magadan, the Orthodox bishop welcomed them warmly, happy to have priests in town.

"He was open and cordial and even included us in a group visiting the sites up north of former gulags where people from both churches had suffered and died," Fr. Means recalled. "Whenever the bishop of Anchorage visited, he would be welcomed by the Orthodox bishop there."

"It was an exciting time, and I rejoice that I had the opportunity to be part of that great rebirth of Orthodoxy in Russia," he said.

Fr. Means continues to pray for the Orthodox and Catholic Church in Russia, for cooperation and unity.

"When I pray my office alone, I've made a habit of praying the 'Our Father' in Russian as my prayer for the people of Magadan, the Church in Russia and the Unity of Christians," he said. "May Pope Francis's efforts bear fruit."

*Contributing to this article was Jay Nies in Jefferson City.*

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## Pope to name St. Irenaeus of Lyon a doctor of the Church

By Junno Arocho Esteves  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Francis said he intends to declare as a doctor of the Church St. Irenaeus of Lyon, the second-century theologian known for his defense of orthodoxy amid the rise of gnostic sects.

During a meeting Oct. 7 with members of the St. Irenaeus Joint Orthodox-Catholic Working Group, the pope praised the group's efforts in creating a space for dialogue between Catholics and Orthodox Christians, much like their namesake.

"Your patron, St. Irenaeus of Lyon — whom

I will soon declare a doctor of the Church with the title, 'doctor unitatis' ('doctor of unity') — came from the East, exercised his episcopal ministry in the West, and was a great spiritual and theological bridge between Eastern and Western Christians," he said.

According to its website, the purpose of the St. Irenaeus Joint Orthodox-Catholic Working Group is "to investigate the profound differences in mentality, ways of thinking and of doing theology which are related to current problems in Orthodox-Catholic dialogue, to understand

See ST. IRENAEUS, page 17

# Pastor of vandalized Denver cathedral requests prayers, imitation of Julia Greeley's spirit of charity

By Jay Nies

Denver's Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception is lofty and impressive — a house of worship, tabernacle of the Most Blessed Sacrament, symbol of the archbishop's teaching ministry and mother church for more than half a million Catholics.

It is also where Servant of God Julia Greeley's earthly remains are entombed, awaiting Resurrection on the last day.

The soul of the 19th-century Missouri native — a former slave, adult convert to Catholicism and current candidate for sainthood — rested well with God while vandals defaced the basilica's doors, pilasters and grounds with satanic rants and epithets sometime before Sunday Mass on Oct. 10.

Miss Greeley knew hate, brutality and privation in this life, answering it with compassion, mercy and a better example.

Born and enslaved in what is now part of the Jefferson City diocese, she moved to Colorado, allowing God to cultivate in her the gifts of prophetic hope, radical charity and unceasing devotion to Jesus's Most Sacred Heart.

Even before her death 104 years ago, many knew her as Denver's Angel of Charity.

"Julia Greeley had a special way of saying she was praying for people," Father Samuel Morehead, pastor and rector of the Cathedral Basilica, stated on Oct. 11. "She told them that she would 'put



The Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Denver is seen in this 2020 file photo. — CNS photo/Kevin Mohatt, Reuters

that in the canoe."

The "canoe" was her collection of prayer intentions.

"I would ask the people of Missouri," Fr. Morehead told *The Catholic Missourian*, "to put the needs of Denver's Ca-

thedral Basilica, all people who face abuse for their faith, and also the perpetrator of this act of gross vandalism into your own canoe of prayer."

He considered what Miss Greeley might tell the people

who vandalized the Cathedral.

"I think Julia would say that we have got to solve our problems with a little bit of human decency and respect," said Fr. Morehead. "Acts of anger and hatred based on the creed of others don't get anything done. Let's have a grown-up conversation that chooses to respect each other, even when there are differences and frustrations."

He believes Miss Greeley would also be quick to remind people that God is in charge.

"He's big, and we're little," Fr. Morehead imagined her saying. "We have to stay close to Him. He is faithful. Jesus holds all of us and all things that happen to us in the mystery of His Sacred Heart."

## Free e-book available for family Rosary

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

The Vatican Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life and the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network have a gift for families for the month of October, which is traditionally dedicated to the Rosary.

*Rosary for the Family*, a free

e-book that can be used with the free Click to Prayer eRosary, features watercolor illustrations of the mysteries of the Rosary, quotes from Pope Francis' 2016 document, *Amoris Laetitia* ("The Joy of Love"), and questions meant to prompt sharing about faith in the family.

"I invite you all to use this Rosary so that we do not miss the opportunity to reinforce our love for Jesus and Mary, our heavenly mother," wrote Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the dicastery. "The meditations are brief, taken from *Amoris Laetitia* and are accompanied by short questions and images that can help you reflect in faith, even with children."

The 21-page e-book is available on Amazon Kindle and Google Play Books as well as online from [laityfamilylife.va](http://laityfamilylife.va) in English, Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese.

Many of the questions take an event in the life of the Holy Family and encourage parents to share something of their experience.

For example, after praying the third joyful mystery — the birth of Jesus — parents are asked, "How did you feel when you discovered that you were to become parents? What was it like to welcome children to the world?"

The PDF of the e-book, in a variety of languages, can be found at:

[laityfamilylife.va](http://laityfamilylife.va)

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**DIOCESE OF Jefferson City**

# Women take turns praying for their pastors through Seven Sisters Apostolate

**22 groups in this diocese, and growing**

By Jay Nies

“They are a powerful force before God, praying on my behalf.”

A priest of the Jefferson City diocese spoke of the women of the Seven Sisters Apostolate, who pray for him and his priestly ministry, even when he can't.

“So often, action is required in the life of a priest where time allows only a hasty prayer,” he stated. “Knowing that my Seven Sisters are praying with and for me gives me confidence as difficult situations arise.”

Twenty-two Seven Sisters Apostolate groups are active in the Jefferson City diocese, and the movement is growing.

Women of all ages take part in the prayer apostolate, spending a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament each week, interceding exclusively for the priest of her parish.

Each sister has a designated day, so the whole week is covered and the pastor is supported in prayer.

The women pray anonymously, without most fellow parishioners and sometimes not even the priest knowing who all of them are.

But the priest does know that someone is praying for him, every day.

“The spiritual support provided by the Seven Sisters is certainly a mental and emotional encouragement,” one priest of this diocese stated. “But I'm also relying on their prayers to help me grow in virtue and to be a good pastor, not just for some of my people, but for all of them.”

## God knows

The Seven Sisters Apostolate came to this diocese after a parishioner moved to Minnesota, where the movement was founded, and became involved in it there.

She then told a friend in this diocese about it.

The friend looked at the Seven Sisters website and posted a message on Facebook, asking if six other women would join her

double coverage.”

Encouraged by the volunteers' enthusiasm and their pastor's gratitude, the members of that group began contacting women in other parishes.

The number of Seven Sisters groups steadily began to grow.

So did the number of participants.

“It's not like you get just seven and then you stop,” one participant noted. “We have 12 in my parish. That's not just handy for back-ups, but if someone doesn't feel like they had a very good prayer time today, someone else's could have been great.”

Each group has its own coordinator, known as an anchoress.



Nina DeLeon kneels in prayer during eucharistic adoration at Ss. Philip and James Church in St. James, New York, in this file photo.

— CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

pray for an entire hour at a time or in two or more parts throughout the day.

Likewise, women whose children are young or in need of constant attention can pray while carrying out day-to-day tasks at home.

“The vision at the top is really that kind of intense prayer you can only do when you're alone and uninterrupted in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament,” one Seven Sisters participant stated.

“But we don't want to leave women out who have to do it differently or break it up into parts,” she said. “There's lots of flexibility for those whose lives can't accommodate that.”

## Mutual prayers

One pastor in this diocese noted that when priests are ordained, they promise to remain committed to prayer, imploring God's mercy upon the people and praying for them without ceasing.

“I am very grateful to the Seven Sisters Prayer Apostolate, that as the People of God are daily remembered in my personal prayers and the Liturgy of Holy Mother Church, so, too, are prayers being intentionally offered on my behalf as an unworthy servant in the service of the Lord and His people,” he said.


*Anyone interested in starting a Seven Sisters group at her parish or volunteering for an existing group can write to the diocesan anchoress at:*

**SevenSistersJeffCity@gmail.com.**

*Priests may also write to that address for information about starting a group in their parish.*

*A wealth of information and resources for prayer can be found at the diocesan and international Seven Sisters Apostolate websites:*

**sevensistersapostolate.org miparish.org/seven-sisters**



The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop. For more information, visit [SevenSistersApostolate.org](http://SevenSistersApostolate.org) or email [SevenSistersJeffCity@gmail.com](mailto:SevenSistersJeffCity@gmail.com)

in starting it in their parish.

“Two hours later, we were up and running,” she recalled. “And most days, we now have

“Anonymity is an important part of the apostolate,” the anchoress for one parish noted. “This helps us avoid any hint of favoritism.”

## Meeting only with Jesus

One Seven Sisters participant said she feels particularly suited to this apostolate because she is very introverted.

“I don't want to do a bunch of meetings and emails and social media,” she said. “I just want to tuck myself away and pray for an hour.”

The group in her parish does have a closed Facebook group for sharing prayer intentions and updates when they arise, and asking for substitutes when needed.

Nonetheless, the movement has drawn people of all temperaments, from outgoing to reserved.

## Men of the hour

One anchoress noted that men can help the apostolate in

several ways:

- A man may fill in for woman who cannot carry out her full prayer commitment on any given day.

- Husbands, brothers, fathers or in-laws can help with childcare for mothers of young children during their prayer time. “You can be anybody who says, ‘Can I take your toddler so you can go do it?’” one participant suggested.

There's also kind of a “sidecar ministry” called Fasting Brothers.

“One day a week, a particular man in a parish has chosen to give up something as a concrete prayer action for his pastor,” an anchoress noted.

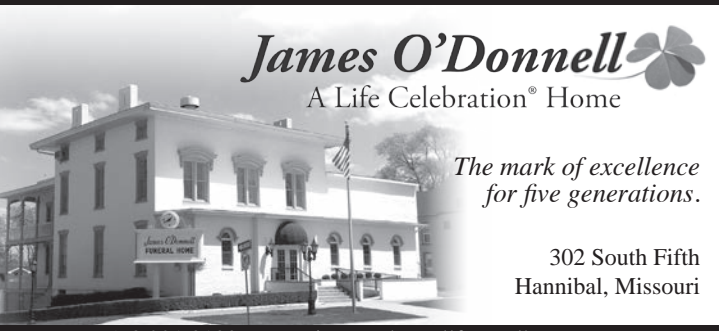
## A good foundation

One Seven Sisters participant noted that the diocesan pastoral plan calls for increased focus on co-responsibility among laypeople and their priests and deacons in the Church.

“There are many ways to volunteer in the Church, and they're all important,” she said. “But the foundation of all of that has to be spiritual, has to be prayer, or it will be like building a house on sand.”

She noted that Seven Sisters is a great opportunity for older parishioners who have more time but not as much physical energy as they used to have.

Volunteers of all ages can



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# Pope: By listening to Holy Spirit, synod can be process of healing

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

A synod calls on everyone to become experts in “the art of encounter” in a way that is uplifting and transformative, Pope Francis said, formally opening the process leading up to the assembly of the Synod of Bishops in 2023.

“Celebrating a synod means walking on the same road, together” just like Jesus did — encountering, listening and discerning with all who one meets, the pope said in his homily at the Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica Oct. 10.

“Are we prepared for the adventure of this journey?

Or are we fearful of the unknown, preferring to take refuge in the usual excuses: ‘It’s useless’ or ‘We’ve always done it this way?’” he asked.

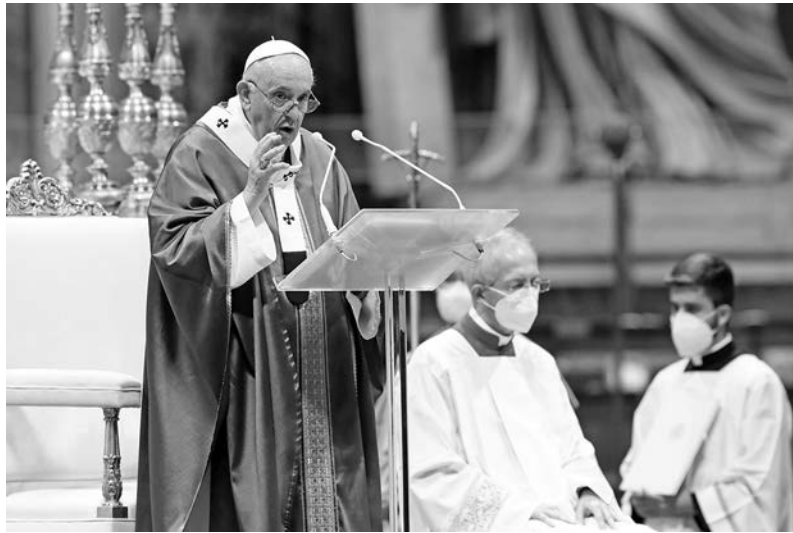
Some 3,000 people attended the Mass, including the 270 people — cardinals, bishops, priests, religious and laypeople — invited to the day of reflection in the Vatican Synod Hall Oct. 9.

The weekend of events began the “synodal journey,” which will explore the theme, “For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission.” Bishops around the world were to open the process in their dioceses Oct. 17. The diocesan phase, which runs until April, will focus on listening to and consulting the people of God.

In his homily, the pope said they should begin the synodal process “by asking ourselves — all of us, pope, bishops, priests, religious and laity — whether we, the Christian community, embody this ‘style’ of God, who travels the paths of history and shares in the life of humanity.”

The day’s Gospel reading (Mark 10:17-30) of Jesus setting out on a journey and encountering a rich man offers just one example of how Jesus “walks alongside people and listens to the questions and concerns lurking in their hearts,” he said. “He shows us that God is not found in neat and orderly places, distant from reality, but walks ever at our side.”

Celebrating a synod, he said, means walking on the



**Pope Francis gives the homily as he celebrates a Mass to open the process that will lead up to the assembly of the world Synod of Bishops in 2023, in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Oct. 10, 2021.**

— CNS photo/Remo Casilli, Reuters

same road as others and living out the “three verbs” that characterize a synod: to encounter, listen and discern.

“We too are called to become experts in the art of encounter. Not so much by organizing events or theorizing about problems as in taking time to encounter the Lord and one another,” to devote time to prayer and adoration, and to listen to what the Holy Spirit wants to say to the Church, the pope said.

Jesus shows that an encounter has the power to change someone’s life — “the Gospel is full of such encounters with Christ, encounters that uplift and bring healing,” the pope said. In fact, Jesus was never in a hurry, and He would never have looked at a watch to signal it was time to wrap things up. “He was always at the service of people He met in order to listen to them.”

Each encounter requires “openness, courage and a willingness to let ourselves be challenged by the presence and the stories of others,” the pope said. It means not hiding behind a facade or stiff formalities indicative of a spirit of clericalism or of courtiers, but it means being a father.

To that end, the pope said he would be meeting a group of people who live on the streets later that day. He said they had already started meeting because another group of people had gone to listen to them and from there, “they have been able to begin the journey.”

Sincere listening involves

the heart, not just the ears, Pope Francis said. The aim is not to be able to answer people’s questions, especially with pre-packaged or “artificial and shallow responses,” but to provide an opportunity to tell one’s story and speak freely.

“Whenever we listen with the heart, people feel that they are being heard, not judged; they feel free to recount their own experiences and their spiritual journey,” he said.

Listening to one another “is a slow and perhaps tiring exercise” but it must be done, including listening to “the questions, concerns and hopes of every church, people and nation,” and to the “challenges and changes” that world presents, he added.

Encountering and listening “are not ends in themselves” where everything stays the same, but must lead to discernment, he said.

“Whenever we enter into dialogue, we allow ourselves to be challenged, to advance on a journey. And in the end, we are no longer the same; we are changed,” he said.

The synod is “a journey

of spiritual discernment that takes place in adoration, in prayer and in dialogue with the word of God,” the pope said.

Discernment is what lights the way and guides the synod, “preventing it from becoming a Church convention, a study group or a political congress, but rather a grace-filled event, a process of healing guided by the Holy Spirit,” Pope Francis said.

Like He asked the rich man in the Gospel reading, Jesus is asking everyone “to empty ourselves, to free ourselves from all that is worldly, including our inward-looking and outworn pastoral models, and to ask ourselves what it is that God wants to say to us in this time and the direction in which He wants to lead us,” he said.

Pope Francis wished everyone “a good journey together! May we be pilgrims in love with the Gospel and open to the surprises of the Spirit.”

## Pope says women religious to have key role in synod process

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Women religious have an essential role in the process of creating a more synodal Church and in preparations for the Synod of Bishops, not just through their prayers and participation, but also by listening to people not usually part of such Church activities, Pope Francis said.

“You consecrated women are an irreplaceable presence in the great community on the move, which is the Church,” the pope said Oct. 11 during an audience with members of the general chapter of the Sisters of Charity of St. Jeanne-Antide Thouret.

“Consecrated women are an extension of the female presence which walked with Jesus and the Twelve, sharing the mission and making your own unique contribution,” the pope said, noting that the Gospel of St. Luke even names some of the women: Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Susanna.

As the Catholic Church takes up its commitment “to grow in synodality,” he said, the Sisters of Charity and other consecrated women have an es-

sential role.

While the Sisters of Charity have no “ready-made answers” to what they will bring to the process, which the pope launched Oct. 10, he said the theme of their general chapter provides a clue.

The theme of the gathering was “Starting afresh from Bethany, with Martha’s concern and Mary’s listening.”

Martha and Mary, he said, were “two disciples who had a very important place in the life of Jesus and the Twelve, as we can see in the Gospels. This confirms that, first of all, as women and as baptized women, that is, as disciples of Jesus, you are a living presence in the Church, participating in com-

munion and mission.”

But an added contribution comes from the “concern” and “listening” the sisters are focusing on, he said. “In particular, concern for the poor and listening to the poor. Here you are teachers. You are teachers not with words, but with deeds, with the history of so many of your sisters who have given their lives for this, in concern for and listening to the elderly, the sick, the marginalized; close to the little ones, to the least ones with the tenderness and compassion of God.”

Concern and listening, he said, build up the Church by helping it “walk in the way of Christ, which is the way of charity.”

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## QUESTION CORNER

## Can ashes be commingled? / Can prayer change God's mind?

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service



**Q. Among my dying husband's wishes was the desire to save land for the living and therefore to be cremated and interred at Willamette National Military Cemetery near Portland, Oregon. I, too, shall be cremated and interred at Willamette National, sharing my husband's niche. I would like my ashes to be mingled with his. Does that violate Catholic teaching? (Estacada, Oregon)**

A. Catholic practice does not include commingling the ashes of spouses. This is based on the Church's belief that the body of a person is God's temple and therefore deserves individual honor and preservation.

However, here might be a solution: Catholic cemeteries customarily offer companion urns, with two separate chambers, so that the ashes of a married couple can be buried side-by-side in the same vessel.

And it strikes me that these receptacles would eventually disintegrate, leaving what you desire — that, over time, the ashes would be mixed.

**Q. Can you please tell me the purpose of prayer? I understand prayers of thanksgiving and prayers of adoration, but I don't understand prayers of petition. I was always taught that God doesn't change. So what good does it do to pray that a family member returns to the Church or that a friend survives cancer, if God already knows what's going to happen and isn't going to change His mind? (Virginia)**

A. Throughout the Scriptures, it is clear that we are invited to pray if we need something. One striking example comes in the Letter of James (5:14-15), where we are told:

"Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the Church, and they should pray over him and anoint (him) with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up."

Another such reference is found in Mark's Gospel (9:29). Jesus had expelled an unclean spirit from a boy, and when His disciples asked Him why they themselves had not been able to do this, He answered, "This kind can only come out through prayer."

And in Matthew's Gospel (21:22), Jesus assures us that "whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive." But your question still remains, "If God knows ahead of time what He's going to do, what's the point in our praying for it?"

The answer is that the effect of petitionary prayer is not opposed to God's unchangeable providence but included within it. That is to say, our prayers do not alter the divine plan but are factored into that plan itself.

God, in His wisdom, has made some things we desire contingent on our praying for them. He does this so that we may regularly turn our hearts to Him and recognize our dependence. I should admit that the relationship between God's plan and our prayers is veiled in some mystery, and we will not understand fully until we have met the Lord.

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

# COME HOLY SPIRIT!

## Papal Audience October 13, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians, we have seen that our new life of freedom in Christ comes as an unmerited gift of God's grace through Baptism, which makes us sharers in the Lord's saving passion, death and resurrection. We have been set free by love, which becomes the new and supreme law of the Christian life. This Gospel message of our liberation is universal, addressed to all men and women, and to every people and culture. Indeed, the Gospel is meant to be "inculturated" in every time and place. The Church's catholicity, her universality, is not found in uniformity of style or custom, or the imposition of any one cultural model, but in her respect for all that is good and true in each people and culture. As the Church seeks to inculturate the Gospel in contemporary culture, including today's rapidly developing technological and media culture, may we respond creatively in proclaiming to all peoples the Good News of the freedom won for us by Christ the universal Savior.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's audience, especially the groups from the United States of America. In this month of October, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary, may we grow in the Christian freedom that we received at Baptism. Upon all of you, and your families, I invoke the joy and peace of the Lord. May God bless you!



## Mass in Brush Creek Church Oct. 24

**DATE:** October 24  
**TIME:** 1 pm

The annual Fall Mass in historical St. Peter Church in Brush Creek will be celebrated at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 24.

The church stands where Venerable Father Augustus

Tolton, the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States, was baptized in 1854.

The church is located at 14690 Gentry Road, off of Sheil Lane, south of Route J in rural Ralls County.



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## Preserving the qualities of love

By Father Eugene Hemrick  
Catholic News Service



"*Ti amo*" in Italian means "I love you." As simple as the one syllable word "love" is, its DNA is anything but simple.

At the Supreme Court, there is a depiction of Moses, the great lawgiver Solon and Confucius. Kneeling at their feet is a woman representing mercy. The Latin word "misericordia" means mercy. It is one of

six qualities of love renowned theologian St. Thomas Aquinas lists. The six are joy, peace, mercy, beneficence, almsgiving and fraternal correction.

At an entrance to the U.S. Capitol stands a statue representing peace, yet another quality of love.

"The Apotheosis of Democracy" depicts Peace with Genius at her feet and portrayals of agrarianism and industrialism. On one side of them is the Pacific Ocean and on the other side the Atlantic Ocean. One interpretation is to see it as the joy of our country's uplifting progress, joy that is best cherished when envisioned as God's blessings.

Benevolence, another quality of love, means wishing good for another. Like the other virtues pertaining to love, it inspires an open, loving heart.

When addressing the virtue of peace, Thomas Merton wrote, "Peace demands the most heroic labor and the most difficult sacrifice. It demands greater heroism than war. It demands greater fidelity to truth and a much more perfect purity of conscience."

Peace, like the essential qualities of love, is precious. When it is present, our spirits soar and we experience a heavenly calm. But "it requires greater heroism than war." Why is this so?

It is because it takes everything in our power to preserve peace and the other qualities of love. A day does not pass in which we do not hear of violence on our streets, in our homes and throughout the world.

Add to this a constant stream of dishonesty, backbiting and twisted truths, and we have the direct antithesis of love's qualities and the caring heart they inspire.

Merton's insight on the earnest need for heroic labor in preserving love's essential qualities is visionary in alerting us to the strength needed to support love.

## A portrait in ordinary time

By Lucia A. Silecchia



Years ago, I was in an art gallery in Amsterdam.

In contrast to the sacred themes abundant in the southern European art with which I am more familiar, the masterpieces of Dutch art have more secular themes. Centuries ago, authorities in the Netherlands disfavored public displays of religious art. Hence, Dutch collections of fine art feature stunningly beautiful still life paintings, landscapes, and portraits instead.

The portraits captured my imagination — as portraits often do. Many were of individuals dressed in their finest and depicted with their homes and their possessions in ways that allowed me to speculate as to who they were and how their long-ago lives were led.

Many portraits were not merely of individuals alone. They were family portraits. These paintings of multi-generational families celebrated the connections that joined individuals together. The portraits honored each of the individuals in the family as children posed with beloved pets and toys while adults were dressed and posed in ways that offered insight into their station and status. Yet, these group portraits also celebrated the family ties that bonded them together.

However, it intrigued me to see that along with the men, women and children who made up the family portraits, there were additional figures in many paintings that I did not recognize. They were small, often dressed in white, and sometimes wearing the clothes of an adult while having the faces of children. They were not exactly angels, yet they looked different from the others in the portrait.

There was a docent in the gallery whose face conveyed the boredom of a long day when no one was asking her questions, and none of us docile art lov-

ers were touching the paintings or taking the flash photos that would have demanded her attention and rebuke. So, I inquired about these diminutive figures in the family portraits.

She told me that they were placed in the portraits to represent children in the family who died in the womb and were delivered, stillborn, into the world or those children who died in infancy. Both of these were tragically common occurrences. The docent touchingly and memorably explained that only by including depictions of those whose journeys through this world were so fleeting could the family portrait, in her words, be "complete." Those not blessed with the years to walk through life with their families were remembered by this artistic convention because, truly, the family portrait was not "complete" without them.

As October's "Respect Life" month arrives again, perhaps it is an opportunity to examine the portrait of our own human family. It is a vibrant portrait, full of people from all walks of life, of all ages, and of all races and nationalities, with the strengths, limitations, gifts and flaws that make the portrait so rich with individuals unique and irreplaceable.

Yet... so many are missing from our family portrait.

In the United States alone, since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, well over sixty million irreplaceable people have been taken from our portrait before they were delivered into the world. Similar tragedy unfolds around the globe every single hour of every single day. Those missing from our family portrait are not merely the infants whose lives ended so early — but the children, young adults, middle aged people, and elderly men and women they would have grown up to be. Missing from the portrait are the families that they would have founded, the children and grandchildren that they would have had, the irreplaceable contributions they would have made, and the joys — and, yes, the sorrow, too — that they would

have brought to the portrait of our human family had their lives not been ended so soon.

Also missing from the family portrait are, all too often, the very eldest among us who are cast from the portrait when they are at their most vulnerable. In a literal sense, there are family pictures taken

every day that do not have elder generations in them because those gripped by weakness, illness, and dementia are no longer invited to join the young, healthy and strong around the family table. At the extreme, a steady drumbeat in favor

See SILECCHIA, page 22

### REFLECTION

## Past the eye of the needle

By Mark Saucier

"*Christ and the Rich Young Ruler*" is a painting by the German Heinrich Hofmann.

Two things about that work strike me. The first is how Hofmann tells the story in the eyes.

Jesus looks intently at the young ruler, His eyes filled with love and sadness.

The young man is unable to meet the Master's gaze or to look upon the beggars with their desperate eyes.

The second is that those beggars are around the corner behind Jesus. The young man's head is facing another direction, unwilling to turn that corner in his life.

We know the story. The young man asks Jesus what he must do to enter the kingdom of God.

Jesus reminds him of the commandments, the "shall nots," and honoring mother and father.

The young man says he has kept them, but Jesus insists he is lacking "one thing." He tells the seeker to sell all that he has and give the money to the poor.

That's a deal-breaker for someone fond of the life all those riches afford.

Watching the man walk away, Jesus lamented, "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

That never bothered me until I saw children passing around a baby as a begging prop, visited a home of reeds and salvaged tin, or shared a meal of rice and weak broth.

I never saw myself as rich, but I was a Buffett or Bezos compared to them.

I thought more about the rich young man. What if his story had been different? What if he changed his mind, decided to liquidate, and gave it all to the poor?

I can imagine him coming back to Jesus: "Commandments? Check! Money to the poor? Check! So where's my ticket to the kingdom?"

Jesus says to him, "There is still one thing that you lack. Go and live this new life for a while."

A few months later, the rich young man reported to Jesus.

"I miss many things, but I've come to love the poor as peers and friends. We struggle together, celebrate together, and care for each other. None of us could make it alone."

"And the kingdom of God?" Jesus asked.

"I'm already there," the young man replied.

So maybe it never was about the commandments, or even the money.

To love is to believe, and to believe is to practice.

# Priest who served in Crawford County writes book about zealous German missionary to the U.S.

By Jay Nies

"I will always receive you with gentleness."

Blessed Father Francis Xavier Seelos had a way with people that made them want to be led to repentance, to reconciliation, to Christ.

"He was always available, always receptive to the people he served," said Redemptorist Father Richard Boever, author of *Zealous Missionary: From the Perspective of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos*. "That's what made him such a great confessor."

Fr. Boever's book, recently published by Liguori Publications, is a first-person narrative of a beloved 19th-century German missionary to the United States.

The author, formerly administrator of Holy Cross Parish in Cuba, St. Francis Caracciolo Parish in Bourbon and St. Michael Parish in Steelville, is currently the executive director of the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos in New Orleans ([seelos.org](http://seelos.org)).

"This is where the devotion to him really sprang up and has continued for all these years," Fr. Boever noted.

Born in 1818, Blessed Fr. Seelos left a comfortable life in the Bavarian Alps of Germany at age 24 in order to help minister to the swelling population of German Catholics in the United States.

He joined the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, known as the Redemptorists, a worldwide congregation of priests and brothers founded in Italy to preach the Good News to people who are poor, marginalized and overlooked.

Fr. Seelos was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in 1844. He ministered in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Louisiana.

He was stationed at St. Philomena Parish in Pittsburgh at the same time as Father (now St.) John Neumann and another revered priest, all Redemptorists.

Pittsburgh's bishop at that time remarked, "I have three saints at St. Philomena."

Blessed Seelos's life has inspired several ambitious tomes of hundreds of pages and as

many footnotes.

Fr. Boever's 108-page approach is different.

"There are good biographies available, but I decided to write something more accessible," he said. "I wanted to make a book that was more reasonable in size for people who want to know something about him but don't have time to digest 400 pages."

Using the style and language of letters written by the zealous missionary, Fr. Boever writes as if he were Blessed Seelos telling his own story.

"There's some poetic license in it, but there's nothing historically untrue in it," said Fr. Boever. "It's all based in history."

Readers will come face-to-face with a mission-minded priest whose desire to be a pastor was always balanced with the needs of his order.

Blessed Seelos was assigned to parishes but usually also taught and helped form future Redemptorists.

He narrowly escaped being appointed bishop of Pittsburgh — a role he knew would be difficult for him.

Upon settling in as a pastor in New Orleans, he chose not to flee during a yellow fever outbreak. He stayed behind to comfort and minister to the afflicted.

He caught the disease and died in 1867.

People began asking him to lift up their needs before the throne of God in heaven. Many attested to favors granted by God through Fr. Seelos's intercession.

St. John Paul II beatified him in 2000, bestowing on him the title "Blessed."

## Was here for a time

Fr. Boever has been a priest for 47 years and a Redemptorist for over 50.

He has served as a parish priest and pastor in Missouri and Illinois, taught theology at Newman University in Wichita, Kansas, and Saint Louis University in St. Louis, served as a university chaplain and directed formation for the Redemptorist pre-formation program.

He wrote his doctoral dis-

sertation on the spirituality of Blessed Seelos's Redemptorist contemporary, St. John Neumann, and served for five years as a research expert at the St. John Neumann Shrine in Philadelphia.

He was pastor of St. Gerard Majella Parish in St. Louis County when the Redemptorist Fathers turned it over to the St. Louis archdiocese.

His successor there was Monsignor (now Bishop Emeritus) John R. Gaydos.

Several years later, Bishop Gaydos invited Fr. Boever to spend part of his summer filling in for priests in this diocese who were sick or were traveling.

Fr. Boever wound up serving from 2014-19 as the priest for the Cuba, Bourbon and Steelville parishes, which he and his parishioners came to refer to as the Catholic Parishes of Crawford County.

"We were one — one parish council, one school, one administrative office," he recalled.

He enjoyed the friendship and camaraderie he experienced in this diocese.

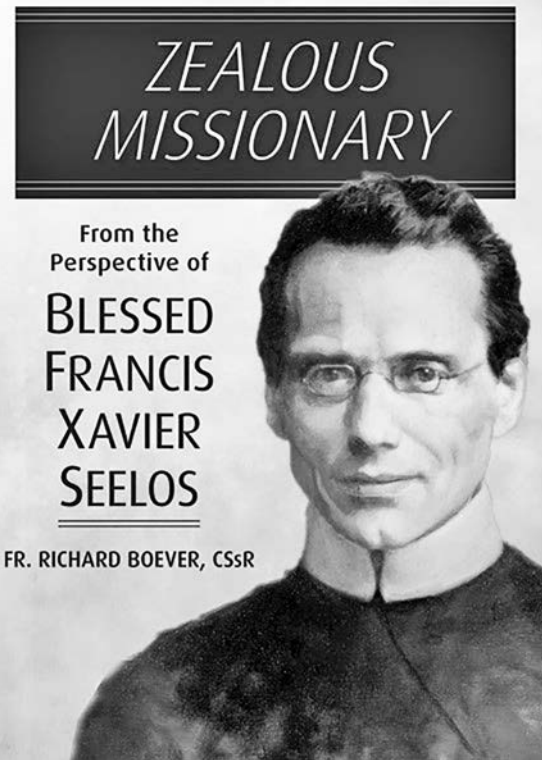
"It was a wonderful time for me," he said. "I think just being with the people and spending time with them in their own natural settings — something simple like helping them butcher — was what I liked the most. That connection was so valuable."

Near the end of his tenure here, he got to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his religious profession in the Redemptorists.

"The people organized a potluck and there was so much food!" he recalled. "There were lines of tables with food on them. And I couldn't believe how many people came."

## Pilgrims and supplicants

After leading parish missions around the country for a year as a member of the Redemptorist community in



## ZEALOUS MISSIONARY

From the  
Perspective of  
**BLESSED  
FRANCIS  
XAVIER  
SEELOS**

FR. RICHARD BOEVER, CSsR

Liguori, Missouri, Fr. Boever was appointed executive director of the Blessed Seelos Shrine in New Orleans.

"They thought of me to come down here because I had done all that work on St. John Neumann, who was a Redemptorist from the same time period," he noted. "I knew the background, so I could work with Blessed Seelos, as well."

His time in New Orleans has been interesting, seasoned so far by COVID-19 and several jarring weather events.

"We finally got the electricity back in the shrine," he said on Sept. 24, several weeks after Hurricane Ida made landfall on the Gulf Coast.

"But we're doing fine," he said. "I can't complain one bit."

He enjoys ministering to the pilgrims and visitors to the shrine.

"We have a tremendous number of pilgrims," he said. "It's a place of quiet, of peace. People come with their prayers and ask for Blessed Seelos's intercession."

Fr. Boever read everything he could get his hands on about Blessed Seelos, including books, letters and other records of his life and ministry.

That eventually led to his latest book.

"The challenge with the first-person approach is to

speak in the voice of the person you're writing about, to figure out not what I would like to say about him, but what he would want me to say about him," Fr. Boever stated.

He believes that although most of the Church's charitable works in this country were carried out by parish priests and members of religious orders in Blessed Seelos's time, laypeople can find lessons and inspiration in his story.

"He lived at a time when there were more immigrants in this country than the Church

in America could handle," Fr. Boever noted. "Many of them were 'the least among us,' and Blessed Seelos came here as a missionary to serve them with openness and joy."

"Today, we still find immigrants to be among the most abandoned and marginalized," said Fr. Boever. "Since Vatican II, we Redemptorists now have lay oblates working among us. We try to instill in laypeople the charism of our founder. They now participate in our mission as much as the priests and brothers do."

## More to come

Taking a similar first-person approach to St. John Neumann, Fr. Boever has written a second book, *Pastoral Dynamo: From the Perspective of St. John Neumann*, which Liguori Publications will release in December.

Like *Zealous Missionary*, it is a labor of love and reverence.

"You have to do a lot of studying to be able to take on someone else's persona," Fr. Boever noted. "You have to have the feel for it."

Both books are available from Liguori Publishing at [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

More information about Blessed Father Francis Xavier Seelos can be found at [seelos.org](http://seelos.org).

## Priest introduced Brooklyn firefighters to Julia Greeley, candidate for sainthood, on 20th anniversary of 9/11

See related article on Page 5

By Jay Nies

Brooklyn priest Monsignor Raymond Roden got some interesting looks when he set about subtly sharing some of Servant of God Julia Greeley's joy.

While visiting a Brooklyn firehouse on the 20th anniversary of 9/11, he handed out copies of a devotional booklet called "An Hour with Julia Greeley" and prayer cards depicting the sainthood candidate's likeness.

"They were a little startled, I think," the priest acknowledged. "We'll have to see how much of it sinks in."

Msgr. Roden spoke of his endeavor during a recent virtual meeting of the Servant of God Julia Greeley Guild ([juliagreeley.org](http://juliagreeley.org)), an organization committed to sharing the Missouri native's story and praying for her to be declared a saint.

Miss Greeley, born into an enslaved family near Hannibal before the Civil War, is one of six African American Catholics currently under formal consideration for being declared a saint.

One of the others is Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States, who was also born in part of what is now the Jefferson City diocese.

Compassionate and deeply spiritual, Miss Greeley was known even in her lifetime as an Angel of Charity.

Her self-effacing kindness, missionary zeal and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus emblazoned her memory onto the minds of people who encountered her in Colorado, where she spent most of her adult life.

She was blind in one eye due to the harsh treatment she had received as a slave. Her body bore the ravages of excessive, menial work.

She never earned much money as a housekeeper, even to a governor of Colorado and his family.

But as a Catholic convert and professed member of the Secular Order of St. Francis, she held nothing back in help-

ing people who were worse off than she was.

When she ran out of her own money to give away, she begged for more.

She worked in darkness and secret, in deference to the dignity of the people she was helping.

Now, more than a century after her death, her earthly remains await the Resurrection in a place of honor in the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Denver.

The Denver archdiocese opened a sainthood cause for her in 2017.

Msgr. Roden spoke of his admiration for her at a recent virtual meeting of the Servant of God Julia Greeley Guild.

"She was a very holy woman," she stated.

Long affiliated with New York's Catholic Worker community, Msgr. Roden first read about Miss Greeley in an article by Amanda W. Dalouis in *The Catholic Worker* newspaper.

He was struck not only by her evangelical ardor but also her willingness to cultivate personal relationships and give one-on-one help to people in need.

"She was all about St. Therese's 'little way' and being a 'fool for Christ,'" he said. "Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to be a popular way of life these days. That's why I hope devotion to her takes off."

The "little way" was how St. Therese of Lisieux described doing little things and carrying out life's everyday tasks with great joy and love.

St. Paul wrote of being a fool for Christ, being rejected for persistently preaching the Gospel to people who would not accept it.

Msgr. Roden shared Miss Greeley's story in a homily he preached at Mass in St. Clare Church in Queens on the parish's feastday.

He stirred up her memory again during his visit to that Brooklyn firehouse on the



This icon of Servant of God Julia Greeley was commissioned by the Chancellor's Office of the Archdiocese of Denver.

— Photo by Ryan Beck

20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and rural Pennsylvania.

"Julia had a special place in her heart for firefighters," the priest noted, pointing to her practice of delivering food to Denver firehouses along with tracts promoting devotion to

the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Msgr. Roden's simple gifts were given and received in light of the anniversary's remembrances and intense emotions.

"I got some thanks," he noted. "I got some blank stares. Nobody told me to get lost. We'll see if anything comes of

it."

He gave one of the booklets to a firefighter's teenage sister.

"I said, 'You might be interested in this,'" he recalled. "If it's not for you, you can leave it on the subway."

She accepted it and put it in her purse.

"So we plant some seeds," the priest noted. "We'll see what comes up."

Copies of "An Hour with Julia Greeley" by Capuchin Franciscan Father Blaine Burkey, can be ordered online at:

[liguori.org/an-hour-with-julia-greeley.html](http://liguori.org/an-hour-with-julia-greeley.html)

A new, expanded edition of Fr. Burkey's book, *In Service of the Sacred Heart: The Life and Virtues of Julia Greeley*, can be purchased online at:

[josephitepastoralcenter.org/product-category/books](http://josephitepastoralcenter.org/product-category/books)

## Cursillo Men's Weekend #69 Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 2021 St. Pius X Church, Moberly



(First row) Father Mark Smith, spiritual director; Max Boneta; Ron Dunn; Bill Henderson; Deacon Mike Berendzen, assistant spiritual director; John Keener, rector; (Second row) Brooks Hill; Dan Kliethermes; Michael Davis; Bob Riebold; (Third row) Joe Tarrana; Martin Nambo Torres; Tony Lupo; John Sullivan; (fourth row) Bill Fay; Joe Swindle; Marvin Twenter; (fifth row) Kyle Lacy; Gabe Hulsey; Matt Kuensting; Don Vogt; (sixth row) Mark Hausam; Keith Henke; Shane Verslues.

— Photo by John Keener

## Pettis County first responders get thanks, encouragement at ecumenical prayer service, luncheon

By Jay Nies

Keeping people safe can be lonely and even thankless work.

But law enforcement officers, firefighters, corrections officers, ambulance crew members, EMTs and all other first responders must never forget that they are greatly loved and are never stand alone.

“God sees the good you are doing,” Father Joseph Corel proclaimed from the pulpit of St. Patrick Chapel in Sedalia. “God knows that He put service in your heart, which is why you chose a career of serving others while still giving your best to your family who so desperately need and love you.”

Fr. Corel, pastor *in solidum* of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, presided at an ecumenical prayer service for first responders in and around Sedalia.

St. Vincent de Paul parishioners representing the Sacred Heart, St. Patrick and St. John the Evangelist chapels also prepared and served a free meal as a way to thank the first responders.

It was Sept. 10, the day before the 20th anniversary of the deadly 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and rural Pennsylvania.

Themes of gratitude and community pervaded the prayer service.

“Thank you for the important work you doing our community!” said Fr. Corel. “Thank you for excelling as units, as teams, as professionals in your fields.

“You are important to our community and for us to live our lives more peacefully,” he continued. “We are here today to honor, thank and celebrate you.”

He also thanked their families, who make many sacrifices of their own.

He pointed to the camaraderie, teamwork and sense of

community that young people acquire while playing team sports and while learning about God.

That’s a lesson worth re-

noted. “God created us to be in community, to be for others and to work together.

“Isolation and ‘lone ranger’ mentalities lead to bad places and bad actions,” he added.

St. Paul frequently emphasized in his letters that God’s

people are created for community.

“What Paul tells us is that every part of the body is needed,” said Fr. Corel. “Each has its own purpose and needs to excel at what it is supposed to do, or the body suffers. Everybody needs everybody.”

Fr. Corel also addressed what he called the “elephant in the room.”

“Sometimes in the media,” he noted, “there is someone who has strayed or done something that made your profession look bad, and it seems there is wall-to-wall coverage of that incident for what feels like an eternity, while you are out there doing the best you can without recognition.

“All the more reason to do your best to excel in your work, to support and encourage one another and to come to these events where you get the recognition, support, honor and praise that you so rightfully deserve,” he said.

He reminded the first responders of Jesus’s invitation to “come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest,” (Matthew 11:28).

“Let the Lord have the burdens of the day shift or the night shift,” said Fr. Corel. “Give it to Him and be good to yourselves and your families as you enjoy your time with them.”

He exhorted the first responders to support each other and build each other up.

“Be the best you can be at what you do, bring the best out of each other, give it all to God and Let Him guide and lead you, since ultimately, He is the One Who gave you a servant’s heart, and you are living out the life He has called you to live!” he said.

**“You are important to our community and for us to live our lives more peacefully. We are here today to honor, thank and celebrate you.”**

— Father Joseph Corel

membering, he said, especially when shifts are long and situations become volatile.

“Our culture may think we are supposed to be independent and rely on no one for any help, but that leads to absolutely nothing good,” the priest

## Initiatives on Eucharist aim to give Catholics better understanding

By Carol Zimmermann  
Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

This past June at their annual meeting, the U.S. bishops spoke about helping Catholics come to a deeper understanding and appreciation for the Eucharist through an upcoming eucharistic revival and a document on the Eucharist.

The bishops plan to continue talking about these Church actions and will vote on the Communion document during their November meeting in Baltimore.

But in the meantime, two U.S. bishops — who head the committees working on these initiatives — spoke recently on a recorded video roundtable produced by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to further explain just what the bishops hope to achieve through the upcoming revival and document on the Eucharist.

The half-hour video will air on Catholic television networks such as New Evangelization Television, or NET-TV, a Catholic television network based in Brooklyn, New York.

In the recorded video, Auxiliary Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of St. Paul and Minneapolis and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, spoke with Marilyn Santos, associate director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis.

Bishop Cozzens is chair of the USCCB’s Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis and Bishop Rhoades is chair of the USCCB’s Committee on Doctrine.

Santos told Catholic News Service Oct. 12 that it was important for the

bishops to give an “official voice” on what these initiatives are, and what they are not, during this “significant moment for the Church in the United States.”

The eucharistic revival is meant to be an act of evangelization for some and a reawakening of understanding for others, she said, while the document on the Eucharist, which has gained more public attention, is meant to be more of a “teaching tool to be incorporated into” the planned revival.

In the roundtable discussion, Bishop Cozzens said the impetus for the bishops’ work on a eucharistic revival was a Pew study in the fall of 2019 that showed just 30% of Catholics “have what we might call a proper understanding of Christ’s presence in the Eucharist.”

The bishops saw this as an opportunity to increase Catholics’ understanding and awareness of the Eucharist with a revival that is set to launch on the feast of Corpus Christi in June 2022.

Bishop Cozzens said what will be a three-year process will include events on the diocesan level such as eucharistic processions around the country along with adoration and prayer.

In 2023, the emphasis will be on parishes with resources available at the parish level to increase Catholics’ understanding of what the Eucharist really means.

Ultimately, the revival will end with a National Eucharistic Congress in the summer of 2024 and possibly other gatherings like this in the future.

The Minnesota bishop said this spotlight on the Eucharist will emphasize that it is such a great gift to the Church.

He also said the focus of this revival will not just be for parish priests to run another program but for Catholic groups and movements to be involved in reaching out and explaining the meaning of the Eucharist to Catholics.

Bishop Rhoades said he was excited about this revival and feels the document that his committee will present to the bishops this fall, “The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church,” will be a good contribution to it.

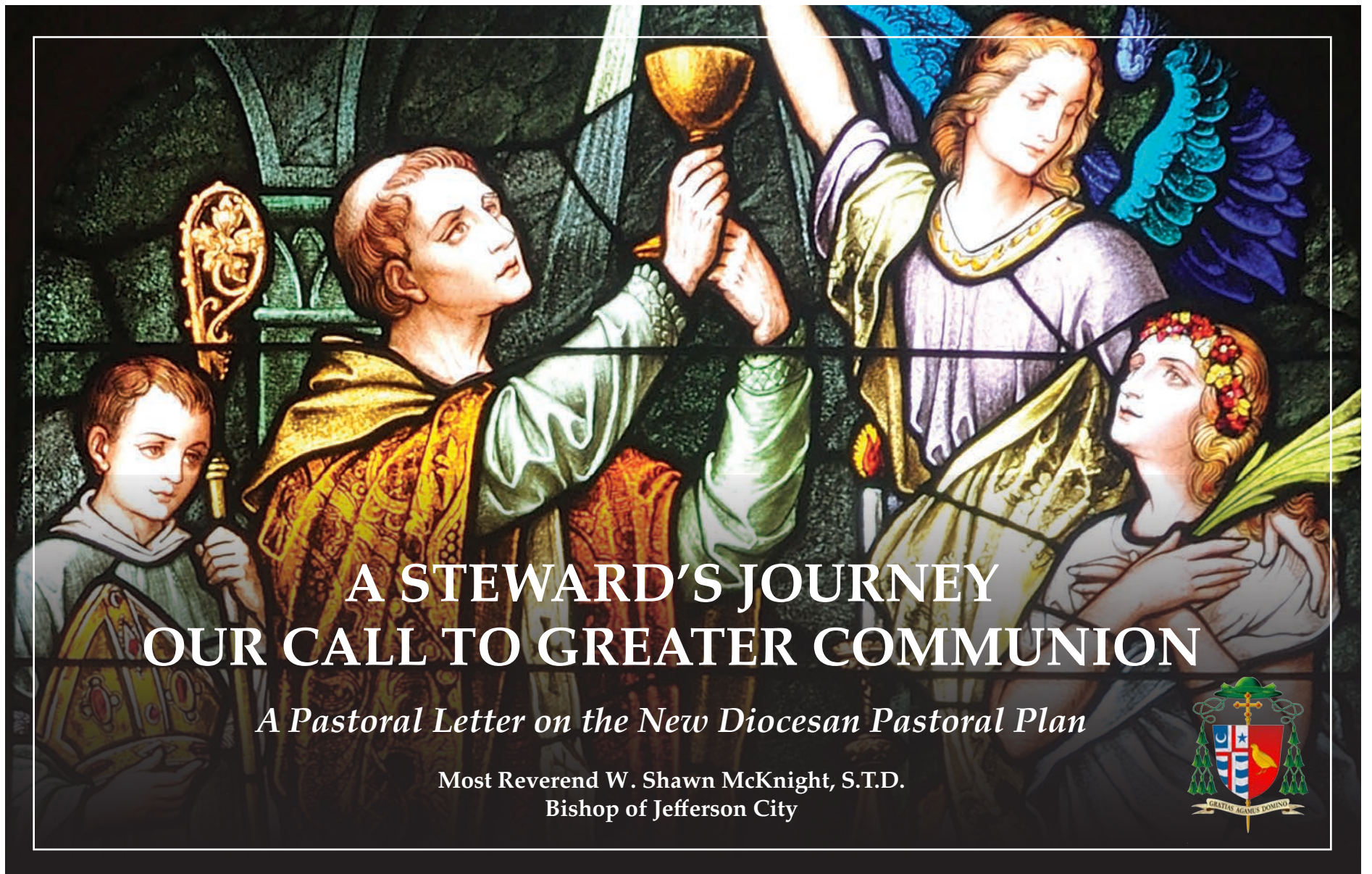
He said the document will focus on how “the Eucharist is our greatest treasure as Catholics” and will look at different aspects of the Eucharist, particularly how it illustrates Christ’s sacrifice and is the real presence of Jesus, not just a symbol.

The second half of the document will emphasize what Catholics should do with this deeper understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist from more active participation at Mass to participating in devotions such as adoration and then renewing their commitment to serve others.

When asked how the two initiatives fit together, Bishop Cozzens said he thought the document on the Eucharist would “become a sort of launching pad for the revival.”

He urged Catholics to really pray for this eucharistic revival, recognizing that “what ultimately is going to change the world is the Holy Spirit.” Bishop Rhoades similarly encouraged people to pray for the revival and then to participate in any way they can and spread the word about it.

“Evangelize. Be evangelizers of the Eucharist,” he said.



# A STEWARD'S JOURNEY OUR CALL TO GREATER COMMUNION

*A Pastoral Letter on the New Diocesan Pastoral Plan*

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



FEBRUARY 6, 2021

To the laity, members of institutes of consecrated life, and the clergy of the  
Diocese of Jefferson City:  
Greetings in the name of the Risen Lord.

## INTRODUCTION

1. We began this year with a desire for a brighter future. The clergy sexual abuse tragedy, the decline in participation at Mass and in our Church programs, especially by our young adults, the decrease in the number of vocations to the ministerial priesthood, pressures in our rural areas caused by shifting demographics, and the continuing worldwide pandemic tempt us to discouragement and despair. We know something has to change for our local Church to thrive and fulfill its mission.

But I have some good news to share with you:  
The Lord has a future full of hope for us (Jeremiah 29:11).

## EMMAUS JOURNEY (Luke 24)

2. Luke's Gospel story about the two disciples headed in the wrong direction—away from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus after the crucifixion—shows us how the Good News of Jesus' resurrection has the power to change where we are headed.

We know the name of only one disciple, Cleopas. The other disciple could be a man or woman, young or old. As such, the other nameless disciple could be a placeholder for any one of us.

The two disciples were debating, grappling with how to wrap their minds

around the death of the Lord and what this would mean for them. They were downcast and unable to recognize the Lord when He suddenly joined them on their journey. They relay their belief in Jesus as a prophet of God, mighty in word and in deed, but also their disappointment that, it seemed to them, He didn't turn out to be the savior they were hoping He would be.

3. But Jesus changed their minds. He began by teaching them from the Old Testament Scriptures, showing how it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer in order to enter into his glory. Then Jesus inspired their hearts.

As they approached the village, they beseeched the Lord to stay with them, for it was already evening. Jesus accepted their invitation. While they were at table, He repeated his actions from the Last Supper: He took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that, their eyes were opened and they recognized Him, but He vanished from their sight.

They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" And they turned themselves around and went back to Jerusalem, testifying to all they experienced, how the Lord was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

4. This fascinating story of the disciples recognizing Jesus in the celebration of the Eucharist, and thereby coming to believe in His resurrection from the dead, inspires us to consider the many ways we may be disheartened, troubled, and confused without the light of the Gospel, the hope of the resurrection, and the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. It is a good reminder of how much we need an intimate relationship with the Lord, and that our best place to encounter Him is in the breaking of the bread in the community of disciples known as the Church.

5. Do you, with me, desire your heart to burn within you? Are you open, like the two disciples in the Emmaus story, to listen to Jesus and to let Him change your mind about things that tempt you to be downcast, confused and troubled?

## THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN

6. On my third anniversary as your bishop, I so desire that the Lord may enliven our diocese! I desire that the Lord may help all our parishes to be beacons of hope for their parishioners and the wider community, to be communities of faith where we encounter the Lord together in these challenging times. May we come back together, refrain from “going it alone” and heading in the wrong direction. Then, with a stronger communion within each parish and among the parishes, we may fulfill our mission as a local Church!

7. I continue to be grateful for how I was welcomed three years ago, when I was ordained and installed as the Bishop of Jefferson City. As I began to meet many of you, I realized it was going to be necessary for me to listen in an intentional, systematic way to you. I wanted to hear not only the pain, but also the dreams, of the people of our diocese.

Almost immediately, we began listening sessions around the diocese, in English and Spanish, and one solely with young adults. In my attempt to listen deeply to your concerns and hopes for our Church, it became clear that a pastoral plan could be a process to lead us into a better future.

8. At the same time, I was preparing for my first *ad limina* visit to the Holy Father, along with my brother bishops from our region. This afforded us an opportunity for a second set of listening sessions, which focused on the challenges we are facing and how we hope to provide a home of faith for the generations to follow us.

9. Many of us experience the faith first in our homes. All of us bring our faith with us to worship God and support the community in our parish.

The Holy Spirit truly spoke to me when I read Pope Francis’ encyclical, “The Joy of the Gospel” (*Evangelii Gaudium*) on the importance of the parish in our faith lives. In no. 28, Pope Francis describes what a parish is:

*“The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be ‘the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters.’ This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few. The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach. We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented.”*

10. Those sentences echoed what I was hearing from you, and an idea was formed to “review and renew our parishes ... to bring them nearer to people.”

From this encyclical, and from the many voices I had heard throughout the listening process, three fundamental themes for the renewal of our diocese became clear to me: The Spirituality of Stewardship, Co-responsibility, and Parishes as Centers of Charity and Sanctuaries of Mercy.

I did not determine these three themes solely on my own. Along with the clergy and our Diocesan Pastoral Council, I tested these themes.

11. The Diocesan Pastoral Council worked with me to establish a process so we could invite every Catholic’s participation in the development of a new pastoral plan. While keeping ourselves solidly rooted in the teaching of the Catholic Church, especially the conciliar documents of the Second Vatican Council, we also wanted “grassroots” input. Without those deep roots, we knew the plan would not flourish.

12. A year ago, the process was introduced to lay parish leadership in a diocesan-wide meeting at the Cathedral of St. Joseph — one of the last times we gathered in person before the restrictions of the pandemic! In that meeting, we explained the goal of the pastoral planning process, which we titled “Better Together.” By breaking open the Church’s teachings, especially those of the Second Vatican Council and Pope Francis, we encouraged each parish in the diocese to embrace a stewardship spirituality, empower an understanding of the co-responsibility of laity and clergy, and foster personal experiences of charity and mercy in our parishes.

We laid out the timeline for parishes to develop a pastoral plan for themselves, using the same “grassroots/grass tops” methodology. We asked parishes to invite people to participate in a Lenten reflection series on the three themes and to provide their reflections to their pastor and parish councils.

It was also necessary to recognize two groups who are often marginalized in our communities: young people and Spanish-speaking parishioners. We provided opportunities for both groups to consider the three themes and provide their reflections.

13. Together, then, the pastor and council members of almost all our parishes — 70 — developed a parish pastoral plan. The plans were sent to the Chancery, not for approval, but for me and other diocesan leaders and collaborators to understand the scope of what parishes were doing to strengthen their spirituality of stewardship, their ability to exercise the Church’s teaching on co-responsibility, and their capacity as centers of charity and sanctuaries of mercy.

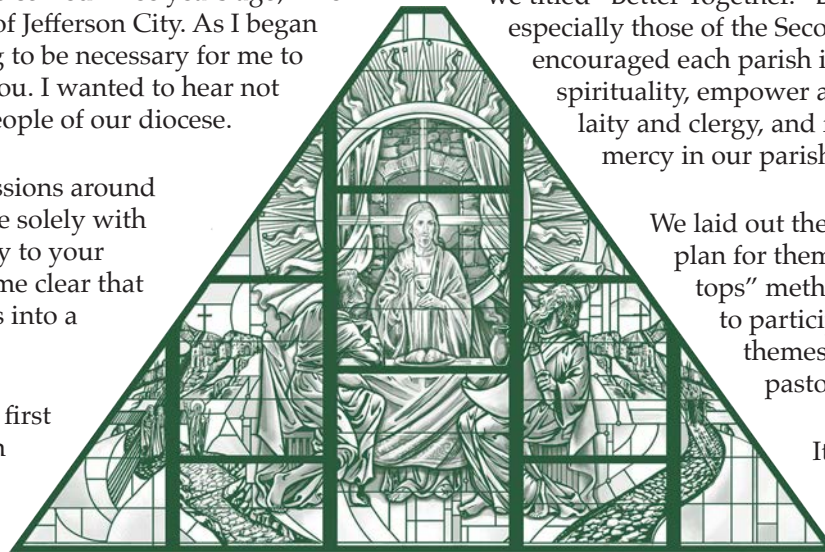
The Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Presbyteral Council reviewed the parish plans, and then a first draft of the diocesan pastoral plan was proposed. This draft went through several revisions, as we sought reactions from parish lay leadership and clergy.

14. Our diocesan pastoral plan leverages our diocesan resources to assist parishes in the achievement of their parish pastoral plans. It is simple, fitting on one 8.5” x 11” page, yet it provides a three-year plan with activities to implement the three priorities in a strategic manner. This intends that diocesan resources are providing optimal support to parishes in the implementation of their own plans.

Serving as a catalyst for the parishes, the diocesan pastoral plan focuses on three objectives:

**15. The spirituality of stewardship.** The U.S. bishops wrote in their Pastoral Letter on Stewardship (1992) that Jesus’ disciples and Christian stewards recognize God as the origin of life, giver of freedom, and source of all things, and that we are grateful for the gifts we have received and are eager to use them to show our love for God and for one another. The spirituality of stewardship does not begin with our financial donations, but with an encounter of faith. The spirituality of stewardship will flourish in our diocese by increasing the participation of all parishioners, especially the young and fallen away Catholics, in their parish.

**16. Strengthening co-responsibility.** The fostering of a stewardship way of life will bear the fruit of an even greater diversity of charisms. That fruit will only mature in a parish culture of co-responsibility for a harmonious and integrated missionary effort.



**THIS PROPOSED WINDOW FOR THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH ILLUSTRATES THE STORY OF EMMAUS.** Jesus is framed by window curtains blowing open, symbolic of the spiritual gift of understanding and by a monstrance symbolic of worship: Did not our hearts burn within us? The two disciples suggest our response to the presence of Christ. The older Cleopas on the right holds the Scriptures and gestures towards Christ in that “opening” moment of the intellect. The younger disciple on the left leans in with a burning heart to adore and receive the bread and the cup. (Drawing by Associated Crafts & Willet Hauser)

“The Holy Spirit, sent by the Father and the Son, transforms our hearts and enables us to enter into the perfect communion of the blessed Trinity, where all things find their unity,” Pope Francis explains in “The Joy of the Gospel.” From that union come a diversity of expressions and gifts, “a unity which is never uniformity but a multifaceted and inviting harmony” (no. 117). This multifaceted and diverse union provides what the conciliar document “Dogmatic Constitution on the Church” (“*Lumen Gentium*”) calls a “familiar dialogue”: “A great many wonderful things are to be hoped for from this familiar dialogue between the laity and their spiritual leaders: in the laity a strengthened sense of personal responsibility; a renewed enthusiasm; a more ready application of their talents to the projects of their spiritual leaders. The latter, on the other hand, aided by the experience of the laity, can more clearly and more incisively come to decisions regarding both spiritual and temporal matters. In this way, the whole Church, strengthened by each one of its members, may more effectively fulfill its mission for the life of the world” (no. 37).

17. Strengthening our use of co-responsibility will de-emphasize the focus on maintenance of current structures and re-emphasize missionary discipleship. It will also create a culture in which vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life can thrive and be supported, serving the future of our Church.

Co-responsibility signifies the mutual respect for the different roles and responsibilities of the clergy and laity in the life and mission of the Church. This implies a culture of respect among the laity for the right and obligation of everyone to be engaged in the mission of the parish. We need everyone at the table, and there is no room for turf issues!

#### 18. Fostering the personal experience of mercy and charity in our parishes.

As a deepening gratitude to God in a spirituality of stewardship increases our volunteerism, and as a culture of co-responsibility takes hold in the parish, more people will experience their local parish as a center of charity and a sanctuary of mercy.

When a parish fulfills the spiritual and corporal works of charity, its members are proclaiming the Good News of salvation. Tangible experiences of charity and mercy change people’s minds about the parish and the Catholic Church as a whole. Mercy changes the hearts of those who receive mercy and those who offer mercy.

19. The Council Fathers’ document “On the Church in the Modern World” (“*Gaudium et Spes*”) beautifully expresses this objective: “The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts” (no. 1). We encounter Christ when we engage in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

20. We use the terms “charity” and “mercy” to signify all the ways in which Christ’s presence in the community of believers is experienced. For the purposes of the pastoral plan, the parish as a center of “charity” refers to the ways the Church ministers to those who have material needs: feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, providing transportation for the homebound, etc.

“Mercy” is about reconciliation and forgiveness, but it is also experienced when a parish tangibly extends the Church’s consolation and support in people’s everyday joys and sorrows. The parish as a sanctuary of “mercy” fosters the practice of reconciliation within families and within the community of the parish; providing solace, consolation and support for people.

21. The parish as a recognized center of charity and sanctuary of mercy goes to the heart, to the culture of a parish. We can recognize our parish’s culture especially in how baptisms, funerals, and weddings are celebrated, and how the stranger and the foreigner are welcomed.

Are these merely moments of commercial transactions between individuals and the parish offices? Are those who call our parish office or look for us on the Internet left waiting in the cold?

Or are these opportunities of evangelization when we encounter individuals who have fallen away from the practice of the faith or have never darkened the doorway of our church? What experience would Jesus want them to have of our parish as they mourn the death of a loved one, celebrate the wedding of a friend or family member, or welcome the gift of new life in a family at a baptism? Are we accompanying them as a community of faith in these special moments?

22. It was clear, too, in reviewing the parishes’ plans, that the diocesan pastoral plan must have a focus on improving communications in the parishes, especially in the use of digital information and communication systems.

For most parishioners under a certain age, who are “digital natives,” these systems are vital and necessary for all aspects of their lives. If we, as a Church, see them as nonessential, we are, as one young adult explained, telling young people they, too, are not an essential part of the Church. As Pope Benedict XVI reminded us, we must be digital missionaries, learning the culture of digital natives and bringing the Gospel to their world.

23. As a means of holding ourselves accountable, one of the first-year activities of the diocesan pastoral plan is the creation of an assessment tool parishes can use in evaluating their progress in the implementation of their pastoral plans. We want to ensure our common dream will be accomplished: To have vibrant parishes with a deeper commitment to accomplishing the mission given to us by Jesus Christ; that is, to share and live our Catholic faith in witness to the Kingdom of God.

But for our parishes to thrive, our communion and commitment to one another within the parish and among the parishes in the diocese must be stronger.

### THE COMMUNION OF THE CHURCH (ACTS 2:42)

24. In the Acts of the Apostles, the sequel to the Gospel written by St. Luke, there is a description of the ideal Church community, strong in its communion and piety: “They devoted themselves to the teaching of the Apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers” (Acts 2:42). The communion of the Church, as described by St. Luke, is rooted in what we believe as Catholics (the teaching of the Apostles); in how we live the Christian virtues and practice charity (the communal life); and in how we pray as Catholics, especially the Mass and the sacraments (the breaking of the bread and the prayers).

Our communion is strengthened whenever we adhere to the faith, when we practice our faith, and when we celebrate the sacraments in fidelity to Christ. This is why we are “Better Together.” But you and I know our communion needs to be strengthened to address the unprecedented challenges facing our Church today.

25. Many comments from the various listening sessions, and during the discernment processes for the parish and diocesan pastoral plans, surfaced a great concern for our youth and declining participation in our Church. We know the importance of fostering new vocations to the ministerial priesthood. Catechesis was also raised as a matter needing attention, especially in terms in passing on the faith to the next generation.

But what good are our programs of catechesis and faith formation if no one shows up? And how can we promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life without healthy parishes?

26. During our gathering of lay leadership in February 2020, we learned how important the transcendentals of truth, beauty and goodness are in attracting the millennial generation to participation in the Church. In particular, we must consider the ways in which the beauty of our faith is expressed. How we celebrate the Sunday Eucharist, with its noble and beautiful grandeur, is important not only for ourselves but for those who have yet to join us at the altar of the Lord. And who can deny the importance of showing the beauty of our faith in our works of charity and mercy for a generation so hungry for it?

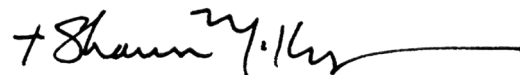
27. If we accomplish the three priorities of the diocesan pastoral plan (spirituality of stewardship; co-responsibility; and parishes as recognized centers of charity and sanctuaries of mercy), our parishes will be successful in their evangelization efforts to invite, welcome, and engage more people in the life and mission of the Church.

For this to happen, change will be necessary for most, if not all, our parishes. We must use our first fruits in the celebration of the Mass and other liturgies, rather than what is left over in the parish budget. And we must redouble our efforts to practice the charity that is sacramentally manifested in the Eucharist: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!

28. May our diocesan Patroness, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray with us for the fulfillment of our diocesan pastoral plan. With her, may we be the Church at prayer:

*Stay with us, Lord Jesus, on our journey of faith,  
and be our companion on our way  
to set our hearts on fire with new hope.  
Help us to recognize your presence among us  
in the Scriptures we read,  
and in the breaking of bread.  
For you live and reign with the Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.\**

Given in Columbia, Missouri, at St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish, on the 6th day of February in the Year of St. Joseph, 2021, the third anniversary of my ordination and installation as Bishop of Jefferson City.



Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight  
Bishop of Jefferson City

\*Excerpts from the English Translation of *Liturgy of the Hours (Four Volumes)* © 1974, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

(COVER) WORKS OF MERCY IN STAINED GLASS shine in St. George Catholic Church in Hermann, Missouri where a series of 13 stained glass windows depict the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The cover of this letter showcases "Holy Mass" and one of the spiritual works of mercy: praying for the living and the dead. One theme of the diocesan pastoral plan is to support clergy and laity in building up their parishes as centers of charity and sanctuaries of mercy. (Photographed by Mike Langille and available for purchase online at [www.thisishermann.com/stgeorge](http://www.thisishermann.com/stgeorge).)

## A STEWARD'S JOURNEY: OUR CALL TO GREATER COMMUNION

### Three Year Diocesan Pastoral Plan

	Strengthening participation (Stewardship)	Strengthening co-responsibility	Strengthening charity and mercy
YEAR ONE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch stewardship renewal process with seven pilot parishes</li> <li>Use the pillars of stewardship — hospitality, prayer, formation and service — to inform support from diocesan offices to parishes</li> <li>Provide to parishes small group program that focuses on spirituality of stewardship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide formation for parish pastoral and finance councils</li> <li>Provide formation and education for pastors and heads of schools regarding spirituality of stewardship</li> <li>Encourage the laity to assume their role in strengthening our family of parishes through appropriate and active participation in decision-making regarding structural reconfiguration of parishes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist parishes in surveying the unmet needs of the people in the parish's territory</li> <li>Develop an assessment tool for parishes to review how they foster the personal experience of mercy. This tool would include sacramental encounters (e.g. funerals, weddings, baptisms), physical settings at the parish, pastoral approaches and office processes.</li> </ul>
	Improve communications for personal engagement in parishes by using unified digital information and communication systems		
YEAR TWO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch second pilot cohort of parishes for stewardship renewal program</li> <li>Establish a diocesan Stewardship Council</li> <li>Develop a plan to move from Catholic Stewardship Appeal to Catholic Stewardship Renewal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist with the formation of parish stewardship councils</li> <li>Provide formation and education for pastors and heads of schools regarding spirituality of stewardship</li> <li>Provide formation of lay ministry leaders in the parishes to empower works of charity and mercy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a network of Catholic Charities Ambassadors, allowing parishes resources to provide for unmet needs within their parish territory</li> <li>Support parishes in their efforts to foster personal experiences of mercy, based on their assessments.</li> </ul>
YEAR THREE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement diocesan-wide Catholic Stewardship Renewal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing consultation of laity regarding opportunities for better collaboration of clergy, lay ecclesial ministers and other resources to strengthen parish life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Network with neighboring parishes and/or not-for-profits within the wider area to ensure all unmet needs are met</li> </ul>



## Pet blessing: All creatures of our God and King



**TOP LEFT:** Kindergarteners Leelay De Guzman and Chase Bredehoeft lay hands and love on Chuy, the family dog of Principal Abby Martin, during the Blessing of the Pets Oct. 4 at Sacred Heart School in Sedalia. “Chuy had the best day ever,” said Mrs. Martin.

**TOP CENTER:** Samuel Renck, his dad, David Renck and their dog, Omaha, enjoy a peaceful moment of prayer during blessing of the pets. Animals of all shapes and sizes waged, leaped and slithered their way to Sacred Heart for the annual blessing.

— Photos by Liz Suter-Van Leer

### Sedalia

Parents, faculty and elementary students gathered outside the school campus with their pets for the traditional blessing and prayer service in honor of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment.

Students who were unable to bring their pets brought in pictures or drawings, which included fish, cats, dogs, horses, chickens and bunnies.

This year's celebration was led by Deacon Turf Martin and Sister Mary Ruth Wand SSND.

“It is a joy to share our faith in such a different way than we do in school or Church,” said Deacon Martin who has hosted the annual Blessing of the Pets for several years. “We never know what animals will show up. We have had horses, goats, exotic birds, and a wide assortment of mammals beyond those already listed. It has been a long time since we had a Sister join us and the youth were very excited to have Sr. Mary Ruth as part of the blessing.”

## Pope, religious leaders plead for peace, compassion, care for the earth

Catholic News Service

Rome

Standing in front of Rome's Colosseum, Pope Francis called on members of all the world's religions to be courageous enough to set aside self-centeredness and instead live with true and active compassion for the victims of war and poverty and for the earth.

The pope and Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant representatives, joined by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, gathered for a brief Christian prayer service

Oct. 7 before joining Muslim, Jewish, Hindu and Buddhist leaders in making an appeal for peace.

Andrea Riccardi, founder of the Community of Sant'Egidio, which organized the meeting and has done so each year since St. John Paul II gathered religious leaders in Assisi in 1986, said the need to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and the climate crisis have drawn religious believers together like never before.

Addressing the gathering, the pope urged religious believers to remember a key lesson of the pandemic, “namely, that we cannot remain healthy in a world that is sick.”

Besides COVID-19, he said, “in recent times, many people have contracted the sickness of forgetfulness, forgetfulness of God and of our brothers and sisters.”

That kind of self-centeredness, the pope said, “has led to unbridled individualism and the desire for self-sufficiency, which has overflowed in insatiable greed.”

## ST. IRENAEUS

From page 4

their character, and to try to see how both traditions can enrich each other without losing their own identity.”

St. Irenaeus, the group's website said, “is revered as a patristic father in both the Eastern and Western churches” and “thus represents an example of the spiritual connection between the churches in East and West, which the working group seeks to promote through its discussions.”

Born in Smyrna, Asia Minor — now modern-day Turkey — St. Irenaeus was known as a staunch defender of the faith.

Concerned about the rise of gnostic sects within the early Christian church, he wrote *Adversus haereses* (“Against Heresies”), a refu-

tation of gnostic beliefs which emphasized personal spiritual knowledge over faith in Christian teachings and in ecclesiastical authority.

During their 2019 fall assembly, the U.S. bishops' conference added their assent to a motion made by the Archdiocese of Lyon, France — the region where St. Irenaeus ministered — to have the second-century bishop declared a doctor of the Church.

Once declared, St. Irenaeus would be the second doctor of the Church named by Pope Francis after St. Gregory of Narek, who was given the designation in 2015. He would bring the total number of doctors of the Church to 37.



Lake Ozark

**TOP:** Father Ignazio Medina, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark, blesses a parishioner's dog on the church parking lot on the Sunday before the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

**BOTTOM:** Father Medina blesses a search and rescue dog for the Osage Beach Fire Protection District's Search and Rescue Team.

— Photos by Jay Nies

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## SSM ST. MARYS

From page 1

healthcare recipients alike to “respond with a reciprocal investment in St. Mary’s.”

“Our loved ones will be healthier when St. Mary’s Hospital is healthy,” the bishop stated. “Together, we can make our communities better.”

### Changing of the guard

Mr. Smoot also announced the appointment of George Hayes, a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), as interim regional president for SSM Health’s Mid-Missouri region.

Mr. Hayes succeeds Mike Baumgartner, who has been serving in a dual role as regional president for SSM’s Mid-Missouri and Southern Illinois regions.

“With this transition, (Mr. Hayes) will be able to provide his undivided attention on supporting each of you and our health ministry in Jefferson City as we look toward the future,” Mr. Smoot stated.

Mr. Hayes brings extensive experience, including the past four years as healthcare executive in residence for Innosphere Ventures in Fort Collins, Colorado.

“He also has 12 years of experience as a health system President and CEO with University of Colorado Health, and 22 years in leadership with Saint Luke’s Health System in Kansas City,” Mr. Smoot noted.

SSM Health has also restructured its clinical leadership in the Mid-Missouri re-



**LEFT:** SSM St. Mary’s Hospital-Jefferson City sets atop a hill overlooking Highway 179. **RIGHT:** An image in an art glass window in the hospital chapel represents one of the many sisters who founded the hospital and treated patients there for many decades.

gion, combining the roles of chief medical officer and medical group president.

Dr. Lenora Adams will fill this role on an interim basis while a search is conducted.

### From the beginning

Members of the religious congregation formerly known as the Sisters of St. Mary founded St. Mary’s Hospital in Jefferson City in 1904.

The current SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital complex off of Highway 179 on Mission Drive was completed in October 2014.

SSM Health in August 2018 entered formal discussions about possibly transferring ownership of the hospital to another healthcare provider.

SSM stated at that time that its goal was to make provisions for “the long-term sustainability of high-quality care” in the community.

Exclusive discussions with Quorum Health began in November 2020.

Bishop McKnight stated in 2018 that regardless of any change of ownership for the

hospital, the Catholic Church would remain true to its commitment to provide quality healthcare.

He emphasized that as one of the corporal works of mercy, caring for the sick — including their spiritual care — is a core element of the Church’s Catholic mission.

### “Faithful service”

Mr. Smoot, in his Oct. 12 letter, thanked all of the hospital’s employees for their extraordinary work over the past 18 months.

“You have courageously served the needs of this com-



munity during the COVID-19 pandemic, while also dealing with the added complexity and uncertainty of our planned transition of ownership in the region,” he said.

He noted that this has been a long and difficult process, “and your faithful service to our mission and our patients with compassion and dedica-

tion has been remarkable.”

He called to mind the hospital’s founding sisters, who often faced setbacks and uncertainty, and did so with courage and compassion.

“In each of you, I see our Sisters’ spirit of service to Christ’s healing ministry and encourage you to continue courageously,” he stated.

## Coast-to-Coast Rosary



Several generations of members of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in St. Anthony and surrounding parishes pray the Rosary under a bright blue sky the afternoon of Sunday, Oct. 10, in St. Anthony Cemetery. It was part of a national movement called the Coast to Coast Rosary, encouraging Catholics to pray the Rosary publicly during October, the Month of the Rosary.

— Photo by Randy Holtmeyer, from the St. Anthony / St. Lawrence Catholic Churches Facebook page

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## PLANNING

From page 1

parish plans led to the creation of the diocesan pastoral plan, "A Steward's Journey: Our Call to Greater Communion," which Bishop McKnight presented in February 2021.

The diocesan pastoral plan is included in this issue of *The Catholic Missourian* and can be found on the diocesan website ([diojeffcity.org](http://diojeffcity.org)) by clicking on the menu tab labeled "Diocesan Plan."

The parishes are now using a review instrument provided by the diocese to gauge their progress and necessary adjustments as the second year begins.

It's part of a never-ending cycle.

"Parish pastoral planning should always be before us," LeAnn Korsmeyer, diocesan director of parish and charitable services, stated.

"We should always be observing and evaluating and moving forward," she said. "People change, times change, needs change. If we are doing it in a spirit of cooperation with the Holy Spirit and of truly building up God's Church, we should never see this as having an end date."

The Parish Plan Review Instrument provided by the diocese guides parishioners through the diocesan priorities.

Parishioners are being asked to take an objective look at things such as how welcoming their parish facilities are; the quality of their parish's Sunday worship; unnecessary obstacles for people seeking ministries or access to the sacraments; and the effectiveness of their parish communications in providing transparency and accountability for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Discussion topics also include the effectiveness of each parish's disaster response team, and the quality of the parish's working relationship with Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO).

"These are all open-ended questions," noted Helen Osman, diocesan director of communications. "This is not intended to be a pass-fail kind of review."

Rather, they are a way to help each parish refocus on

carrying-out its Gospel mission more effectively.

"What we want is for the Church to thrive!" Bishop McKnight stated.

### Quick timetable

All review materials are available in English and Spanish.

Bishop McKnight instructed pastors to meet with the chairperson of each parish pastoral council to determine the people who should answer the questions in each section of the review instrument.

Some parishes might choose to hold a town hall meeting to gather further information.

"There are multiple ways of getting this done, depending on a parish's situation, their context, their size, and what their needs are," said Bishop McKnight.

The goal is to bring as many new voices into the discussion as possible on a tight deadline.

"That's the creative side of the Church, the excitement of bringing in new minds, younger people, their ideas," said Mrs. Korsmeyer.

Pastors have been instructed to discuss the answers to the questions with their parish councils and then submit their final reports to the diocese by Nov. 15.

Pastors will then present the findings to parishioners the weekend of Dec. 1.

The Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) and the deans and lay representatives of each of the five deaneries (regions) of the diocese will meet on Dec. 4 to discuss the reports from the parishes and suggest possible changes to the diocesan pastoral plan going into its second year.

This information will help Bishop McKnight allocate diocesan resources toward helping parishes carry-out their pastoral plans.

"We really want to hear from the parishes how the Chancery can provide more effective assistance," Mrs. Osman noted.

Mrs. Korsmeyer noted that while the sacramental life of the parish must always be its central emphasis, a cornucopia of activities needs to flow

from that.

"How are we bringing Christ to one another between Sundays, so when we come to Mass, we offer up what we did that week for God and His people?" she asked.

She emphasized that parishes should always be searching for ways to improve.

"We need to make a habit of looking at all of our ministries and seeing whether they're still producing good fruit, or if we need to try doing things a different way," she said.

### Never too late

It's not too late for parishes to get started with the pastoral planning process if they haven't already done so.

Mrs. Korsmeyer noted that 79 of the 104 parishes and missions in the diocese have submitted pastoral plans, and that an additional 14 parishes within the past month have begun the process of discerning their pastoral plan.

Some have expressed interest in discerning their pastoral plan over Advent this year, us-

ing the four-part small-group discussion guide the diocese provided for parishes last December.

"We're happy to make that available to any parish that needs it," said Mrs. Korsmeyer.

She emphasized the importance of bringing new people into the core of parish doers and decision-makers.

"We need for people to be more active, speak up, use your voice, use your time, use your talent, and help us make things better," she said.

## Bishop Barron: If religion becomes an afterthought, 'our society loses its soul'

Catholic News Service

New Orleans

With tensions rising over the proper role of religion in society, the broader culture appears to be compartmentalizing religious faith and moral thinking into something akin to "a hobby," said Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron Oct. 4.

He made the comments in his homily at St. Louis Cathedral at the Red Mass of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, which drew judges, lawyers and politicians.

"Today, it seems to me the far greater threat is coming from the side of an ideological secularism that would like to shuffle religion off the playing field altogether or, at the very least, to confine it to the realm of privacy so that it would function as a kind of hobby," said Bishop Barron, founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

The annual Red Mass was attended by Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards, members of the Louisiana Supreme Court, other members of

the judiciary and public officials.

If religious principles were relegated to an afterthought, Bishop Barron said, "then our society loses its soul, our laws lose their rootedness in the moral and spiritual law and our democracy loses its cohesiveness. I would say that resistance to this sort of secularizing attack on religion should be of paramount importance for Catholics within the legal and political establishment."

Bishop Barron traced the relationship between religion and the law by drawing on the Book of Genesis, which states that God created all finite things, "identifying them as creatures of the one God," and not as gods in themselves, as is seen in other ancient religions.

"Identifying them as creatures of the one God, the author of Genesis is knocking them off a pedestal," he said. "But, at the same time and in the same measure, he's establishing that they have their own integrity. The secular space is opened up by God in the very act of creation."

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

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, we entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross, you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

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

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

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

He who taught us to "love one another, as I have loved you"

took our sufferings upon Himself and bore our sorrows

to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

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

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

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



By Father Don Antweiler

### ACROSS

1. Missouri must be the only State in the Union with an official State Wonder Dog(!). In the 1930s in Marshall, Mo. A Llewellen Setter named Jim was astounding the town and press with an uncanny \_\_\_\_ to understand and identify and predict.
7. Offense against the 8th commandment.
9. "A \_\_\_\_ set on a mountain cannot be hidden..." (Matthew 5:14).
10. The missing ingredient in unleavened bread.
14. Abbr. for Citizens Band, a range of radio frequencies often used by truckers.
15. "What eye has not seen, and \_\_\_\_ has not heard..." (1 Corinthians 2:9).
17. A brand of jeans.
18. First word syllable before pool, jack, or toon; or simply, auto.
19. "Now a man was \_\_\_\_, Lazarus from Bethany..." (John 11:1).
21. Dir. from Warsaw to Monroe City.
22. Parent/school org.
23. Jim apparently could foretell the future. He was shown a list of Kentucky \_\_\_\_ entries, and he picked the winner, seven years in a row. In 1936,
25. Expression of pleasure or sympathy.
26. The skeptical researchers were startled with the different language commands understood & obeyed. The Wash. Univ. psychiatrists basically shrugged and said there was no evidence that dogs could not read \_\_\_\_\_. The MU researchers concluded that Jim possessed an occult (hidden) power that might not happen again to a dog in many generations.
29. The Mizzou researchers then took Jim to the Mizzou Quadrangle to continue testing before a crowd unknown to the owner & asked Jim to point out a certain professor: He did. If it was a \_\_\_\_ it was not done with "plants" in the crowd.
31. Missouri State Univ. (\_\_\_\_) in Springfield, Mo., is (with 23,500 students) the second largest univ. in our State.
32. "Drugs may know how to \_\_\_\_ a brain, but the past never forgets to resurface," —Kris Kidd.
34. They are woven by spiders.
35. "There is always some kid who may be seeing me for the first time. I owe him my \_\_\_\_," —Joe DiMaggio.
37. Mt. Rushmore President (abbr.).
38. Grocery store chain.
39. Letters for Catholic Univ.

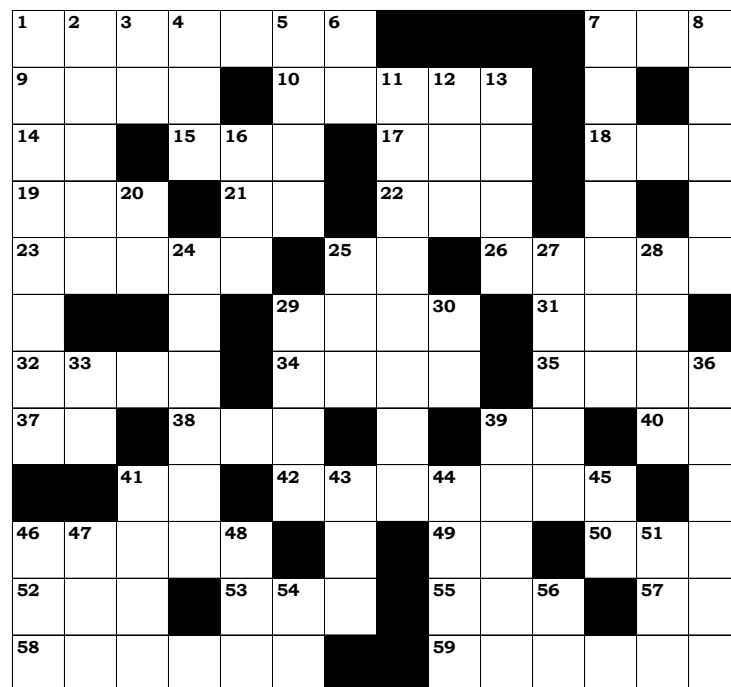
in the presence of the Mo. press, Jim was presented with pieces of paper with the names of the 1936 baseball playoff teams. He put his paw on "Yankees." They won.

in Washington, D.C., the only institution of higher ed. founded by the U.S. Bishops.

40. Heavens \_\_\_\_ Betsy!
41. Tea in Toledo (Spain).
42. First gospel.
46. Appearing before a curious Mo. State Assembly, Jim again identified people & things as commanded, even responding to short-hand and \_\_\_\_ Code.
49. Not a she.
50. Fuel additive.
52. Aristotle Onassis to his friends.
53. Animal doc.
55. This country (abbr.) at the Tokyo Olympics won one third of the 339 medals awarded across 33 sports: 39 gold, 41 silver, 33 bronze.
57. Prefix for view or turn.
58. Mark Twain's birth name was \_\_\_\_ Langhorne Clemens.
59. Jim died in 1937 at 12 yrs. old. There stands a bronze \_\_\_\_ in a beautiful memorial garden & museum dedicated to Jim the Wonder Dog on the square in Marshall, Mo.

### DOWN

1. By \_\_\_\_ Jim's owner, while hunting, discovered that Jim seemed to understand which tree the owner was referring to just by saying the name of the tree. Back in town, Jim showed more than that. "What made Henry Ford rich?" Jim walked over and looked at a model T. "What would I do if I had a stomach ache?" Jim stood next to the town physician.
2. In the crowd in town someone shouted a question in French. The owner only knew English but Jim trotted through the crowd to the Methodist minister. The question was translated: "Is there a \_\_\_\_ in the crowd?" The minister produced a pocketbook New Testament.
3. Dag nab \_\_\_\_!
4. A type of soap.
5. Large pagan city in the time of Jesus. "...it will be more tolerable for \_\_\_\_ and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you," (Matthew 11:22).
6. "I have read in Plato & Cicero sayings that are wise and very beautiful; but I have never read in either of them: 'Come unto me all \_\_\_\_ that labor and are heavy laden,'" —St. Augustine.
7. On the Mizzou Quad, language professors tested Jim. Jim's owner was carefully watched to ensure he was not sending secret signals, even with his eyes. Jim was asked in Italian to show an elm tree; in French, a certain \_\_\_\_ plate number; in German, a girl in a blue dress; in Spanish, a man with a black mustache. Jim did so in every case.
8. Deserves.
11. Jim's curious owner asked some Mizzou students studying Greek to present before Jim a written request in Greek. Jim didn't move. The owner, embarrassed, apologized. The students confessed there was no request. It was simply the Greek \_\_\_\_.
12. Get ready, get \_\_\_\_, GO!
13. Jim's owner sought the respected researcher and chair of the Veterinary Dept. at Mizzou, a Dr. Durant. They assembled a \_\_\_\_, including psychiatrists from Washington Univ. in St. Louis. They discovered nothing physically unusual.
16. This word can be attached to body, where, time.
20. Letters on the periodic table for the element lawrencium.
24. Expectant mothers asked Jim, now nicknamed The Wonder Dog, to foretell the gender of their \_\_\_\_.
25. King topper.
27. Inspire or fill with a feeling (e.g., what a play [or homily?] might do).
28. "\_\_\_\_ in the Wind;" song by the rock group Kansas, released in 1977.
29. Matthew Webb, a 27-yr.-old merchant marine captain, \_\_\_\_ the 21-mile English Channel in 1875, the first to successfully do so.
30. Abbr. that could indicate a Miss or a Mrs.
33. Abraham's ancestral home (Genesis 15:7).
36. Hairpiece.
39. "Fifteen Men on a Dead Man's \_\_\_\_," —old pirate song.
41. He looked slim and \_\_\_\_ after his 60-day diet.
43. Garfunkel or Linkletter.
44. Therefore.
45. Internet country code for (Western) Samoa.
46. Live \_\_\_\_! —Taco Bell slogan.
47. \_\_\_\_ *pro nobis*.
48. First lady.
51. Author Truman Capote to his friends.
54. The population of \_\_\_\_ Paso, Tx. is 678, 815; it is half the size of its bordering Mexican sister city of Juarez at 1,501,551.
56. Letters for Alcoholics Anonymous.



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# Pope blesses nun held captive nearly five years by insurgents in Mali

Catholic News Service

The day after authorities announced her release from kid-

nappers in Mali, Colombian Sister Gloria Cecilia Narváez Argoti was at the Vatican for


a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica and was greeted by Pope Francis. The pope greeted Sister

Narváez before and blessed her after the Mass Oct. 10, which formally opened the process

leading up to the assembly of the Synod of Bishops in 2023.

Sister Narváez, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate, had been taken by a group of armed men who broke into the parish in Karan-gasso village near the Burkina Faso border in February 2017.

According to Sister Carmen Isabel Valencia, Sister Narváez offered herself in place of two younger nuns the kidnapers were preparing to take, the French news agency Agence France-Presse reported Oct. 9.



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Fill out the ONLINE FORM at [diojeffcity.org/event-listing](https://diojeffcity.org/event-listing).

## Fundraisers & Social Events

Oct. 16

**Jefferson City**, Catholic Charities Open House, 1-4 pm, 1015 Edmonds Street

Oct. 17

**St. Anthony**, St. Anthony of Padua Parish Fall Supper, 11:30 am-4 pm; **St. Martins**, St. Martin School Goblin 5K, 2-3:30 pm, for info or to register email [dawn@sentineladmin.com](mailto:dawn@sentineladmin.com); **Westphalia**, St. Joseph Parish Fall Festival, 11 am-6 pm

Oct. 23

**Jefferson City**, K of C Council #14906 BBQ, McCarty Plaza (next to Save-A-Lot); **Rolla**, St. Patrick Home & School "Gail's Rock Run," 8 am-9:30 am, for info or to register visit <https://gailsrockrun.itsyourrace.com/>

Oct. 24

**Rich Fountain**, Sacred Heart Parish Fall Festival, 11 am-6 pm; **St. Elizabeth**, K of C Fall Supper, 11 am-2:30 pm

Oct. 29

**Hannibal**, Holy Family Parish Council of Catholic Women annual Soup Supper, 11 am-6 pm, St. Michael's Hall

Oct. 30

**Boonville**, K of C Halloween Party dinner & games, 5:30-11 pm, for info call 660-621-4200; **Taos**, Halloween Trivia Night

to benefit Rusty Philbert, 6-10 pm, K of C Hall, for info call 573-301-7121

Oct. 31

**Boonville**, K of C 5th Sunday breakfast, 8 am-noon; **Monroe City**, Holy Rosary Parish Fall Dinner, 10:30 am-1 pm, K of C Hall

Nov. 4

**Sedalia**, MJM7 Concert with the Mette Family Ministries, 6-8 pm, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, for info email [dianne.svdpparish@gmail.com](mailto:dianne.svdpparish@gmail.com)

Nov. 5

**Holts Summit**, K of C Fall fried chicken dinner, 4-7 pm, St. Andrew Parish, Veit Hall; **Linn**, K of C drive-thru chicken dinner, 4:30-7:30 pm, St. George Parish

Nov. 7

**Boonville**, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish turkey dinner, 11 am-3 pm; **Camdenton**, St. Anthony Parish turkey dinner, 11 am-3 pm; **St. James**, Immaculate Conception Parish Fall Dinner, 11 am-5 pm; **Taos**, St. Francis Xavier Parish Fall Supper, 11:30 am-5 pm; **Vienna**, K of C breakfast, 7:30-11 am

Nov. 12

**Mexico**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm

Nov. 14

**Belle**, St. Alexander Parish Fall Dinner, 11 am-4 pm; **Glasgow**, St. Mary Parish Fall Dinner, 11 am-2:30 pm

## Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

6-7 Noviembre

**Sedalia**, Retiro de Crecimiento, Escuela del Sagrado Corazón, favor de inscribirse llamado a José Hernandez al 660-281-4078 o envíe un correo electrónico [tyfn@hotmail.com](mailto:tyfn@hotmail.com)

13-14 Noviembre

**Sedalia**, Retiro de Crecimiento, Escuela del Sagrado Corazón, favor de inscribirse llamado a Marcelino Chavez al 660-631-3748

## Meetings & Conferences

Oct. 16

**VIRTUAL**, Couple to Couple League natural family planning introductory session, 8-9 am, to RSVP email [MidMoNFP@gmail.com](mailto:MidMoNFP@gmail.com)

Oct. 20 & 27

**Jefferson City**, "A Matter of Balance," free class for aging adults on fall prevention, 10 am-noon, MU Extension Office, for info contact Cristal Backer at 573-635-7719 or visit [cccno.diojeffcity.org](https://cccno.diojeffcity.org)

Oct. 21

**VIRTUAL**, "Reflections on Expectations Since My Weekend," Cursillo School of Leaders meeting, 7-8 pm, for info or to register, visit [diojeffcity.org/cursillo](https://diojeffcity.org/cursillo)

Nov. 8

**VIRTUAL**, Couple to Couple League natural family planning introductory session, 8-9 pm, to RSVP email [MidMoNFP@gmail.com](mailto:MidMoNFP@gmail.com)

Nov. 10

**VIRTUAL**, Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri refugee resettlement program orientation, 5:30-6:30 pm, for info or to register, contact Diana Twombly at 573-442-7568 or [dtwombly@cccno.org](mailto:dtwombly@cccno.org)

Nov. 12-13

**Westphalia**, Family-friendly Marian Conference, with speakers, Mass, Adoration, Confession fellowship & food, Fri 5-9 pm, Sat 6:30 am-4:30 pm, for info or to register visit [stjosephwestphalia.org](https://stjosephwestphalia.org)

## Liturgical

Oct. 16

**Boonville**, Public Square Rosary Rally, noon-1:30 pm, corner of Main & Morgan streets; **Laurie**, Eucharistic procession and adoration, 10 am, Laurie City Park; **Linn**, 104th anniversary of America Needs Fatima, noon-1 pm, St. George Church lawn; **Westphalia**, Rosary Rally, noon-1 pm, K of C parking lot

Oct. 24

**Brush Creek**, Fall Mass, 1 pm, St. Peter Church, 14690 Gentry Road in Ralls County

## Retreats & Spiritual Renewal

Oct. 16

**Laurie**, Men's Fall Retreat, 9 am-5:30 pm, Old St. Patrick Church, for info email [fboley@protonmail.com](mailto:fboley@protonmail.com) or 573-692-4126

Oct. 24-26

**Columbia**, "The Power of Mercy & Gratitude" parish mission with presenter Lorraine Hess, 6:30 pm each evening, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, for info call 573-455-7915 or visit [ourladyoflourdes.org](https://ourladyoflourdes.org)

Nov. 4

**Sedalia**, MJM7 Concert/catechesis & prayer with the Mette Family Ministries, 6-8 pm, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, for info email [dianne.svdpparish@gmail.com](mailto:dianne.svdpparish@gmail.com)

Nov. 4-7

**Moberly**, Women's Cursillo Weekend #77, St. Pius X Parish, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/cursillo](https://diojeffcity.org/cursillo)

Nov. 6-7

**Jefferson City**, Marriage Encounter Weekend, Best Western Plus Capital Inn, for info or to register visit [jeffcityme.com](https://jeffcityme.com)

Nov. 7-9

**Sedalia**, "Eucharistic Adoration" parish mission with Fr. Louis Guardiola of the Fathers of Mercy, 6:30-8 pm each evening, for info contact [frdave.svdpparish@gmail.com](mailto:frdave.svdpparish@gmail.com)

## Health & Wellness

Oct. 24

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

Oct. 27

**Jefferson City**, Adult/child/infant Heartsaver CPR class, 5:30-8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, to register call 573-690-8077

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## SILECCHIA

From page 9

of legislation that would allow ending the lives of the ill would steal still more from the family portrait.

In between life's very beginning and very end, many others are also cast from the family portrait because they are victims of a throwaway culture that can discard so many who bear the scars of lives that are hard in a world that can be cruel.

Yet, it need not be this way.

Respect Life Month is an opportunity to acknowledge what those artists from yesteryear knew: our family portrait is incomplete if it does not include all.

It is an opportunity to mourn, humbly and honestly, for all those who are missing from the family portrait. It is a chance to ask ourselves, in the quiet of our own hearts, whether we played a role in making this so by what we have done and

failed to do. It is a month to resolve, in every way that we can, to end all those things that keep others out of our family portrait, especially during the sacred vulnerability at life's very beginning and very end.

Like those portrait artists of so long ago, it is also a time to recommit to doing all we can to make our family portrait "complete." We are far poorer as a human family because of all those who are missing. In their honor and in their memory we can make a fuller, holier family portrait in this special, sobering month of 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](mailto:silecchia@cua.edu).*

### Anniversaries

**Argyle, St. Aloysius**  
 Dave & Donna Schwartz, 47 years  
 Mark & Donna Schmitz, 36 years  
 Travis & Chrissie Reichel, 19 years

**Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels**  
 Donnie & Peggy Rowden, 47 years  
 Matthew & Janice Libbert, 16 years

**Brookfield, Immaculate Conception**  
 Anthony & Suzy Abeln, 48 years  
 Kenny & Teresa Doss, 44 years  
 Thomas & Chryl Devoy, 35 years  
 Mike & Tammy Jamison, 25 years  
 Billy & Tammy Yaeger, 25 years  
 Tony & Shanna Matheny, 22 years  
 Eric & Doris Montegna, 18 years  
 Jamon & Katie Andersen, 17 years  
 Dustin & Lindsay Neal, 13 years

**Camdenton, St. Anthony**  
 Bob & Estelle Faust, 64 years  
 Pat & Anita Kowal, 50 years  
 Tim & Kathy Huber, 48 years  
 Dennis & Shari Rhoades, 39 years  
 Daryl & Katy Cunningham, 29 years  
 Oscar & Amelia Cortez, 24 years  
 Bryan & Amy Lazar, 16 years  
 Alex & Rachel Christensen, 14 years  
 Brendan & Megan West, 12 years

**Canton, St. Joseph**  
 Bob & Nancy Cary, 63 years

**Fayette, St. Joseph**  
 Tiano & Angie Mateu, 14 years

**Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph**  
 David & Linda Bolin, 40 years

**Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception**  
 Jerome & Marilyn Forck, 60 years

**Jefferson City, St. Peter**  
 Robert & Nancy Keating, 55 years

**Jonesburg, St. Patrick**  
 Alan & Jocelyn Schluss, 18 years

**Koeltztown, St. Boniface**  
 Ronnie & Alma Borgmeyer, 51 years  
 Henry & Cyndi Hoeller, 43 years  
 Richard & Janie Buschjost, 38 years  
 Vic & Margie Brandt, 35 years  
 John & Jane Hoeller, 29 years  
 Ralph & Sue Wieberg, 27 years  
 Mark & LeAnn Meyer, 24 years  
 Anton & Krista Welschmeyer, 23 years

**Laurie, St. Patrick**  
 Roger & Carol Gibson, 63 years

**Martinsburg, St. Joseph**  
 Dale & Peggy Wilburn, 50 years

**Milan, St. Mary**  
 Dan & Carla Vanlingen, 42 years  
 Jim & Sherri Brinkley, 41 years  
 Getsemani & Poncian Gabutan, 16 years  
 José & María Garcia, 13 years

**Palmyra, St. Joseph**  
 Robert & Donna Rupp, 68 years  
 Robert & Doris Wolfmeyer, 64 years  
 Thomas & Brenda Dodd, 59 years  
 Michael & Mary Creger, 52 years  
 Michael & Liza Summers, 49 years  
 Jeff & Kathy Buckman, 47 years  
 Bernard & Debra Conley, 42 years  
 Jerry & Judy Trower, 42 years  
 Alan & Tammy Browning, 36 years  
 James & Kristina Lowe, 25 years  
 Terry & Lisa Lake, 22 years  
 Jared & Amber Summers, 22 years  
 David & Alisha Hudson, 16 years  
 Justin & Janet Krekemeyer, 14 years  
 Derek & Karen O'Brien, 12 years  
 Andy & Marin DeBauch, 10 years  
 Trent & Katie Schroeder, 10 years

**St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle**  
 Paul & Lillian Lackman, 54 years

**Taos, St. Francis Xavier**  
 Darrell & Vicki Wilbers, 30 years

**Unionville, St. Mary**  
 Clark & Melba Hackney, 46 years  
 Ed & Deb Penca, 30 years  
 Mike & Kellie Purdy, 27 years

**Vienna, Visitation**  
 Wayne & Alice Helton, 64 years  
 Arnold & Ann Bax, 60 years  
 Hank & Mary Wansing, 57 years  
 Larry & Mary Kampeter, 50 years  
 John & Paula Sansoucie, 46 years  
 Leonard & Cindy Ewers, 40 years  
 Stan & Laura Schiremeier, 40 years  
 Allan & Tammy Pollreisz, 32 years  
 Craig & Stacie Hollis, 28 years  
 Chris & Brenda John, 26 years  
 Louis & LeAnn Kloepfel, 22 years  
 Todd & Courtney Jeremy, 14 years

**Westphalia, St. Joseph**  
 Harry & Rita Buersmeyer, 69 years  
 Elmer & Rita Bax, 57 years  
 Virgil & Darlene Berhorst, 44 years  
 August & Janice Boessen, 44 years  
 Kenny & Theresa Rehagen, 44 years  
 Vernon & Gloria Schmitz, 44 years  
 Sam & Jane Massman, 39 years  
 Corey & Jenny Stephan, 17 years  
 Mike & Gina Heckman, 15 years  
 Kelly & Wes Kampeter, 15 years  
 Caleb & Stephanie Dake, 14 years

**Wien, St. Mary of the Angels**  
 J.D. & Debbie Bertsch, 48 years  
 George & Tonyia Weimer, 31 years  
 Brad & Brenda Niemeier, 28 years  
 Steven & Rebecca Rodgers, 19 years  
 Chad & Krisha Dorrell, 18 years  
 Nick & Charity Banko, 13 years

### Birthdays

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception — **Marjorie Ellison**, her 95th on Oct. 5

Fayette, St. Joseph — **Elsie Monnig**, her 101st on Sept. 24

Mokane, St. Jude Thaddeus — **Frieda Krenzel**, her 95th on Oct. 25

### Deaths

**Lottie M. Clark**, 100 — grandmother of Father Paul Clark, associate pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish & a chaplain at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, both in Columbia — on Sept. 29. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Oct. 1 in St. Joseph Church in Edina, with Fr. Clark presiding.

**Alvera C. Haxel**, 75 — sister of Sister Mary Ruth Wand SSND of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia — on Sept. 24 in Quincy, Illinois. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Sept. 30 in St. Anthony of Padua Church in Quincy, Illinois.

Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels — **Luella E. Fick**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Mary Henzel**

Freeburg, Holy Family — **Cecilia J. Becker Schmitz**

Fulton, St. Peter — **Margaret Coleman, Daniel P. "Pat" Mudd**

Hannibal, Holy Family — **Clarence Steinman**

Hermann, St. George — **Calvin Scheidegger**

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Glen King**

Laurie, St. Patrick — **Amy Luebbering**

Linn, St. George — **Henry H. Boeckman, Martin H. Brandt**

Marceline, St. Bonaventure — **Katherine Jobson, Leroy Stallo**

Marshall, St. Peter — **Robert J. Barr, Jerry Hitt**

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Kenneth Lepper**

Mexico, St. Brendan — **Pat Siron**

Monroe City, Holy Rosary — **Rick Geist**

Rolla, St. Patrick — **Patricia Baker**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Ross D. Smith**

Tipton, St. Andrew — **Annelean Romig**

Vienna, Visitation — **Joyce Laubert**

### Marriages

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Lauren Keeran & Tyler Wieberg**

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Caitlyn Spoonemore & Dallas LaRoe**

Chamois, Most Pure Heart of Mary — **Kara Kley & Jacob Keilholz**

Glasgow, St. Mary — **Shelby Asbury & Austin Stockhorst**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Morgan Hissong & Jeff Lehmen, Alison Whelan & Andrew Cockerham**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Courtney Lock & George Brand, Olivia Johanns & Jordan Malzner**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Megan Nappier & Evan Block; Hanna Berendzen & Kory Franks; Emily Park & Justin Solum**

Loose Creek, Immaculate Conception — **Kristen Boeckman & Ross Dickneite**

St. Elizabeth, St. Lawrence — **Regan Wilde & Trevor Garriott**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Adryane Meller & Nicholas Schnase**

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Michelle Cleeton & Riley Young**

Tipton, St. Andrew — **Madison Knipp & Cameron Backes**

Vienna, Visitation — **Shelby Schanzmeyer & David Huffman**

Wellsville, Church of the Resurrection — **Tammy Nation & Braden Blaue**

### Baptisms

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Theodore Geiger, Malia Jones, McKenna Jones, Savanna Partise**

Indian Creek, St. Stephen — **Darcy Mae Watson**, daughter of Johnathan & Lauren Watson

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Gabrielle Lorraine Hataway**, daughter of Clifford & Michelle Hataway; **Veda Austin Plassmeyer**, daughter of Craig & Whitney Plassmeyer

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Bella Louise Corina Arce, Iris Luci-Jo Walker**

Linn, St. George — **Daphne Michelle Haslag**, daughter of Garret & Brittany Haslag; **Nate William Peters**, son of Nathan & Sarah Peters

Marshall, St. Peter — **Elizabeth Jasmine Garcia Guzman**

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Brooks Wayne and Beau Alan Adrian**, children of Damon & Casey Adrian

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart — **Henley Lyn Libbert**, daughter of Clayton & Caley Libbert

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Hank Andrew Forck, Harper Sue Schmitz**

### Honors

**Dan Campbell**, head coach of the Helias Catholic High School varsity girls' golf coach, as the Central Missouri Athletic Conference Girls Golf Coach of the Year. He has been coaching the team since 2019.

### Elections

Marshall, St. Peter — **Christy Butner, Victoria Harriman**, to the School Advisory Board

## Crossword puzzle answers

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

## Come on home



A delegation from Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia marches ahead of the school band during the University of Missouri's Homecoming Parade through the Columbia District Oct. 9.  
— Photo by Theresa Schweitzer Krebs

## A banner day



Mrs. Werdehausen's second-graders at Our Lady of the Snows School in Mary's Home display the new Missouri State Flag they received from Missouri state Rep. Bruce Sassmann, after writing to him as part of a class project. This flag was flying over the Capitol on the 200th anniversary of Missouri statehood.  
— Photo from the Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School Facebook page



Students from Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia celebrate Homecoming Week with a stop at Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School the morning of Oct. 6 to invite students to attend their Homecoming festivities that Friday night.  
— Photo from the Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Facebook page

## Prayers around the pole



Members of the student council at Ss. Peter & Paul School in Boonville lead the Rosary during a prayer service they organized around the school flagpole as part of See You at the Pole 2021 on Sept. 22. Those attending included students in grades 4 through 8, as well as some of the teachers and some parents.  
— Photo from the SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church - Boonville, MO Facebook page

## Patriots on parade in Vienna



Students of Visitation Inter-parish School in Vienna aboard their school float brave the rain and pass out treats during this year's Maries County Fair Parade. Parents and students built the float with a patriotic theme, with help from the Home & School Association.



# Jesus describes how to inherit eternal life

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic News Service

One day, as Jesus was ready to set out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt down.

“Good teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone,” Jesus replied.

He looked at the man. “You know the commandments,” Jesus continued. “You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.”

“Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth,” the man said.

Jesus looked at the man with love.



“You are lacking in one thing,” Jesus told him. “Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

The man’s face fell when he heard Jesus’ reply. He walked away sadly because he had many possessions.

Jesus watched the man walk away.

“How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” He exclaimed as he turned toward the apostles.

The apostles were amazed by His words.

“Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!” Jesus repeated. “It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

“Then who can be saved?” the apostles said to each other in surprise.

Jesus looked at them. “For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God,” He told His friends.

Then Peter spoke. “We have given up everything and followed You,” he told Jesus.

Jesus turned toward Peter.

“Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for My sake and for the sake of the Gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come,” Jesus said.

“But,” He continued, “many that are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

**Read more about it...  
Mark 10**

1. What did the rich man want to know?
2. Why did the rich man walk away sadly?

## Bible Accent

In Luke 16, Jesus told a parable to explain that people cannot serve both God and mammon, or material wealth.

In verses 19-31, Jesus tells of a rich man who wore fine clothes and ate the best foods.

Lying at his door was Lazarus, a poor man who was covered in sores. Lazarus would have gladly eaten scraps that fell from the rich man’s table, but the rich man ignored him.

One day, both men died.

Angels took Lazarus to the bosom of Abraham, while the

rich man went to the netherworld, a place of torment.

Far off in the distance, the rich man could see Lazarus with Abraham.

“Father Abraham, have pity on me,” the rich man cried. “Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.”

Abraham explained that there was a great chasm between Lazarus and the rich man that no one could cross. Abraham also said that the rich

man received what was good in his lifetime while Lazarus received what was bad.

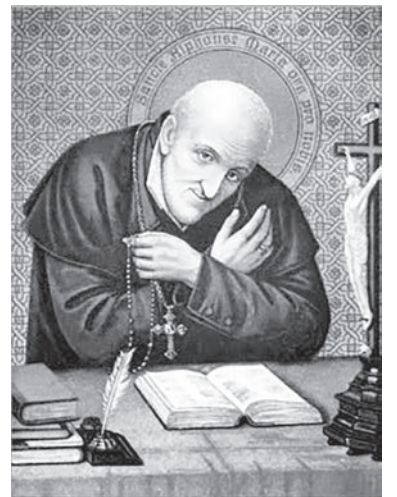
“But now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented,” Abraham said.

### Essay

Describe how you are storing up treasures in heaven.

## Saint Spotlight

St. Alphonsus Rodriguez was born in 1533 to a wealthy wool merchant in Spain. He left school and took over the family business at age 23 after his father died. He married and had children, but within a few short years, his wife, daughter, son and mother all had died. His sisters introduced him to daily meditation, and he attempted to enter the Jesuits. At first, he was rejected for being too old and uneducated, but in 1571, he was accepted as a lay brother. Alphonsus, who mentored St. Peter Claver and others, served as doorkeeper at the Jesuit college in Mallorca for 45 years. He died in 1617, and we remember him on Oct. 30.



## Puzzle



Using the hints provided, but a T next to the sentences about wealth that are true and an F next to the ones that are false.

1. \_\_\_ The love of money is the root of all evils. (1 Timothy 6:10)
2. \_\_\_ The rich rule over the poor. (Proverbs 22:7)
3. \_\_\_ Store up for yourselves treasures on earth. (Matthew 6:19)
4. \_\_\_ God gives people the power to get wealth. (Deuteronomy 8:18)



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

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## Who is this award-winning scientist and candidate for sainthood?

**Most famous geneticist, Jérôme Lejeune, becomes biggest pro-life advocate when discovery is used for evil**

Jérôme Lejeune, the world's most famous geneticist, also became one of the most devoted supporters of the pro-life cause when his colleagues ardently supported the extermination of the very patients he was trying to save.

*Jérôme Lejeune: A Man of Science and Conscience* (Ignatius Press), by Aude Dugast, takes readers on an incredible journey of this man's life, one featuring Nobel Peace Prize nominations, a close friendship with St. John Paul II, hundreds of prestigious accolades, and a will to serve patients whom society deemed worthless — those with Down syndrome.

Lejeune received international recognition when he discovered the extra chromosome that causes Down syndrome. But that was only the beginning of his extraordinary career in the scientific field. He became an expert on atomic

radiation, part of the team that researched the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin, and a medical expert who testified at significant court cases in the United States involving embryo adoption.

To write this definitive biography, Dugast, the postulator for the cause for canonization for Lejeune, spent 11 years consulting thousands of archives. She met at length with Lejeune's wife and relatives, families of his patients and his French and foreign collaborators.

*Jérôme Lejeune* delivers a page-turner of unbelievable events of this man's life, his relentless pursuit of truth through both faith and science, and courage to speak on behalf of the preborn child to his colleagues who shunned him for such action.





Lejeune was a man of deep faith and insatiable love for those with Down syndrome. He dedicated his life to giving their lives dignity and, ultimately, to find a cure, which he was never able to accomplish.

His work caught the attention of St. John Paul II, with whom he developed both a lifelong friendship and working relationship, eventually being appointed the head of the Pontifical Academy for Life by the pope.

The cause for beautification and canonization for Lejeune was initiated on June 28, 2007.

"Aude Dugast captures the spirit of Jérôme Lejeune, whose life embraced the paradoxes of the saints," said Jesuit Father Robert Spitzer, president of the Magis Center of Reason and Faith and author of *Healing the Culture*. "He was a man of the world within a man of faith — an example of the transformative love of Christ radiating from a consummate professional. This highly engaging story is filled with inspiration on how to live and 'stay the course' — a modern Man for All Seasons."

## Movie Ratings

	The Addams Family 2 (PG) Mass (PG-13)
Adults and Adolescents	
	Cinderella (PG) Cry Macho (PG-13) Dear Evan Hansen (PG-13) The Many Saints of Newark (R) Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (PG-13) Venom: Let There Be Carnage (PG-13)
Adults	
	Copshop (R) Queenpins (R)
Limited Adult Audience	
	Malignant (R)
Morally Offensive	

Ratings are supplied by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Film and Broadcasting Office. Visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) for current reviews.

## Fr. John Catoir publishes new book

At age 90, after over 60 years as a Catholic priest, 50 years as a syndicated columnist and almost 20 years in television as director and host of *Christopher CloseUp*, Father John Catoir has just published *The Best Articles of Fr. John T. Catoir JCS*, including 100 of his columns from the 1970s to 2020.

The 200 pages offer articles on every topic from "Innter Peace" to "Cell-Phone Mania," from "Prepare Your Heart for Holiness" and "There is No-

body Like You," to "Fear is the Enemy."

Longtime readers of *The Catholic Missourian* will remember his columns being offered regularly in these pages for decades.

Ordained in 1960 for the Diocese of Paterson, New Jersey, Fr. Catoir is an award-winning author of over 20 books.

He is past president of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada,

who in 1993 gave him their highest honor, the St. Francis De Sales Award for outstanding contributions to Catholic journalism.

In 1995, he founded St. Jude Media Ministry, to focus his efforts on a ministry of joy.

He is still active on Facebook and Twitter and maintains both a website as well as a YouTube channel of videos.

To learn more, visit:  
[johncatoir.com](http://johncatoir.com)

## Free ebook: Catholicism in the Time of Coronavirus

Last May, in the midst of the initial pandemic lockdowns, Word on Fire released a free eBook from Stephen Bullivant titled *Catholicism in the Time of Coronavirus*.

Dr. Bullivant offered an insightful and encouraging analysis of the coronavirus pandemic, not only shedding light on the Church's present moment and similar crises in the past but also looking toward the future.

That future has now arrived. As restrictions continue to be lifted, many Catholics are

wondering where to go from here.

Word on Fire is now offering a follow-up eBook, *Catholicism after Coronavirus: A Post-COVID Guide for Catholics and Parishes*, which is intended to help paint a picture of what that might look like.

Featuring a foreword by Dr. Bullivant, this new collection brings together a range of insights from a wide variety of voices — including laity, clergy and religious — in the Church.

Get this free eBook here:  
[wordonfire.org/covid](http://wordonfire.org/covid).

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## On air

**Mustard Seed**  
Sunday Scripture readings  
and reflections

Sundays, 10:06 am, KWIX-AM 1230, Moberly  
Sundays, 8 am, KRLL-AM 1420, California

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103.3 FM, Fulton  
K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

# Helias Catholic High School 2021 Homecoming Parade



— Photos by Jay Nies

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

## Daily Readings

**Sunday, Oct 17**  
 TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY  
 IN ORDINARY TIME  
 Is. 53:10-11  
 Ps. 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22  
 Heb. 4:14-16  
 Mk. 10:35-45 or 10:42-45

**Sunday, Oct 24**  
 THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN  
 ORDINARY TIME  
 Jer. 31:7-9  
 Ps. 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6  
 Heb. 5:1-6  
 Mk. 10:46-52

**Monday, Oct 18**  
 St. Luke, evangelist  
 2 Tm. 4:10-17b  
 Ps. 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18  
 Lk. 10:1-9

**Monday, Oct 25**  
 Rom. 8:12-17  
 Ps. 68:2, 4, 6-7ab, 20-21  
 Lk. 13:10-17

**Tuesday, Oct 19**  
 Ss. John de Brébeuf and Isaac  
 Jogues, priests, and compan-  
 ions, martyrs (USA)  
 Rom. 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21  
 Ps. 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17  
 Lk. 12:35-38

**Tuesday, Oct 26**  
 Rom. 8:18-25  
 Ps. 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6  
 Lk. 13:18-21

**Wednesday, Oct 20**  
 St. Paul of the Cross, priest (USA)  
 Rom. 6:12-18  
 Ps. 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8  
 Lk. 12:39-48

**Wednesday, Oct 27**  
 Rom. 8:26-30  
 Ps. 13:4-5, 6  
 Lk. 13:22-30

**Thursday, Oct 21**  
 Rom. 6:19-23  
 Ps. 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6  
 Lk. 12:49-53

**Thursday, Oct 28**  
 Ss. Simon and Jude, apostles  
 Eph. 2:19-22  
 Ps. 19:2-3, 4-5  
 Lk. 6:12-16

**Friday, Oct 22**  
 St. John Paul II, pope  
 Rom. 7:18-25a  
 Ps. 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94  
 Lk. 12:54-59

**Friday, Oct 29**  
 Rom. 9:1-5  
 Ps. 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20  
 Lk. 14:1-6

**Saturday, Oct 23**  
 St. John of Capistrano, priest  
 Rom. 8:1-11  
 Ps. 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6  
 Lk. 13:1-9

**Saturday, Oct 30**  
 Rom. 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29  
 Ps. 94:12-13a, 14-15, 17-18  
 Lk. 14:1, 7-11

**The Holy Father's prayer intentions for October:**

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.

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Have you already remembered your parish or school in your estate plans? Please let us know!

# Pope Francis clears the way for beatification of Pope John Paul I

By Carol Glatz,  
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis has signed a decree recognizing a miracle

attributed to the intercession of Pope John Paul I, clearing the way for his beatification.

The Italian pope served only 33 days as pontiff; he died in the papal apartments Sept. 28, 1978, at age 65, shocking the world and a Church that had just mourned the death of St. Paul VI.

The Vatican announced Pope Francis' decision along with a number of other sainthood decrees Oct. 13.

In the sainthood cause of Pope John Paul I, the approved miracle involved a young girl in Buenos Aires, Argentina, who developed a severe case of acute encephalitis and uncon-

trollable and life-threatening brain seizures, and eventually entered septic shock.

After doctors told family members her death was "imminent," the local priest encouraged the family, nurses and others to pray to the late pope for his intercession, according to the website of the Congregation for Saints' Causes. A panel of experts studying the cause determined there was no scientific explanation for her complete recovery in 2011 and that it could be attributed to the late pope's intercession.

The Vatican did not immediately announce a date for the beatification ceremony.

Although his was one of the

shortest papacies in history, Pope John Paul left a lasting impression on the Church that fondly remembers him as "the smiling pope."

Born Albino Luciani in the small Italian mountain town of Canale D'Agordo Oct. 17, 1912, the future pope and his two brothers and one sister lived in poverty and sometimes went to bed hungry.

During his time as patriarch of Venice, then-Cardinal Luciani was known for his dedication to the poor and the disabled.

His surprise election, after St. Paul VI's death, did not sway him from continuing his humble manner of living.

"Let us try to improve the Church by becoming better ourselves," he said Sept. 13, 1978.

## Eucharistic Adoration presentation in Hannibal

**DATE:** October 19  
**TIME:** 6:30 pm

Benedictine Father Etienne Huard, a monk of Conception Abbey in Conception, will give a presentation on Eucharistic Adoration at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 19, in Holy Family Church, 1111 Broadway in Hannibal.

Fr. Etienne is an instructor of Sacred Scripture and theology at Conception Seminary College.

He also works in human formation in the seminary and is Conception Abbey's vocation director.

He made his monastic profession 11 years ago and was ordained to the Holy Priesthood five years ago.

He attended St Vincent Seminary for Theology where he earned his M.Div and M.A. in systematic theology.

"Faced with the complexity and difficulty of life, we are not always sure where to turn or even what to ask," Fr. Etienne wrote. "Christ can be that place and that answer, but our experience of Christ cannot be empty or distant. Being present to Him in Adoration and at Mass provides the opportunity to confront the suffering of life with meaning and with purpose."

OCTOBER 28, 2021 • 6:30-8:30 PM  
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**11TH ANNUAL PREGNANCY HELP CENTER BANQUET**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Devin Henderson, Illusionist  
**EMCEE:** Carrie Tergin, Mayor

Register online by October 21 at [www.friendsofphc.org](http://www.friendsofphc.org) or call 573.644.6635

*Pregnancy Help Center*

## Holy Rosary Fall Dinner

Turkey Dinner with trimmings. Drive through, carry-out, and home delivery as needed. Call 573-735-4377 for delivery. Prize drawings. Everyone invited!

**Where:** Knights of Columbus Hall  
424 S Locust St, Monroe City

**When:** Sunday, October 31  
beginning at 10:30 am

**Cost:** Adults \$10  
Kids \$5



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