

**Anointed to bring
glad tidings to the poor**

In his Chrism Mass homily, Bishop McKnight speaks of unity in Christ through worship, teaching and acts of charity in His name.

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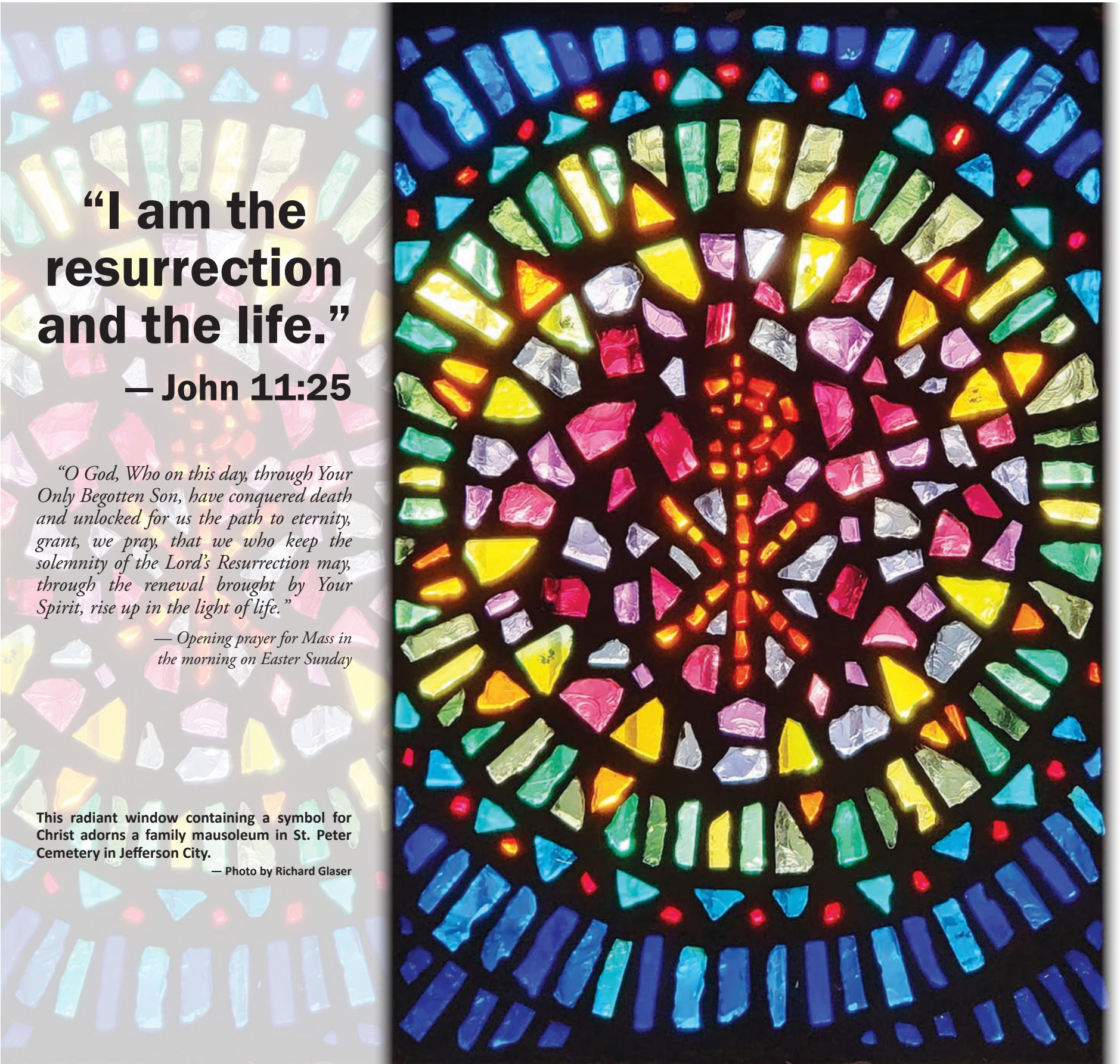
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April 15, 2022 • Vol. 65 No. 21

The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City



**“I am the
resurrection
and the life.”**
— John 11:25

“O God, Who on this day, through Your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord’s Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by Your Spirit, rise up in the light of life.”

— Opening prayer for Mass in the morning on Easter Sunday

This radiant window containing a symbol for Christ adorns a family mausoleum in St. Peter Cemetery in Jefferson City.

— Photo by Richard Glaser

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

NEW ADDRESS

NAME _____

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NEW PARISH _____

OLD PARISH _____

04/15/22

Fayette Sunday Mass time change

The Sunday Mass time in St. Joseph Church in Fayette is now 8 a.m.

Pray for deceased priests

Apr. 17 — **Fr. Blase J. Scheffer**, Annunciation, California (1969)
 Apr. 21 — **Fr. Raymond W. Rau**, St. Anthony, Rosati (1978)
 Apr. 22 — **Fr. William P. Kottenstette**, Chaplain, Kirksville Newman Center (2015)
 Apr. 25 — **Fr. Jerome F. Bestgen**, St. Anthony, Rosati (1986); **Fr. John J. Vandenberghe**, service outside the diocese (1986)
 Apr. 27 — **Fr. Richard C. Hunkins**, director of pilgrimages; Columbia Nursing Home Ministry (2000)
 Apr. 28 — **Fr. Richard C. Reichling**, Holy Guardian Angels, Brinktown (1970)

Director of Religious Education

Immaculate Conception Parish in Owensville, Mo. is looking for a Director of Religious Education for youth and adult programs. For information, please call 573-437-3086 or 573-832-1473.

WE'RE HIRING!

The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is now taking applications for the following positions in our Jefferson City office:

- ▶ **Administrative Assistant**
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- ▶ **Director of Communications**
- ▶ **IT Coordinator**
- ▶ **Payroll and Benefits Clerk**

Job descriptions and links for applying can be found at diojeffcity.org/about-us/employment/

Catholic speaker to discuss working prayer into everyday life

DATE: April 27
TIME: 6:30 - 8 pm

Catholic speaker Patty Schneier (pattyschneier.com) will give an inspiring presentation titled, "God, I Really Don't Have Time for This!" on Wednesday, April 27, in Jefferson City.

Sponsored by the Women's Ministry of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, it will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Alphonse J. Schwartze Me-

morial Catholic Center, 2207 W. Main St.

Mrs. Schneier is a lifelong Catholic, housewife and mother of three from the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

In an energetic, "down-to-earth" talk, she will share ways to incorporate prayer into everyday life — in the midst of carpools, errands, housework, jobs and chaotic schedules.

"Life is hectic!" the event's organizers stated. "It's difficult to find time for quiet, reflec-

tive, meditative prayer ... but we need it desperately. Without prayer, we will die spiritually."

"Discover how you can transform your prayer life — no matter how young, no matter how old, no matter how busy you are!" the organizers stated. "No more excuses. Find the prayer life your soul has been searching for!"

Contact Julie Gramlich at julie.g@cathedraljlc.org or 573-644-4965 for information.

Campos-Duffy to speak in Columbia at Vitae Foundation Pro-Life Event

DATE: April 26
TIME: 7 pm

"Fox & Friends Weekend" co-host Rachel Campos-Duffy is slated to present at Vitae Foundation's Annual Pro-Life Event in Columbia on April 26.

A published author and respected television personality, Mrs. Campos-Duffy began her television career as a cast member on the MTV reality series "The Real World: San Francisco."

A mother of nine children, she has been highly sought-after for her unique view on politics, culture, and parenting.

She and her husband, former U.S. Rep. Sean Duffy, recently welcomed the birth of their daughter, Valentina, who was diagnosed before birth with having Down syndrome.

"Rachel Campos-Duffy

spoke at our event in Dallas in 2021, and after hearing her passion and fire, we could not wait to have her back again," Vitae Foundation's Senior Market Director Stacey Kromer stated. "Rachel lives out her deep convictions to support life every day."

The event will be at 7 p.m. at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center in Columbia. Registration is \$100 (\$70 tax deductible) for this event.

All proceeds benefit Vitae Foundation, a national non-profit organization that leads the world in its research of abortion-decision making, tests its findings using digital media campaigns, and shares best practices at no cost to pro-life peers worldwide to encourage a culture of life.

Reservations can be made online at vitaefoundation.org/events or by calling 573-634-4316.

Mass in Brush Creek Church, April 24

The annual Spring Mass in historical St. Peter Church in Brush Creek will be celebrated at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 24, followed by an ice cream social.

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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"A diocesan paper serves as a bond of unity by publishing diocesan happenings and promulgating official regulations and decrees. It also plays a teaching role by reporting notable events of a religious and secular nature, and interpreting them in the light of Christian principles."
 — Bishop Joseph M. Marling C.P.P.S., July 7, 1957

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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Resurrection Cemetery

Monday, April 25, will be the SPRING CEMETERY CLEAN-UP at Resurrection and St. Peter Cemeteries in 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: Saddles or flowers in permanent vases that are part of the monument will not be removed.

Email — info@rccjc.org

At Chrism Mass, bishop speaks of unity, shared experience of anointing

By Jay Nies

Christ has given His Church a mission through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Clergy and laypeople must work and pray together in order for that mission — sanctifying souls and preparing them for heaven — to be fulfilled.

“It was Christ’s intention at the Last Supper that we may all be one,” Bishop W. Shawn McKnight noted in his homily for this year’s Chrism Mass.

“By our supporting of one another and our mutual respect for our different responsibilities in the Body of Christ, our communion with God and one another is strengthened,” he said.

That communion and shared identity is bound up in Jesus, Who is “the Christ,

the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Priest, Prophet and the King,” said Bishop McKnight.

“His disciples call themselves Christians to affirm this belief and share His mission,” the bishop pointed out. “And in our Catholic Church, we are assisted with anointing with sacred oils, which serve as (an outward sign) of the interior anointing we receive from the Holy Spirit.”

The Chrism Mass, offered annually during or near Holy Week in each diocese, celebrates the essential bond between the Sacraments, the people who receive them and those who administer them throughout the year.

About 200 clergy, religious



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, assisted by Deacon John Schwartze, elevates the Most Blessed Sacrament while he and priests of the diocese pray the Doxology together during the Chrism Mass on April 12 in St. Andrew Church in Holts Summit.
— Photo by Jay Nies

and laypeople attended the Chrism Mass, which Bishop McKnight celebrated on the Tuesday of Holy Week with his predecessor, Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos, and priests of the diocese.

Seminarians served in various liturgical roles.

Bishop McKnight blessed the holy oils and consecrated the Sacred Chrism that will be used to administer sacraments throughout the diocese in the upcoming year.

He also joined his predecessor and the priests in renewing the promises they made at their priestly ordination.

He called to mind this year’s priestly jubilarians: Father Frederick Elskamp and Father George Kramer, who are observing their 60th priestly anniversaries this year; Father Louis Dorn, Father Richard Frank and Monsignor Michael Wilbers, who are observing their 50th anniversaries; and Father William Peckman, whose 25th priestly anniversary is this year.

The bishop noted that collectively, the jubilarians have given “295 years of service to God’s holy people.”

“These men are all very different but heard the call of the same Lord,” he stated. “We honor the Priesthood today and ask your prayers for them.”

“The hope we bear”

Bishop McKnight spoke of holy anointings throughout history and how Christians are

moral decay of our society,” he said.

He pointed out that the ministerial Priesthood makes no sense without the laity, whom priests are called to serve.

He said the anointing of each priest’s hands with Sacred Chrism at his ordination signifies the spiritual powers — the interior anointing — each priest receives to build up the Church and to “encourage, inspire, motivate and facilitate” the laity’s participation in the Church’s mission.

He reminded the priests that although their spirituality is liturgical, it is influenced by their daily interactions with the faithful, “especially family, marriage and youth or young adult ministry.”

“We are charged with being bearers of hope in a world sometimes darkened by confusion, discouragement or even despair,” he said.

“The hope we bear to people burdened by sin and weighed down by the demands of life — especially hectic family life — is the hope of the Resurrection and our future incorporation

See CHRISM MASS, page 17



Bishop McKnight’s Calendar

APRIL

- Apr 15** Good Friday Liturgy, 7 pm, St. Joseph Cathedral School Gymnasium, Jefferson City
- Apr 16** Easter Vigil Mass, 8:30 pm, St. Joseph Cathedral School Gymnasium, Jefferson City
- Apr 19** Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia and St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Folk, 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church, Westphalia
- Apr 20** Midwest March for Life Rally, 10 am, Capitol, Jefferson City
- Apr 23** Confirmation Mass, St. Andrew Parish, 5:30 pm, Holts Summit
- Apr 24** Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Parish, 2 pm, Cuba
- Apr 25** Good Shepherd Dinner, Pontifical College Josephinum Seminary, 5:30 pm, Columbus, Ohio
- Apr 26** Pontifical College Josephinum Board of Trustees Meeting, 8:30 am, Columbus, Ohio
- Apr 27** Confirmation Ceremony, St. Peter Parish, 6:30 pm, Jefferson City
- Apr 30** Confirmation Mass, Shrine of St. Patrick Parish, 7 pm, St. Patrick

MAY

- May 1** Confirmation Mass, Queen of Peace Parish, Ewing and St. Joseph Parish, Canton, 10:30 am, Queen of Peace Church, Ewing
- May 3** The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Board Meeting, 8 am, Virtual; Priests’ Personnel Board Dinner, 6pm, Bishop’s Residence
- May 4** Confirmation Ceremony, St. George Parish, Linn and St. Francis Xavier Parish, Taos, 6:30 pm, St. George Church, Linn

Bishop McKnight’s April prayer intention for our Local Church

For the opening of hearts and minds closed to the Good News of Christ’s Resurrection from the dead.

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

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

Por la apertura de los corazones y las mentes que están cerradas a la Buena Noticia de la Resurrección de Cristo.



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Divine Mercy observances

April 24 is the Second Sunday of Easter and the Feast of Divine Mercy. On the day, the Church will celebrate the great fount of mercy flowing from Jesus' heart, as revealed to a Polish contemplative nun, St. Faustina Kowalska, in a series of private revelations in the 1930s and recorded in her diary.

Here are some of the observances planned for the Feast of Divine Mercy in parishes in the Jefferson City diocese. The online version of this article will be updated with any additional listings that become available. **All events are on Sunday, April 24, unless otherwise noted:**

Kirkville — Novena prayers daily through April 24 at 3 pm; closing with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 3 pm, Mary Immaculate Church

St. Clement — Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary, 3 pm, St. Clement Church

Sedalia — Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 2 pm, Sacred Heart Chapel

Taos — Chaplet of Divine Mercy and devotional prayers, 3 pm, St. Francis Xavier Church

Westphalia — Sacrament of Reconciliation, Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 2 pm; Chaplet of Divine Mercy, followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation, 3 pm, St. Joseph Church

Abby Johnson to keynote Midwest March for Life, April 20 in J.C.

By Jay Nies

In a new book titled *Fierce Mercy*, the former employee of the year for the nation's largest abortion provider writes of how God has lavished relentless mercy upon her and expects people to do likewise for others.

Abby Johnson, a nationally-recognized pro-life activist whose first book inspired a major motion picture, will give the keynote presentation at the 13th annual Midwest March for Life (midwestmarchforlife.com) in Jefferson City.

The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20, on the grounds of the Missouri State Capitol.

All are invited to join in praying, peacefully demonstrating and working for an end to abortion-on-demand and other intrinsic affronts to the sanctity of human life.

The day's activities will draw thousands of people to the area.

Open-air activities will be held on the Capitol South Lawn. More than 35 exhibitors will be present to display their life-affirming ministries.

Participants are encouraged to wear red for life.

Events will begin at 8 a.m. with the praying of the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet, led by Father Anthony Viviano,

diocesan moderator of pro-life ministry.

Ms. Johnson will sign copies of her book at 8:15 outside the Selinger Centre near St. Peter Church, 216 Broadway, across from the Capitol.

A pre-rally will be held at 9:15 am. The March will begin at 10 a.m. at the Capitol, with the main rally following the March.

Patriotic singer-songwriter Camille Harris of Tulsa, Oklahoma, will give a live performance, including a deeply inspirational song she and her sister Haley recorded last year, titled "March for Life."

Only love

Ms. Johnson is founder of "And Then There Were None," which helps people who are employed in the abortion industry to leave it behind.

She's confident that the effects of this year's Midwest March for Life will be concrete and long-lasting.

"I hope it convicts people to get involved in the pro-life movement in some way on a deeper level — perhaps praying outside their local clinic, volunteering at a pregnancy resource center or maternity home, or donating money to help women facing an unplanned pregnancy," she said.

Ms. Johnson's first book, *Unplanned*, tells the whole story of how she became involved with Planned Parenthood and why she left the abortion industry.

"The movie of the same name is a wonderful depiction of that part of my life," she stated.

She believes any sacrifices people have to make to attend the April 20 event, such as taking time off work or traveling great distances, will be well worth it.

"It's so important to stand in the place of those who have no voice, to be a voice for them and for all the victims of abortion," she stated.

"We have to be an example of what we believe in and show others that we are there and ready to help," she said.

Her own past experience makes her keenly aware of people who want to attend the March but are wrestling with guilt from the past.

"All you need to know is that we love you no matter what, and that no matter what you've done, God wants to forgive you," she said. "We won't judge you. We will only love you!"

Powerful slate

Other scheduled speakers include: Bishop W. Shawn McKnight; Fr. Viviano; Pastor Jon Nelson, president of the Missouri Baptist Convention; Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft; Bridget VanMeans, CEO vision leader of Thrive Nation; Reagan Barklage, national field team director of

Students for Life America; Lisa Rowe, CEO of Support After Abortion; Catherine Glenn Foster, president and CEO of Americans United for Life; Pastor Michael Saleminck, executive director of Lutherans for Life; Rachel Blackmore, out-

former Navy chaplain, will give the opening prayer.

The 2 p.m. program will include testimony from a couple representing Silent No More, an organization helping people find healing from post-abortive trauma; a nationally

respected legal expert commenting on the possible ramifications of the U.S. Supreme Court's pending *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision; and an

SAVE THE DATE APR. 20th



2022 MIDWEST
MARCH FOR LIFE

Missouri State Capitol
573-340-8444

www.MidWestMarchForLife.com



reach & development director for Churches for Life; Susan Klein, executive director of Missouri Right to Life; Chuck and Linda Raymond of Silent No More; and Hope Miller, pro-life youth activist.

Members of Knights of Columbus Precious Blood Council 4454 from Fulton will be grilling hotdogs to sell as part of affordable lunches.

The day will also include 1 p.m. afternoon session on pro-life apologetics for young people, given by Hope Miller, granddaughter of a well-known pro-life pioneer from Chicago, and Reagan Barklage.

Stacy Washington, host of the syndicated "Stacy on the Right" radio program, will serve as emcee of a thought-provoking afternoon program at 2 p.m. in front of the Missouri Supreme Court Building, across the street from the Capitol.

She will also sign copies of her new book, *Eternally Cancel-Proof*.

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph L. Coffey of the Archdiocese for the Military Services USA, a

overview of resources for helping people experiencing pregnancy in crisis.

With God's help

Ms. Johnson offered a litany of prayer requests as the event approaches, including for good weather and for God to protect the event's organizers and their families.

"Please pray for all women considering abortion," she continued, "that their hearts may be turned to Christ, that they may know they are loved and priceless and that there is help for them."

"I ask them to pray for all abortion workers and abortion doctors, that they may come to realize the true nature of their work and have a change of heart and walk out of their jobs," she stated.

"And that abortion may become unthinkable, that every child be recognized as the irreplaceable gift they are," she said.

Call 573-240-8444 for information about the Midwest March for Life.

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Refurbished stained glass in Climax Springs deemed “a blessing and the grace of the Holy Spirit”

By Jay Nies

“It feels more like we’re in church.”

John Baker, who attends Mass at Our Lady of the Snows Chapel in Climax Springs, approves of the newly installed stained glass windows.

“We’ve done several improvements over the past 10 years, and the windows just kind of topped it all off — the icing on the cake,” he said.

Modified to fit into a smaller space, the seven windows were originally created in the 1980s for the former St. Anthony Church in Camdenton.

That church, dedicated in 1973, was replaced by the current, much larger church in 2000.

The 16 stained glass windows from the previous edifice were carefully placed in storage before the building was sold.

“They’ve been there ever since,” said Father Daniel Vacca, pastor of St. Anthony Parish, which includes the chapel in Climax Springs.



— Photos by Father Daniel Vacca

“My gift to God”

The old St. Anthony Church did not have any stained glass until an itinerant artisan named John Thiesen offered to create some as the parish’s artist-in-residence.

The Wisconsin native had stopped in Camdenton on his way to Arizona, according to an article in the March 1, 1985, edition of *The Catholic Missourian*.

Father Joseph Starman, now deceased, who was pastor from 1982-87, welcomed his idea.

He let Mr. Thiesen turn the basement of the parish rectory into a makeshift stained-glass studio.

“I’ve always loved beautiful things, and this is my way of putting some beauty into the world,” Mr. Thiesen said at that time. “You can say it’s my gift to God.”

Ray Boemke, now deceased, who was grand knight of Knights of Columbus Council 6365 in Camdenton, spoke to individuals and parish organizations about sponsoring a window.

Mr. Thiesen drew up sketches for each window, then

rendered them into full-size drawings, which he used as patterns for cutting the individual pieces of glass.

He filed each fragment down to size, then fastened it to the rest of the window with strips of molten lead.

Camdenton parishioner David Yeaman created the frames for each window, according to the 1985 article.

Mr. Thiesen said at that time that the work helped enliven his faith.

“I never really was very much into religion,” he stated, “mainly because I didn’t understand it. Now I’m beginning to understand.”

Some of the windows were still being created during the fire that destroyed the rectory in 1987.

Father James R. Fuemmeler, now deceased, who was pastor from 1990 to 2002, oversaw the salvaging of the windows and the completion of the project.

“A Lake community”

In 1983, Fr. Starman began offering Sunday Vigil Masses each Saturday afternoon dur-

ing the tourist season near Coffman Bend Road and the Osage Arm of the Lake of the Ozarks in Climax Springs.

This became the Chapel of Our Lady of the Snows, complete with an outdoor altar and a dock for people to arrive by boat.

“As far as I know, we are still the only church in the state that has its own dock,” said Mr. Baker.

Volunteers helped build an indoor chapel in 1987, allowing Mass to be offered throughout the year.

Mass is celebrated at 3 p.m. each Saturday, except for Easter Sunday, when a special 3 p.m. Sunday Mass is offered.

Mr. Baker said about 28 people make up the core of the chapel’s regular congregants.

“But that doesn’t begin to tell you the size of our attendance,” he said. “We’re a Lake community. In the summertime, we might have 100 people attending Mass.”

The “big three” summer holiday weekends usually bring standing-room congregations of 150 people or more.

Winter congregations usu-

ally fluctuate between 30 to 35 worshipers, he said.

“It’s small. Everybody knows everybody,” he stated.

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, volunteers offer free shuttle service from the dock to chapel for those arriving by boat.

“Some of our boating friends come from as far as 20 miles away during the summer,” said Mr. Baker. “We bring them up to Mass from the dock and take them back down to the dock.”

“Like a glove”

Last year, Fr. Vacca and parishioners sought a way to put some of the old windows from Camdenton back into service.

The Our Lady of the Snows Chapel had double-paned windows of clear, beveled glass. They were efficient and attractive but had no color.

The frames there are about 30 percent smaller than were the windows from Camdenton, so the windows had to be cut down in order to be used there.

“The seven windows we chose have images in them that allowed for easy resizing,” said Fr. Vacca.

These included depictions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus; St. Michael the Archangel; St. Francis of Assisi; the Holy Eucharist; the Madonna and Child Jesus; a Bible and candle design; and Jesus with the Children.

Village Glass in Columbia resized and reframed the seven windows.

“Each one was physically cut for a specific window,” said Mr. Baker. “And they fit like a glove when we got them back.”

Our Lady of the Snows congregant Norman Koelling installed each reconditioned window as it arrived.

Deacon Richard Von Guntzen, a retired deacon of St. Anthony Parish, called it “a blessing and the grace of the Holy Spirit” that the windows have been given a new home.

Fr. Vacca agreed.

“They are a beautiful enhancement to our small church on the Lake,” he said.

Through a lens of faith: Documentary filmmaker witnesses God's healing, reconciliation in an execution's aftermath

By Jay Nies

Jeff Ferguson was ready.

Although still holding out hope for a commutation of his death sentence, he had long accepted that his time was coming, probably sooner than later.

"So every day, he would try to be more prepared than he was the day before," said Lisa Boyd, who visited Mr. Ferguson in prison and produced a short documentary film that touched on his radical conversion on death row.

Mr. Ferguson, who was Catholic, was executed on March 26, 2014, for the Feb. 22, 1989, abduction, rape and murder of Kelli Hall in suburban St. Louis.

Deeply remorseful for what he had done, he spent nearly a quarter-century ministering to and mentoring his fellow residents, along with visitors and staff of the Potosi Correctional Center.

Mrs. Boyd could see that a place was being prepared for him.

"It's been my mission through my friendship with Jeff and ultimately with Kelli's father, Jim Hall, to understand the importance of being ready not just for whatever will happen today — but being ready to be the best person you can be in the present moment," she said.

Her latest cinematic offering, a feature-length documen-

tary set to premiere on Good Friday over online streaming services, focuses on the providential chain of events that led up to the fulfillment of Mr. Ferguson's dying wish.

Namely, that his victim's family would forgive him in this life.

"It's about the healing power of transformation and forgiveness," Mrs. Boyd said of the production, titled "An American Tragedy."

"I've been a Christian my whole life," she noted. "But to witness such a transformation on all sides and see God's work happening right in front of my eyes was simply amazing."

Restoration and hope

Mrs. Boyd, and independent filmmaker, and her husband — director, producer and cinematographer David R. Boyd — are based in Los Angeles, but Mrs. Boyd grew up in southern Missouri.

She met Jeffrey Ferguson in 2012 while visiting the Potosi prison with her uncle and his Christian biker gang, The Sons of Thunder, to interview men on death row.

Mr. Ferguson was scheduled to be executed the following day, but it wound up getting delayed.



Jennifer Ferguson, daughter of Jeffrey Ferguson, hugs Jim Hall, whose daughter was killed by Jeffrey in 1989. The families found healing and reconciliation the day of Jeffrey Ferguson's funeral, after he was executed.

— Photo by Lisa Johnson, courtesy of the St. Louis Review

Those interviews would eventually become part of the Boyds' first short documentary film, the award-winning "POTOSI: God in Death Row."

Mr. Ferguson invited the couple back for another visit shortly before his execution date two years later.

The warden let them spend hours conversing.

"Jeffrey shared so much about his experience, his life, the crime, his daughters, the family, and how deeply sad he was that he had committed the crime," Mrs. Boyd recalled.

He spoke of his efforts to practice his faith and become the best man he could be in prison, in order to offset some of the harm he had caused.

"He shared with me how he helped his 'cellies' begin to forgive themselves for the crimes they had committed," said Mrs. Boyd.

He would tell them: "You cannot move forward and ask for forgiveness if you have not forgiven yourself."

"That was his mission in the

prison," Mrs. Boyd noted. "To bring restoration and hope."

Mr. Ferguson also revealed his own solemn prayer that Kelli Hall's family could find the grace to forgive him before he died.

That day, Mrs. Boyd set about contacting every source she could think of who might be able to help Mr. Ferguson get in touch with the Hall family.

She had no success.

In the meantime, Mr. Ferguson asked if she would consider attending his execution.

When she said it would be more than she could handle, he asked if she would attend his funeral.

That she could do.

From death to new life

Mr. Ferguson's was to be Missouri's fifth execution in five months.

As with all executions that came before, the Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) joined in filing a petition, asking the governor to commute Mr. Ferguson's sentence to life in prison without possibility of parole.

The request was denied.

The MCC commented on Mr. Ferguson's execution in that week's Friday update:

"Hooked on drugs and alcohol at the time he murdered Kelli Hall in 1989, he spent

the last two decades in prison as a model inmate. Ferguson had devoted himself to making the prison a compassionate, safer environment for staff and guards. He helped establish a hospice program for dying inmates, he worked with the prison restorative justice program, helping crime victims to heal, and he provided spiritual guidance through the prison ministry program to inmates, some of whom would one day return to society.

"... He had earned the respect and trust of both staff and inmates," the MCC continued, noting that the prison's chaplain

had written in a clemency letter: "If Jeff were to be released, I would not have a problem with him living next door to me."

Mrs. Boyd flew into St. Louis the night before the funeral when out of the blue, she got an email from Steven Hall, who was Kelli's brother.

Mr. Hall had been searching his sister's name on the Internet and found reference to the Boyds' film, "POTOSI: God in Death Row."

He wanted to see it.

"I emailed him back and met with him the next morning before going to Jeffrey's funeral," she recalled.

Mrs. Boyd brought him a copy the next morning and wound up visiting with him and his mother, Sue.

"I told them about the wish Jeff had that his victim's family would forgive him," Mrs. Boyd recalled.


She left soon thereafter for the funeral but got a call 10 minutes later from Kelli's father, Jim Hall.

Mrs. Boyd went back and spent about 45 minutes conversing with him before hurrying to the funeral.

There, she became acquainted with Mr. Ferguson's daughters and his sister-in-law.

Then she headed back to

See RECONCILE, page 23

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Program assistant for Catholic Charities Refugee Services found hope in assisting Ukrainian refugees in Poland

By Jay Nies

Whitney Cravens had served in the Peace Corps in Ukraine and had come to see the people there as her own.

“When something like this happens,” she said of the Russian invasion, “it’s easy to feel helpless or that whatever you’re doing just isn’t enough.”

Ms. Cravens is a Program Assistant for Refugee Services of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO), assisting people from Ukraine who have resettled in and near Sedalia.

She recently had the opportunity to spend 10 days assisting Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

This rare experience helped make her more hopeful about what she can do to address such human suffering, wherever she is.

“I was really glad to be able to go and physically be there and better understand the situation on the ground,” she told Ashley Wiskirchen, communication director for CCCNMO, in a recent interview.

The Columbia native previously served for 19 months in Kherson, Ukraine, before having to evacuate in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the meantime, she discerned that God was calling her to mission and became a member of Action International Ministries, planning to return to Ukraine after the pandemic.

The breakout of the Russian-Ukrainian war in March postponed those plans indefinitely. So she went to work full-time with CCCNMO Refugee Services, hoping to gain valuable experience while assisting some of the Ukrainian people the agency has already helped resettle in this area.

Refugee Services of CCCNMO is the only agency that works with the U.S. government to settle refugees in Central Missouri.

“I obviously couldn’t go back to Ukraine yet, and there are a lot of opportunities here to work with Ukrainian families,” Ms. Cravens stated.

But when an offer came

from Assemblies of God World Missions for her to spend 10 days helping refugees in Poland near its border with Ukraine, she leapt at the opportunity.

“Since I have some language skills and now I also have some experience with refugees, it seemed like the perfect time and opportunity,” she said.

She got the invitation on a Thursday, got permission to take a leave of absence from her work at Catholic Charities, booked her flights, and was in the air the following Monday.

“I was thankful to have a job at Catholic Charities Refugee Services, who obviously care about the situation,” she said.

She said faith and compassion are what motivated her to go.

“My compassion for the Ukrainian people had to do with the suffering they have experienced through much of their history,” she said. “And how much more suffering it has become now!”

Being Martha and Mary

Ms. Cravens traveled alone, not finding out exactly where she was going until after arriving in Warsaw in the evening.

“I would say it was ‘go with the flow,’ but also steps of faith, trusting that I had a specific purpose for being there,” she said.

She packed for winter, assuming she’d be working outside.

Instead, she spent most of her time indoors, helping to staff a stopping-off point for refugees at a Polish church near the Ukrainian border.

“It’s kind of a transition point,” she said. “It’s a one-to-three-night place to stay, to have a bed, a shower and something to eat, and then members of the church would send them further west.”

She noted that Poland has



Whitney Cravens (front right) enjoys a visit with refugees from Ukraine who were stopping for rest at a church in Poland near the Ukrainian border. Ms. Cravens, Program Assistant for Refugee Services of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, spent 10 days assisting in Poland.

taken in more than 2 million refugees from Ukraine, “but a lot of refugees just pass through on their way to Germany or Spain or the United Kingdom.”

“These people are coming across the border with nothing but the clothes on their back and maybe a backpack,” she said. “And they’re fleeing violence, and there’s no certainty that they’re ever returning home, at least to the same place or in the same state that they knew it before the war started.”

While on mission in Poland, she helped out any way she could, washing dishes, doing laundry, cooking food, and serving as a language interpreter.

“It wasn’t super-glamorous, but it was the service that was needed,” she said.

Simply listening proved to be her most important task.

“I think it was helpful to have me there not just to interpret but also to be someone who could listen to them, if they had any issues or stories that they wanted to share,” she said.

Some of the people she met had been traveling for 36 hours straight.

“A lot of them were just in

She did not know any of the people who stayed at the church, but they were very much like the people she had come to know and love during her time with the Peace Corps.

“It just broke my heart to hear them, and I shared their confusion and disbelief,” she said. “But I could see the impact of being someone who could have these conversations with them.”

“Very personal”

Ms. Cravens recently heard about what started out as a peaceful protest in the town where she stayed while in the Peace Corps.

“The protesters were fired upon!” she said. “It was in the town square where my parents came to visit me, the square where I used to get on and off the bus, the square where I used to go running.”

See REFUGEES, page 15



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QUESTION CORNER

When did the Holy Spirit come? / Flowers during Lent?

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Q. I have often wondered about the difference between the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit immediately after the Resurrection “on the evening of that first day of the week” (Jn. 20:19-23) and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon them at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). Is it two different accounts of the same event, or did they receive the Holy Spirit in two different ways on two different occasions? (Vacherie, Louisiana)

A. In general, Scripture scholars read this as two different events, with the gift of the Holy Spirit being offered for two different purposes. In the first incident (Jn. 20), the Spirit comes to the specific group of disciples gathered on the night of the first Easter Sunday; the Spirit confers on them the power to forgive sins.

In the second account (Acts 2), the Spirit descends forcefully on the whole community of believers, empowering them to preach the Gospel boldly, even though Jesus will no longer be physically present with them.

(Note that this Pentecost event, following the Ascension, enables the disciples to be understood in many languages and that Pentecost is commonly regarded as the “birthday of the Church.”)

This interpretation seems to square best with John 7:37-39, which suggests that the Spirit will not be given in its fullness until Jesus has been glorified, and with Luke 24:49, where Jesus, immediately before the Ascension, instructs the disciples to “stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Q. Recently there was a tragic death. A woman died and left three children in their 20s. The priest in the small town where the woman lived and where her children had grown up was not at all sympathetic. The family wanted to have the visitation in the church, which he finally allowed but made the funeral home remove the casket overnight. He decided to allow flowers in the church during the wake but would not permit them during the funeral Mass because it was during Lent. I am just sickened by this lack of compassion for the family. Not allowing flowers during the service is ridiculous. If that is a rule of the Catholic Church, it's a rule that should be broken by every priest. I want to hear your thoughts. (City of origin withheld)

A. Let's take your concerns one at a time. As to having the visitation in church, viewing hours are normally held in a funeral home. Churches are primarily places of worship, and some parishes simply cannot honor every request to accommodate a wake for several hours during an afternoon and evening.

In our parish, on a couple of occasions, we have had to turn down requests to host a wake due to events that were previously scheduled: Stations of the Cross, an evening Mass, a school concert.

With regard to removing the casket overnight, I can understand that, too. Funeral directors regularly do so in our church because we have a daily parish Mass in the early morning, which young school children often attend.

But on the part about flowers, I agree with you.

Technically, the priest you refer to is correct; the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (the “rule book” on liturgy)

See FR. DOYLE, page 18

Papal Audience April 13, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

During this Holy Week, the Church celebrates the mystery of Our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. Last Sunday we recalled the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. The crowds acclaimed Him as the Messiah Who would bring about a glorious peace by freeing Jerusalem from Roman occupation. Yet the peace Jesus brought did not employ the strategies of the world. Rather than recourse to violence, it comes through the humility and meekness that led Him to the Cross. By dying for our sins, Christ has set us free. In Dostoyevsky's novel *The Brothers Karamazov*, the Grand Inquisitor accuses Jesus of not using His power to establish peace, but rather respecting the freedom of individual men and women. Indeed, the peace that Jesus brings does not employ force, but only the “weapons” of the Gospel: prayer, forgiveness and compassion for all our neighbours. This, not the blasphemous violence of war, is the peace of Easter; the peace that changes history and the hearts of all who accept it. This week, let us draw near to Christ, crucified and risen, and implore His gift of peace in our hearts and in the world.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's audience, especially those from the United States of America. May the celebration of Easter be a time of grace and renewal for everyone. Upon each of you, and your families, I invoke joy and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.



Crosses on the roof

The outlines of crosses appear on the roof of St. Mary Church in Shelbina after a snowfall in March.

— Photo from the St. Mary's Catholic Church of Shelbina, Mo Facebook page



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Where do you stand on Good Friday?

By **Mary Marrocco**
Catholic News Service

On Good Fridays, I can find myself shivering in the night with Simon Peter, warming my hands at the charcoal fire.

What happened with Peter that Friday? The fisher of men left everything to follow Jesus, recognized Him as Christ and leaped into stormy waters to reach his Teacher. But, at this definitive moment of their last Passover together, Peter swiftly turned his back on Jesus. Of the beloved, betrayed, mocked and tortured man he called Lord, Peter cried:

“I do not know Him.”

I wonder to what depths Peter descended after all that. What was he thinking as Jesus’ broken body was laid gently, carefully — by others — in a new tomb? What emotions did Peter hear yelling in his ears as he remembered Jesus’ declaration that Peter was the rock on whose faith stood the Church?

Long before this terrible night, Jesus prepared His disciples for it.

When He told them openly that He would be rejected by religious leaders, handed over and killed, Peter rebuked Him (Mk. 8:32). And for what? For

showing them God’s way. Like us, Peter had trouble getting out of his own way and really hearing and following Jesus.

It’s shocking to hear Jesus eviscerate Peter, just as He eviscerated Satan in the desert: “Get behind me, Satan!” Satan is the enemy, the adversary. Is Jesus calling Peter Satan?

We hope it’s not Peter himself (or us) who’s the enemy, but rather Peter’s attitude behind his put-down of Jesus. It’s not when your child is on solid ground that you speak sharply to her, but when you see her in peril: “Don’t run into the street!”

But what danger does Jesus see in Peter’s response? Peter thinks his own religious understanding is better than God’s plan. “We know better than You,” Peter tells Jesus. “We know how the Savior should be. You’re not getting it right.”

This response isn’t just a rejection of Jesus; others rejected Him without drawing a sharp cry from Jesus. The danger in Peter’s words is his denial of Who Jesus is, even while proclaiming Him the Christ.

Peter’s rebuke touches at the heart of the Gospel. His idea of the Savior isn’t God’s idea of the Savior, Who was standing right in front of him. Peter treads near the ulti-

mate lie, that God is not Who He is.

Generally, Peter has a profound sense of Who Jesus is. But this time, Peter’s head is cluttered with a profoundly wrong sense of the nature of Jesus. This puts Peter in danger of accepting a lie — the lie — as truth. Not for the last time: In the garden he will again make this mistake (Jn. 18:11).

What about us? Can our religious ideas get in the way of our seeing the truth? Yes! But God has ways to help us turn toward Him when we’re running in the opposite direction as fast as we can, while shouting at the top of our lungs that we’re following Him. “Get behind me, Satan” is not the end of the story of Peter and Jesus, fortunately for Peter, and us.

Good Friday isn’t the end, either, even though Peter did deny the way and the truth, at the very moment Jesus was fulfilling them by way of the cross.

Perhaps, having been through those

earlier rebukes, Peter was readier by Easter Sunday to accept the Savior Who broke on the cross. Peter could finally see where the real power lay, even as “human thinking” brought so much blood and destruction. On the cross, God makes space for something else, right where the human law of violence is shown to be uncompromising.

This Lent, we experience anew the power that same violence and aggression have in our world. We need to open our eyes, difficult though it is. Violence has power in us. We might see ourselves as Abel, but we are Cain, too.

Wherever we are this Good Friday, and whoever we are in the Church, right now people are suffering and dying. We all have to choose. When the cross appears, and we see on it a Son dying in His mother’s arms in a bunker, which way do we take? Do we rebuke Christ,

See **MARROCCO**, page 19

Mary, woman of wonders against the lords of war

By **Hosffman Ospino**
Catholic News Service



It is with sadness and puzzlement that our world witnesses the invasion of Ukraine, a sovereign nation, by its neighbor Russia, an exponentially more powerful country politically, economically and militarily.

Of concern for everyone are the global consequences that this situation may unleash. Many fear the destabilization of Europe and potentially other parts of the world; others the encouragement of other large nations to invade smaller neighbors. Most chilling are the prospects of a world war using nuclear weapons.

Only in a few weeks, the brutal use of power of Russia against Ukraine has led to increased militarization or the promise to move in that direction everywhere. Countries are announcing increases in military spending. The production and distribution of weapons, legally and illegally, will likely see a spike.

This seems like prime time for leaders who, instead of seeking the common good of the people they are called to serve, act as lords of war. I use the male term “lords” because practically all abusing their power to extol pain and death are men. Can we call them leaders? What idea of leadership inhabits their

minds and hearts?

The Ukraine-Russia clash is not the only armed conflict that risks the disruption of regional and global peace. Several other nations are currently engaged in civil wars, fights against terrorist groups and confrontations with organized crime such as drug cartels.

The death toll in those conflicts is breathtaking. One human being killed as a result of war is too many. Our world seems to have developed some toleration for conflict and death as a result of war. People are being displaced, families separated and futures shattered. Remember that often in the midst of war women, children and the elder carry the brunt.

I want to cry out, “stop.” For everyone’s sake, for our children, for our families, for the future of our world, “please stop.” If there were only an easy way to bring this madness to a halt. I feel like a voice in the desert. Not alone, however. My voice joins other voices, but who is listening? I hear Pope Francis and many other leaders call for peace. Who is listening?

Can anyone do something about this? As I speak with my young children about war and its consequences, they ask me if there is someone like Wonder Woman, in reference to the 2017 film about the beloved superhero, who could just go into the battlefield, topple tanks,

See **OSPINO**, page 19

REFLECTION

Cross examination

By **Mark Saucier**

So, what’s it to you?

It wasn’t taunting but haunting, relentlessly popping up over the past few days. The “it,” in this case, is the cross, and the question a bit of the seasonal affective disorder of Holy Week.

The meaning of the cross has been debated ever since Jesus took those halting, stumbling steps up Golgotha hill.

Origen thought it was ransom, paying the devil the ultimate emancipation fee for humanity’s slavery to sin.

Thomas saw it as atonement, a sacrifice for the offenses of all. An offering so great it merited salvation for even the worst of us.

Anselm saw it as satisfaction, an act so selfless that it satisfied God’s demand for justice.

Luther held it was penal substitution — Jesus punished in the place of sinners to meet the legal demand to punish sin, freeing God to forgive.

There are other theories, but they’re all a little too transactional — an accountant’s ledger insufficient to the mystery of God.

Besides, while theology can do its best to explain the cross, it doesn’t answer the question.

So I gaze upon a cross.

It is an enigma, at once grotesque and moving. It is a symbol of cruel and humiliating capital punishment and an ageless inspiration for art and life.

This cross is unique, with a corpus of Christ that has oversized features.

The fingers are curled in pain around the head of an enormous spike. They suggest the strength of Someone Who worked wood and stone, and yet the gentle power to hold and to heal.

The feet are rough, the toenails ragged as Someone Who spent years and many sandaled miles climbing rocky paths and walking dirty roads to spread the message that earned this death.

The beard and hair stiff with dirt, blood and mucous. The red running down His body looks more like pieces of flesh than droplets of blood, as if He had given His very all to the mission that brought Him here.

His eyes are closed, perhaps in surrender, but maybe a calmness — like remembering all whom He had met, all that He had done, and all without regret. What’s it to me?

A revelation of Who God is.

A God willing to suffer with us.

A God in Whom the powerless find power, the hopeless hope, the troubled peace, and the outcast refuge.

The killing on the cross was horrible, but the dying remains full of love, forgiveness and promise.

For Catholics in U.S. mission territory, appeal strengthens Church at home

Bishop McKnight is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on the Catholic Home Missions.

The annual national Catholic Home Missions Appeal is scheduled for the weekend of April 23-24. Please give generously.

By Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
Catholic News Service

One of many lessons I've learned as a bishop is that miracles do happen. And, as I praise God for His work in the Diocese of Jefferson City, I also need to thank parishioners nationwide who participate in the Holy Spirit's transformation of lives by giving to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The appeal, which dioceses across the country will take up in their parishes on April 23-24, supports Catholic ministry in dioceses where population density or economic challenges make it difficult to sustain faith formation and social outreach ministries.

In 2021, the collection distributed nearly \$9.3 million

STRENGTHENING the CHURCH AT HOME

Next week we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Today, over 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support of this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. More information can be found at usccb.org/home-missions.

SUPPORT

THE CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL APRIL 23-24

in grants for projects ranging from marriage preparation to seminary education to retreats for military veterans.

Through the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, parishioners "strengthen the Church at home," sharing their blessings with fellow Catholics who lack the resources in their region.

The renewal that I've seen as a result inspired me to accept the chairmanship of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Catholic Home Missions. I want every Catholic to know the great good that is done through their gifts.

Their generosity makes visible and tangible the love, hope and healing that Jesus brings through the Church that He founded.

One of our mission dioceses, the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico, embodies Pope Francis's vision of "a Church that is poor and for the poor." Its 52 parishes and 22 missions serve a territory the size of Illinois, much of it uninhabitable desert or mountains.

People there live hardscrabble lives, often hours away from stores, doctors — and church.

Consequently, in one remote parish, few young people were coming to religious education.

With help from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, that parish's pastor recruited a team of loving and energetic sisters to run a three-week faith formation camp for the youth. Those young people experienced such joy in their faith that many of them brought their parents back to church.

Gallup is just one of more than 75 dioceses, eparchies and mission prelatures in the United States and its territories that regularly experience such miracles through the assistance offered by the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

The parishioners are often people of great faith who just need resources to share that faith with others.

My brother in Christ, Bishop Nicholas Samra of the Melkite Eparchy of Newton in Massachusetts, travels constantly among his 54 parishes and missions, which are spread between New England, the South and Southern California.

Many have experienced dramatic growth from refugees fleeing civil war in Syria. Through gifts to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, Bishop Nicholas is able to provide much-needed pastoral and social care to traumatized Catholics who arrived with little but the clothes on their backs.

Many mission dioceses serve populations that are unknown to most people but are close to the heart of God. Among them are the people of the Marshall Islands, whose five islands and

29 atolls in the South Pacific are scattered across an area larger than California.

A half-dozen priests serve 5,000 Catholics, who comprise about 10% of the population.

Despite their poverty, these Catholics offer joyous witness to the Christian faith. Seafarers, who often spend months or years far from their families under grueling conditions, are of special concern.

Thanks to your donations, sailors and fishermen arriving in ports across these islands can turn to the Catholic Church for health care and counseling, as well as for the sacraments.

On the Blackfeet (Pikuni) Indian Reservation in the Dio-

cese of Helena, Montana, children attending the De La Salle Blackfeet School receive a quality academic education that is integrated with both the Catholic faith and their Native culture.

To keep the school affordable for impoverished families, most teachers are one- or two-year volunteers.

Gifts to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal support the purchase of multimedia religious education materials for the De La Salle Blackfeet School to strengthen its evangelization activities.

Your generous donations to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal strengthen the Catholic faith among people in our country who have no means to support crucial ministries.

On April 23-24, please give generously to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal through the offertory collection at Mass or your parish's e-offertory platform.

#iGiveCatholicTogether also accepts funds for the collection. To learn more about the appeal and those who benefit from it, visit:

usccb.org/committees/catholic-home-missions

St. Robert K of C helps Free Women's Center

Grand Knight Steven Hoffman of Knights of Columbus St. Robert Bellarmine Council 5401 in St. Robert, presents Adriane Hendrix, director of the Free Women's Center of Pulaski County, a



donation from the council to the center. The St. Robert Bellarmine Knights have a long history of supporting the Free Women's Center, which helps those navigating their way through unplanned pregnancies..

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Eagle Scout's hard work, tenacity yield accessible nature trail near St. Robert Bellarmine Church

By Jay Nies

Ethan Beattie named the recently completed meditation and nature trail near St. Robert Bellarmine Church in St. Robert in honor of St. George — patron saint of Scouting.

He could as aptly have named it for St. John the Evangelist, whose symbol in ecclesial art is the eagle.

The 0.2-mile trail through the woods between the rectory, a picturesque sinkhole and the parish cemetery was Ethan's Eagle Scout project.

He wanted to make it available and useful to as many parishioners as possible, which turned out making it substantially more laborious and time-consuming than he originally planned.

"There were times when I prayed, 'God, please help me get through this. Please help me complete this, and let it be perfect for the church and what the church needs,'" he said.

Family helped. Friends helped. Fellow parishioners helped.

"My father came out every time we worked on it," Ethan noted. "It was a very ambitious project for a group as small as mine when we got started. But we got it done over a period of time. And it's definitely worth it."

Becoming a leader

Ethan is a life-long Pulaski County resident and St. Robert Bellarmine parishioner.

His road to Scouting's highest honor began in first grade, when he joined the Cub Scouts.

He continued into Boy Scouts and worked his way up through each rank.

The highest rank focuses on leadership.

"By the time you're an Eagle Scout, you need to be able to display leadership in every as-



Ethan Beattie and his father, Mike Beattie, who are members of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in St. Robert, work on Ethan's Eagle Scout project, now known as the St. George Meditation and Nature Trail prior to its completion in December.

pect of your life," he stated.

The largest requirement for the Eagle rank is a work-service project, which itself challenges and helps develop the scout's organizing and supervising skills.

"You help manage every-

find people who can be there when you need them," he noted. "But you're always grateful for those who do come, and when they do, you have to be ready to lead them."

"This better be good"

Father John Groner, now retired, was pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish and of St. Jude Parish in Richland when Ethan started planning.

"He had been asking for a scout to put in a nature and hiking trail that starts near the parking lot," Ethan recalled. "He wanted more members of the parish to become active and go out a little bit into the wilderness."

Fr. Groner also wanted people to know about an impressive sinkhole on the church

property and be able to get close to it.

"So he was very supportive when I talked to him about doing this," said Ethan.

The scout wrote up a pro-

posal that included the scope of the project and how he planned to carry it out.

"You include things like all the materials you need, how much it will cost, who will help you, whether it measures up to the standards of the beneficiary — things like that," he said.

In terms of cost, he added: "I was very fortunate that almost all of the materials I needed for the trail were donated."

Once the regional Scouting authority approved his proposal, he pulled together a team and got to work.

He had already mapped out the course the path would follow, "so the first day, we made the trail," he said. "We cropped some branches and dug up some rocks."

It turned out well but wasn't accessible enough, especially to people who have difficulty walking.

"The problem was, part of it was on the side of a hill," Ethan explained. "So the next task was to level it out."

The awkward location precluded bringing any heavy equipment to the worksite.

"We had to do it by hand, with shovels and hoes and a big pry bar," he said.

The local terrain is full of rocks, "so it was a really fun exercise," he noted.

Some days, he had friends, fellow scouts or fellow parishioners to help.

On others, it was just him and his dad.

"At some point during any hard job, someone is going to think, 'This better be good when it's finished!'" Ethan noted. "Well, what I told myself was, 'If we're putting this much into it, it IS going to be good!'"

"And when I think of the people who probably wouldn't have been able to use the trail if we hadn't leveled it out, I know that every second we put into making it accessible was worth it," he said.

Ethan collaborated with Waynesville businessman Tim Berrier of Lone Elk Printing to print and laminate signs to welcome people to the trail and identify various trees along it.

Parishioner Jerry Snobl donated red cedar lumber for the signs.

Members of Boy Scout Troup 150, Cub Scout Pack 149 and Girl Scout Troop 70588, all in St. Robert, built and donated birdhouses for the trail.

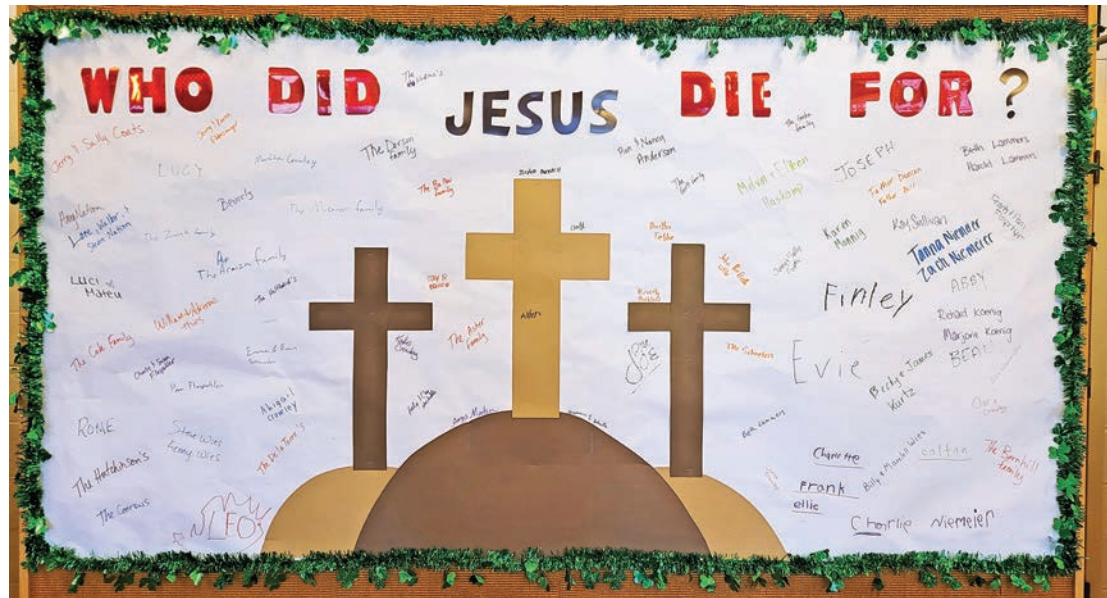
Answered prayers

Ethan prayed for help and

See TRAIL, page 14



A question for everyone to answer



A Lenten bulletin board in St. Joseph Church in Fayette poses the question, "Who did Jesus die for?" Parishioners were invited to sign their own names and the names of people they love in response to the question. — Photo by Amy Nation

By Your holy cross ...



Christ speaks: "My strength is gone. I can no longer bear the cross alone. So the legionaries make Simon give Me aid. This Simon is like you, My other self. Give Me your strength. Each time you lift some burden from another's back, you lift as with your very hand the cross's awful weight that crushes Me."

— The Fifth Station, "Everyone's Way of the Cross," by Clarence Enzler

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Students of Immaculate Conception School in Montgomery City present the living Stations of the Cross on April 12 in Immaculate Conception Church. — Photo by Gina Smith

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ANALYSIS: Truth is Putin's most dangerous enemy

By Mike Hoey

During the early days of Russia's unprovoked war on Ukraine, before Western journalists had been ordered to toe the Russian propaganda line or leave, TV cameras showed a very elderly Moscow woman holding a large anti-war sign as she was escorted to a waiting police van.

There have been many arrests since then, but that old woman's arrest sums up all of them in a message Vladimir Putin must repress at all costs:

"I love my country, but I hate your war on Ukraine."

The old woman represents Russian patriotism at its bravest and her protest is a part of a proud legacy of dissent that goes back to the days of the old Soviet Union, to jailed dissenters like the nuclear physicist Andrei Sakharov and the Nobel Prize winning author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

It is truth-tellers like these that Mr. Putin is most afraid of. It is why he has shut down opposition TV outlets in favor of state media. In this way, he tries to sustain his big lie, that Russia is liberating Ukraine from modern-day Nazis and a decadent irreligious Western culture.

To make Mr. Putin's lie believable, a lot has to be ignored, such as the fact that the Ukrainian president is Jewish, that there are many thriving churches in Ukraine, including Orthodox churches, or that every day Russian missiles strike Ukrainian hospitals, schools and train stations full of fleeing refugees.

All such reports are fake news, Russian media insists.

The horrible scenes from the streets of Bucha, of people murdered execution-style with their hands tied behind their backs, has all been staged by Ukrainians, Putin's apologists explain.

Mr. Putin offers up many justifications for his invasion, including the need to restore traditional religious values in Ukraine, a fellow Slavic and Orthodox country that has, he argues, been contaminated by Western democracies.

The Russian dictator has locked arms with Russian Patriarch Kirill, who recently declared in a sermon that "In

order to enter the club of those countries (Western democracies), it is necessary to hold a gay pride parade."

This rhetoric of "God is on our side" has not gone unchallenged. Recently, 300 Orthodox priests and deacons signed a letter calling for an immedi-

ate ceasefire in Ukraine.

It is this kind of courageous dissent that may eventually lead to Russia's withdrawal from Ukraine. But it comes with many personal risks. The truth may set you free, but it may also send you to prison.

In 1945, despite being a

captain of artillery in the Red Army, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was sent to prison for writing a letter criticizing Joseph Stalin. He spent eight years in Soviet prisons and labor camps and another three years in enforced exile.

But his imprisonment only

emboldened Solzhenitsyn to get the truth out. In the winter of 1974, illegal copies of his history of the Soviet prison system, *The Gulag Archipelago*, began to circulate in the Russian underground.

See UKRAINE, page 14

SUPPORT

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Two priests on podcasts

Two priests of the Jefferson City diocese were recently interviewed on podcasts:

- Father Nicholas Reid, who is serving as a U.S. military chaplain in San Antonio, Texas, discussed Holy Week on the April 11 “In HIS Vineyard” podcast
Search “In HIS Vineyard podcast”

- Father William Peckman, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Macon, St. Mary Parish in Shelbina, St. Patrick Parish in Clarence and the Mission of the Sacred Heart in Bevier, was interviewed on the April 9 “Rome Boys” podcast.
Search “Rome Boys podcast”

At Easter, Jerusalem patriarch notes there is much love in world

By Judith Sudilovsky
Catholic News Service

Jerusalem

Despite the violence and divisions in today’s world, it is still possible to see the signs of hope of the Resurrection, Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, said in his Easter message.

“Easter is not just a word, it is not a slogan, but it is a reality that we can still touch and experience today,” he said in his message, released April 13. “We must believe it, we, too, want to say: ‘I believe, Lord; help my unbelief!’ (Mark 9:24). Because it is not true that in the world there is only darkness and violence and that we experience only death and pain. In the world there is also so much love, so many people

who give their lives for others, who fight for justice, who work for peace.”

The political conflict in the Holy Land absorbs so much of people’s energy, in the repeated violent tensions especially flaring up recently, he said, and the situation can create mistrust, resentment, misunderstanding, suspicion and fear. But he noted that the signs of hope in the midst of the conflict can also be seen in the “continuous effort of our communities to build a normal life, which here is always wearisome and tiring.”

“I am also thinking of what is happening in Europe, in Ukraine, a country attacked by another brother country, creating human tragedies of enormous magnitude,” he said.

But as Easter approaches, the celebration is calling on faithful to become witnesses who, through their actions and prayer, continue to bring the light which “sprung from Christ’s tomb,” he said.

“Doing Easter means recognizing and celebrating Christ Who, through courageous witnesses, in the Holy Land and throughout the world, shows us the power of love that truly still knows how to overturn stones and bring light into the lives of so many people throughout the world and also in our Holy Land,” he said.

Earlier, on Palm Sunday

April 10, the patriarch emphasized the universality of the city of Jerusalem as a city for all and urged that Jerusalem become a place of healing for everybody.

“Today we affirm once again our love for this city and our desire for peace and unity for it, our desire for sincere fraternity for all its inhabitants, without distinction,” he said.

“The Church will always continue to be, in spite of everything, even in spite of ourselves, a Church that wishes to be a source of unity, that seeks encounter and that will not surrender to the logic of divi-

sion, hatred and contempt for the other. We will continue to love you always, because this is what our Master taught us,” he added.

People are tired of violence, hatred and revenge, he said, and called for prayers for justice and peace for peoples of the Holy Land but also elsewhere.

“Let us also pray for Ukraine and for all places in the world where wars and divisions tear apart the lives of millions, where the same logics of possession and exclusion that we know here create pain and death,” he said.

UKRAINE

From page 13

Solzhenitsyn tells not only his own story but the stories of other survivors. He traces the system from the midnight knock on the door, through interrogations seeking confessions by the use of torture, to being stripped naked and put in isolation cells to the long train rides on open cattle cars to Siberia or the labor camps in the Arctic Circle.

At different times, he explains, Stalin targeted different groups. Religious figures, including Catholic priests, were arrested, but Orthodox clergy were a bigger priority: “Monks and nuns, whose black habits had been a distinctive feature of Old Russian life, were intensively rounded up on every hand, placed under arrest, and sent into exile.”

The irony is that Mr. Putin, a former KGB communist, has now sought to make Russian

Orthodoxy his friend in a bid to recreate the ancient imperial Russian empire of the Czars.

His religious rhetoric makes a mockery of the rich tradition of the Russian Orthodox Church.

No honest person, and certainly no person seeking to follow Christ’s Gospel of love and peace, can take Mr. Putin seriously, as Russian forces gun down old men, rape women, leave children orphans and kidnap innocent civilians, taking them to “filtration camps” in Russia.

These war crimes will never be forgotten or excused, even in Russia, so long as brave Russians are willing to speak up and risk jail time to speak the truth to Putin’s tyranny.

The author is a lifelong examiner of history and public policy.

TRAIL

From page 11

direction throughout the project, and he believes the Lord answered him.

“I think God gives us strength,” he said. “When I first started, I thought we could do this in a couple of meetings. A year later, I was still working on it.”

Now that the trail is completed, Ethan knows it was done right.

“In fact, it’s one of the things I’m most proud of,” he said.

He chose to name the trail in honor of Scouting’s patron saint in part to call attention to Scouting itself.

“It seems to me that Scouting has kind of waned,” Ethan stated. “Membership has gone down a little. It’s been a great experience for me, and I’d like more people to know about it.”

He said he hopes using the trail helps people find “a bit of peace.”

“It’s a great place to go out and just meditate,” he said.

He once adjourned to the trail himself to clear his mind after a bad experience.

He found everything quiet and covered with snow.

“Being out there and far away from everybody was definitely cleansing,” he said. “That was really nice.”

Fr. Murphy hopes to bless the trail sometime this spring.

The new season’s arrival has brought a colorful cavalcade of blossoms to the trees and shrubs

along the trail.

Ethan has heard about parishioners already taking it upon themselves to help maintain sections of it.

“Part of the idea is that this is a gift to the church,” he said. “I’m happy to see that other parishioners are helping to maintain it now that I’ve turned it over to the parish.”

“Once an Eagle Scout ...”

Ethan will officially age-out of Scouting when he turns 18 this month, but generations of Scouting lore affirms, “Once an Eagle Scout, always an Eagle Scout.”

After graduating from Waynesville High School this spring, he’s looking forward to attending Missouri State University in Springfield in the fall.

“I’m going to start off with music,” he stated, “but it’s a good school to find out what it is you want to keep pursuing. They have wildlife and conservation, and I also enjoy film and theatre, and music. So right now, everything is on the table.”

Everything, that is, except his faith.

“I plan to get active in Catholic Campus Ministry,” he stated.

He recently met Bishop Edward Rice of Springfield-Cape Girardeau while attending a fish fry at the O’Reilly Catholic Center on campus with his brother, who is an MSU student.

“The bishop’s a great guy,” he noted.

Holy Land Christians hope for peace, tourism as three feasts converge

By Judith Sudilovsky
Catholic News Service

Jerusalem

With pandemic restrictions almost fully lifted, churches and shopkeepers alike are hopeful that the streets of Jerusalem will fill up once again as Easter, Passover and Ramadan converge.

Joseph Hazboun, regional director of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association-Pontifical Mission in Jerusalem, noted that the pandemic has left its mark not only on people in the tourism industry but also on some monasteries and convents that depend on the sales of their homemade products. Though there are signs of returning pilgrims, he said, it is still a long way off from the high numbers of three years ago.

And with the continuing unchecked vandalism attacks on church property, especially but not only in Jerusalem, Christians feel threatened, he said.

"It affects the presence of Christians and the Church," he said.

In addition to vandalism, in March, Israelis and Palestinians saw an increase in violence. In early March, seven Palestinians were killed in separate clashes with Israeli forces, and in late March three terrorist attacks that killed 11 people left Israelis reeling.

On April 2, the patriarchs and heads of local churches of Jerusalem condemned the violence and called on Christians, Muslims and Jews to show mutual respect for one another at the rare confluence of the three major religious holidays. They called on government authorities to "exercise policies of religious tolerance, restraint of force, and de-escalation of conflict," commending them for the extent to which they have done so thus far.

"In these coming weeks that are sacred to our respective religious traditions, we encourage all people of good faith to walk in the pathway of peace that is so central to the symbolism of Jerusalem, the City of Peace. In this way, we can be true witnesses to the world of the com-

mon vision of peace/shalom/salaam that is enshrined within the heart of our separate but intertwined religious beliefs," they said.

This is not the first cycle of violence the Holy Land has experienced, said Sami El-Yousef, chief executive officer of the Latin Patriarchate, and the region has always found a way to rise above it all during religious celebrations.

"If we are faithful to our religion — regardless whether Muslim, Jewish, or Christian — the upcoming season must present a different track to take us all back to the basics and celebrate the majesty of Jerusalem." He said the season must be "the symbol of unity and peace rather than division and violence."

"I am optimistic that we will all rise above the current cycle and strengthen our faith and that special relationship with our one God in the coming weeks."

Having just returned from Gaza, El-Yousef noted that the Christian community was "very happy" that this year, for the Easter holiday, 720 Israeli travel permits for 80 days were issued. Israel and Egypt have blockaded the Gaza Strip for more than 15 years.

In the northern Israeli city of Haifa, Reem Abunassar, 46, who teaches religious education at St. Joseph Catholic Parish, is still traumatized by the riots last year in Israeli mixed cities at the end of Ramadan, when violence broke out between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Her four young adult daughters were attacked by a Jewish mob in front of their house.

During Lent she has been praying for peace, she said.

"To get into the spirit of Easter, I pray each and every day that there will be peace in the world," she said. "I don't believe in any violence, in any terrorist attacks, in killing of any kind. This is not in my religion. I believe in peace, and I believe that peace will one day prevail, because I pray a lot for this."

REFUGEES

From page 7

While in Poland, she met up with members of one of the Ukrainian host families she stayed with while in the Peace Corps.

Her host mother and three children, ages 18, 12 and 6, are now refugees settling in Poland but are eager to return home as soon as possible.

"They're telling me, 'We don't know where we're going to go, we don't know what we're going to do or who's going to help us,'" she said.

Her host dad and his son were unable to leave Ukraine.

"It took them 10 hours to go 1 kilometer in order to cross the border," Ms. Cravens stated.

"So this is all very personal," she said. "But I know that my grief, in a sense, doesn't compare with that of people who are from there and have lived there forever. But it is still real."

"Strong purpose"

Ms. Cravens was filled with a mixture of emotions upon returning from Poland to the United States.

"I felt really joyful about what I was able to do and what the Lord had done in my life during my time there," she said.

"But at the same time, what's happening is really tragic," she continued. "It's one thing to read about things or watch them on the news, but it's another to see them for yourself."

She finds vast consolation in knowing that there's plenty she can do to help while she's here in Missouri, waiting to return to Ukraine as a missionary.

"We have a very strong purpose here," she said.

She serves on Refugee Services' employment team, working primarily with Afghan refugees, and does case-management work with mostly Ukrainian refugees living in Sedalia.

With recent authorization from the U.S. government, she's helping people from Ukraine (who settled in



Whitney Cravens (left), who served with the U.S. Peace Corps in Ukraine, helps display a Ukrainian map.

this area before Russia's current invasion) file Affidavit of Relationship (AOR) forms to help their families resettle here through the Lautenberg Program.

That program was established to help resettle families fleeing religious persecution in post-Soviet nations in Europe and Asia.

Refugee Services has already helped several families resettle in this area under the program.

"And now, whether they're previously our clients or Moldovan relatives, they can file now for those cases, which is really good news," she said.

She's also helping a group known as the Central Missouri Returned Peace Corps Volunteers conduct a collection drive of essential household items for people who are here from Ukraine and other Eastern European countries.

Joining hands

Ms. Cravens's experience in Poland renewed her appreciation of the importance of refugee resettlement and refugee care.

"The work that volunteers are doing around the world to welcome refugees and care for them is amazing, but I hope people appreciate how well resettlement work is here in this country," she said.

She looks forward to returning to Ukraine as a missionary someday after the war.

Until then, she's eager to help in any way she can here in the United States.

"I think it goes for all of us: we can only do what we can," she said. "But don't underestimate the value of small acts of kindness and seemingly small roles, because collectively, we can do a lot together."

"And all of the different ways people are helping Ukraine," she continued, "they're all collectively coming together and helping Ukrainians feel really supported."

"So whether it's here, welcoming Ukrainian refugees, supporting all refugees, supporting the idea of America receiving refugees — all of this is important," she said.

Ms. Cravens, a credentialed minister in the Assemblies of God and member of Columbia First Assembly Church of God in Columbia, also emphasized the importance and power of prayer and of people of different faith backgrounds working together to do God's work.

In terms of helping financially, she urged people to give generously but wisely to organizations with good reputations.

She noted that she saw people wearing Caritas Ukraine vests in a train station in Poland, on their way to help.

Caritas Ukraine is part of the same international network of Catholic relief organizations that includes Catholic Relief Services.

To assist Ukrainian refugees, CCCNMO recommends gifts to Catholic Relief Services (crs.org) and Caritas International (www.caritas.org).



By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

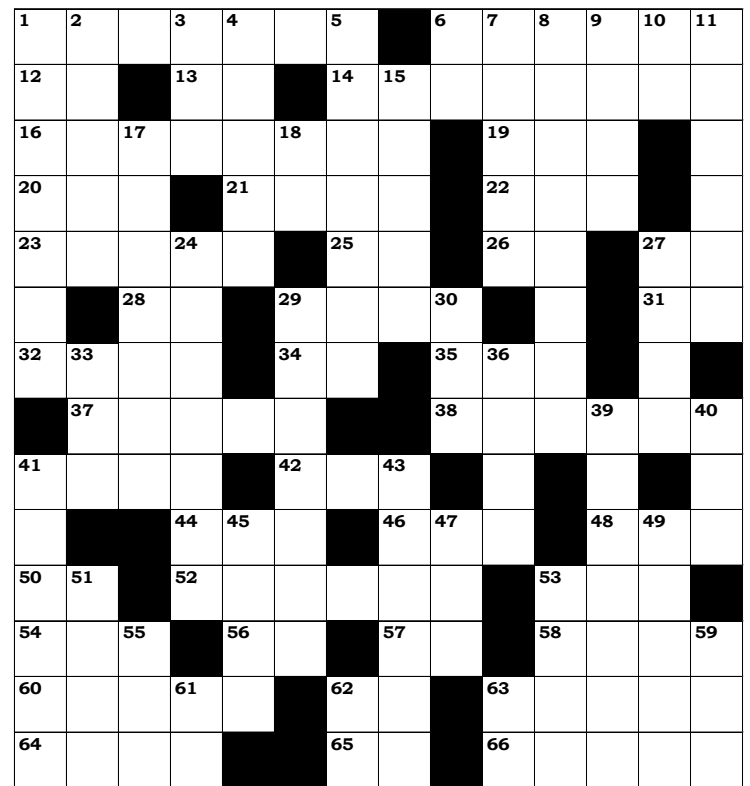
1. The fear of spiders is the most well-known of all ____.
6. Jesus was born in a ____.
12. Letters for Adults Only; a gaming rating (18 and up).
13. Prefix for side or sect.
14. The Prodigal Son is one example of Jesus's many ____.
16. A bite from a black widow spider is 15 times ____ than rattlesnake venom. Though a web spider, it can be aggressive.
19. *Et cum spiritu* ____; i.e., And with your spirit.
20. "Never underestimate the power of a good cup of ____," —Earl Grey drinker Captain Jean Luc Picard in the Star Trek novel *Perchance To Dream*; Howard Weinstein.
21. Abbr. for enclosed, as on the front of an envelope, perhaps.
22. Letters after the name of an ear, nose and throat doctor.
23. The brown recluse spider is the most venomous spider in Mo., and in the U.S. Its bite will make one very sick and can result in a large

- skin _____. Wash, ice and elevate and get medical help. They might be more likely to be encountered because they actively hunt (as opposed to passive web spiders) but are less likely to be encountered because they are only nocturnal.
25. Abbr. for "In other words."
 26. Letters for Research and Development dept.
 27. St. Francis ____ Sales was noted for his deep faith and gentle approach to the religious divisions resulting from the Protestant Reformation.
 28. State of the Redwood and Sequoia trees (abbr.).
 29. Part of RIP.
 31. Prefix for reverent or relevant.
 32. There are big ones in Hollywood.
 34. Prefix for chew or cape.
 35. Charged particle.
 37. ____ 6; less expensive travel lodgings.
 38. All "widow" spiders can be found in and around houses (____, closets, nooks and corners), wood and rock piles, flower gardens and old buildings.
 41. Zit problem.
 42. Female black widow spiders are most well-known because of their venom and their supposed predisposition to ____ their mates (!) but also because of the striking deep red markings on their black skeletal body.
 44. ____ Records is currently owned by Sony Music.
 46. In legal matters, Latin word meaning "thing," referring to an object, inter-

- est or status, as opposed to a person.
48. "The ____ of the Poor," — song by Father John Foley, S.J., released in 2009, taken from verses in Psalm 34.
 50. "At issue...is the capacity to absorb suffering and learn from ____." That's how survivors survive," — psychiatrist Robert Lifton.
 52. Stock car org.
 53. ____ Na Na; a doo-wop rock group in the early 70s which parodied the NYC street culture of the 50s. Had a syndicated TV variety series from 1977-81 that was one of the most watched programs of its time.
 54. Venom takes much energy to produce and so spiders won't inject it unless trapped or likely to ____.
 56. The capital of this border State of Mo. is named for a President (abbr.).
 57. Short for the federal dept. for veterans.
 58. A laundry detergent.
 60. Bowel cleansing procedure.
 62. "You do very well to ____ reading the Bible," —Vincent Van Gogh to his friend Emile Bernard, 1888.
 63. "____ *Angelicus*"; Latin for "Bread of Angels"; popular hymn written by St. Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century; sometimes used in Benediction; has been performed by tenors Pavarotti, Placido Domingo, and others.
 64. Wise or visionary person you might consult about the future (e.g., 1 Samuel 9:9).
 65. Not the NL.
 66. "O Lord __ __, when I in awesome wonder..." — opening lyrics from the hymn "How Great Thou Art."

DOWN

1. "Then we, your people, the sheep of your ____..." (Psalm 79:13).
2. Ritz-Carlton or Hyatt.
3. Life summary, briefly.
4. "...although our outer self is wasting away, our ____ self is being renewed day by day," (2 Corinthians 4:16).
5. Missouri has over 300 ____ of spiders; only 2 are



6. Abbr. for 4th year high school student.
7. ____ tots.
8. The "widow" spiders include the American house spider, the most common and ____ in Mo. and in the world. It is not venomous, or negligibly so.
9. That slanderous remark is leaving a ____ on my good name.
10. A TV show in 2005 called "____ Plus Grand Francais de tous les temps" (The Greatest Frenchman of all Time) polled French viewers. The winner: Charles de Gaulle.
11. 19th book of the Bible.
15. French town that inspired the paintings of Vincent Van Gough.
17. Masked 4-legged varmint.
18. 1st book of the Bible (abbr.).
24. "Mo. is truly where the country comes together. St. Louis is the westernmost ____ city, while Kansas City is the easternmost western city," —Mo. U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt to the Mo. Legislature; 2022.
27. ____ golf; game played with Frisbees.
29. Even black widow and brown recluse spiders ____ venom only 50% of the times they bite, depending on the threat level.
30. Spanish aunt.
33. ____ (General Motors Corp.) has been the largest car manufacturer based in the U.S. since 1931.
36. Elevator man.
39. Symptoms of venomous spider bites can include burning, swelling, cramping, rash, ____ and headache.
40. Spiders are generally very ____ and will run when threatened. Biting is a last resort.
41. "A wise person decides slowly but ____ by these decisions," —tennis great Arthur Ashe.
43. "Have Gun, Will ____"; popular Western TV series that ran for 6 seasons (1957-63); starred Richard Boone as Paladin, an "gentleman" gun for hire in San Francisco.
45. According to John's gospel, a wedding in this place was the site of Jesus's first public miracle (John 5:46-54).
47. A detergent.
49. For FDR's fireside chats, families would gather around the ____.
51. Part of a fork.
53. Command to Fido perhaps.
55. Very wide shoe size.
59. Letters for Employment Security Division of Mo. State Government.
61. Abbr. before a male's name.
62. College degree; Bachelor of Arts.
63. Many more countries have a Prime Minister (____) than a President, although the role can be different from country to country.

ANSWERS on page 19

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LEFT: Bishop W. Shawn McKnight stirs fragrant balsam into the Oil of Chrism before consecrating it to be used for sacraments throughout the Jefferson City diocese in the upcoming year. **RIGHT:** Together, priests of the diocese renew the promises they made on their ordination day.

— Photos by Jay Nies

CHRISM MASS

From page 3

into the mystery of the eternal heavenly banquet,” he said.

Bearing gifts

Sister Bernita Wasinger and Sister Susan Renner, both of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, presented the bread and wine in the offertory procession.

Four deacons presented the oils for blessing and consecration.

Deacon Bruce Mobley, who assists the pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Macon and serves as diocesan lay director of Teens Encounter Christ, presented the Oil for the Catechumens.

Deacon Edwin Pacheco, who assists the pastor of Mary Immaculate Parish in Kirksville and is involved in diocesan Hispanic ministry, presented the Oil for the Sick.

Deacon John L. Neudecker, who assists the pastor of St. Peter Parish in Fulton, presented the fragrant balsam for the Oil for Chrism.

Deacon Daniel Ramsey, who assists the pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Holts Summit, presented the Oil for Chrism.

To bring glad tidings

The Oil of Catechumens is used for infants during the baptismal ceremony, and for the anointing of the elect during the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) as they prepare to be baptized.

It designates all members of the Church as learners and gives them a protecting strength against evil.

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

Sacred Chrism, named for Christ, is used in Baptism, as

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

well as Confirmation, the ordination of priests and bishops and the dedication of churches and altars.

Bishop McKnight told the assembly that the blessing of

the three sacred oils should remind everyone of his or her own anointing by the Holy Spirit and to share in Christ’s mission to teach, sanctify and govern.

“Our supernatural anointings with the Holy Spirit make it pos-

sible for us to teach the truth of God’s love for the world, seen in the death and resurrection of His beloved Son,” the bishop stated. “And we are able to manifest healing through our works of charity and service.”

“Whenever we give food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, shelter to the homeless; whenever we defend the weak and vulnerable, grant forgiveness to the penitent, provide medicine and care to the sick, comfort to the grief-stricken, and hope to those in time of despair, we bring glad tidings to the poor and announce the Kingdom of God,” he said.

Charity and hope

After the priests renewed their promises, Bishop McKnight asked the laypeople to “pray for your priests, that the

Lord may pour out His gifts abundantly upon them and keep them faithful as ministers of Christ, the High Priest, so that they may lead you to Him, Who is the source of salvation.”

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

He noted that in administering the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, priests ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen and heal those who are being anointed “in order to mend their bodies, refresh their spirits, restore their broken relationship with God and to heal our fractured humanity.”

“Their spiritual healing is the primary aim, which in-

cludes the forgiveness of sins,” he said.

This ministry, Bishop McKnight stated, represents everything else priests do to manifest the Kingdom of God through charitable and merciful works.

“Our acts of charity and mercy are concrete expressions of our hope in the Resurrection,” he said.

The Chrism Mass is usually celebrated in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City but was offered this year in St. Andrew Church in Holts Summit while the Cathedral is being extensively repaired and renovated.

Bishop McKnight stated that “God willing,” Sacred Chrism from this year’s Chrism Mass will be used to consecrate the new altar and walls of the Cathedral upon its completion.



LEFT: Father Frederick Elskamp and Father William Peckman are among the priests of the diocese who are having significant priestly anniversaries this year. **RIGHT:** Deacon John Neudecker, Deacon Bruce Mobley and Deacon Edwin Pacheco process out of St. Andrew Church at the end of the Chrism Mass.

— Photos by Jay Nies

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

Fundraisers & Social Events

Apr. 15

Hannibal, K of C fish fry 4:30-7 pm

Apr. 10

Argyle, St. Aloysius and St. Boniface parishes, chicken & ham dinner, 11 am-5:30 pm, Argyle VFW; Belle, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am

Apr. 24

Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels Parish Spring chicken dinner, 11 am-5 pm

Apr. 26

Columbia, Vitae Foundation annual pro-life event, with keynote Rachel Campos-Duffy, 7-9 pm, Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, for info or to register visit vitae.foundation.org

Apr. 30

Jefferson City, Pregnancy Help Center of Central Missouri "Bounces & Bubbles" 5K walk/run, 8:30 am-10:30 pm, Memorial Park Pavilion, for info or to register visit friendsofphc.org

May 1

St. Anthony, St. Anthony of Padua Parish Spring festival, 11:30 am-4 pm; Vienna, Visitation Parish Spring festival, 11 am-5:30 pm

May 6

Holts Summit, K of C council #8400 charity golf tournament, 9 am-3 pm, Railwood Golf Club, for info or to register call 573-619-5298 or 573-690-4791

May 8

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

Meetings/ Workshops

Apr. 16

VIRTUAL, Couple to Couple League natural family planning introductory session, 8-9 am, to RSVP email MidMoNFP@gmail.com

Apr. 19

VIRTUAL, Marriage Prep Facilitators' evening refresher, 5:30-6:30 pm, for info or to RSVP email faithformation@diojeffcity.org

Apr. 20

Jefferson City, 12th Annual Midwest March for Life, 7:45 am-3:30 pm, Missouri State Capitol grounds

May 2

VIRTUAL, Couple to Couple League natural family planning introductory session, 8-9 pm, to RSVP email MidMoNFP@gmail.com

May 3

VIRTUAL, Marriage Prep Facilitators' morning refresher, 10:30-11:30 am, for info or to RSVP email faithformation@diojeffcity.org

May 17

VIRTUAL, Marriage Prep Facilitators' evening refresher, 5:30-6:30 pm, for info or to RSVP email faithformation@diojeffcity.org

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

19 abril

VIRTUAL, Sesión de Capacitación para Facilitadores de Preparación Matrimonial, 12:15-1:15 pm, envíe un correo electrónico a faithformation@diojeffcity.org antes del lunes anterior si planea asistir

22-24 abril

Dodge City, KS, Reunión Regional, Centro de Retiro de Dodge City, para más información llame Oswaldo Diaz 660-829-5213

23-24 abril

California, Retiro de Inicio, Parroquia Anunciación, para más información sobre este evento de Renovación Carasimática Católico y/o para registrarse contacte a Emilio Juarez al 573-680-9326 o por correo electrónico a emiliojh@outlook.com

24 abril

Sedalia, Kermes, 9 am-9 pm, Iglesia de San Patricio, para más información llame Oswaldo Diaz 660-829-5213

30 abril

Columbia, Misa de Sanación, 10-11 am, Parroquia Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Jacqueline de la Cruz al 573-673-2091 o por correo electrónico a jpuertoplata@yahoo.com

30 abril-1 mayo

Sedalia, Retiro de Inicio, Parroquia San Patricio, para más información sobre este evento de Renovación Carasimática Católico y/o para registrarse contacte a José Resendiz al 660-281-4058 o por correo electrónico a jehresendiz@gmail.com

3 mayo

VIRTUAL, Sesión de Capacitación para Facilitadores de Preparación Matrimonial, 5:30-6:30 pm, envíe un correo electrónico a faithformation@diojeffcity.org antes del lunes anterior si planea asistir

7-8 mayo

Milan, Retiro de Inicio, Parroquia Santa María, para más información sobre este evento de Renovación Carasimática Católico y/o para registrarse contacte a Aurelia

Crusz al 660-292-1402 o por correo electrónico a aurelia.c595@gmail.com

17 mayo

VIRTUAL, Sesión de Capacitación para Facilitadores de Preparación Matrimonial, 12:15-1:15 pm, envíe un correo electrónico a faithformation@diojeffcity.org antes del lunes anterior si planea asistir

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Apr 27

Jefferson City, "God, Do I Really Have Time For This? A Women's Talk" with Patty Schneier, sponsored by Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish Women's Ministry, 6:30-8 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center

May 6-8

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

Liturgical

May 8

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

Youth

Apr. 23

Jefferson City, "With Great Power" Confirmation Retreat, 10 am-4 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/confirmation-retreat-2022

Jun. 19-24

Camdenton, Camp Macca-bee (session 1) summer adventure camp for high school-

aged young men, for info or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-maccabee

Jun. 26-Jul. 1

Conway, Camp Siena summer camp experience for high school-aged young women, for info or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-siena

Jul. 10-13

Conway, Camp Lolek (session 1) summer camp for junior high boys, for info or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-lolek

Jul. 13-16

Conway, Camp Lolek (session 2) summer camp for junior high girls, for info or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-lolek

Jul. 17-22

Camdenton, Camp Macca-bee (session 2) summer adventure camp for high school-aged young men, for info or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-maccabee

Aug. 1-5

Jefferson City, Ancient Classics "Summa Camp" for youth entering 1st-5th grade, 7:30 am-5 pm daily, Immaculate Conception Parish, for info or to register contact Mark Rehagen at mrehagen@heliascatholic.com

Health & Wellness

Apr. 18

Rich Fountain, Blood drive, 2-6 pm, Sacred Heart School

Apr. 24

Jefferson City, Blood drive, 7 am-1 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Kertz Hall

FR. DOYLE

From page 8

says in No. 305 that "during Lent it is forbidden for the altar to be decorated with flowers."

The only exceptions, it specifically notes, are Laetare Sunday, solemnities and feasts. But the *Order of Christian Funerals* says (in No. 38), "Fresh flowers, used in moderation, can enhance the setting of the funeral rites." So I say (and have done this) why not make a pastoral accommodation, especially for a grieving family? Flowers do speak of new life, which is what the funeral liturgy strives to convey.

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

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Darrell & Robin Schulte, 30 years

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Sam & Cindy Beckman, 53 years
Ray & Susan Carey, 51 years
Robert & Marcetta Gustin, 43 years
Kevin & Melynda Connelly, 38 years
Fate & Julie Johns, 38 years
Dan & Donna Douglas, 36 years
Tyler & Kathy Becker, 29 years
Tom & Linda Panek, 24 years
Kris & Rhonda Franken, 19 years
Cesar & Minnie Chaparro, 17 years
Tom & Katie Royal, 10 years

Fayette, St. Joseph
Larry & Colleen Wies, 46 years
Larry & Wanda Fuemmeler, 45 years
Harlan & Suann Cole, 39 years
John & Nan Geha, 23 years
Jason & Sarah Hutchinson, 18 years
Dean & Brenda Fuemmeler, 16 years

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception
Bernard & Marcella Schwartze, 66 years

Jefferson City, St. Peter
William & Mary Ann Kramer, 70 years
Gerald & Mary Dunn, 50 years

Koeltztown, St. Boniface
Robert & Mary Huhn, 46 years
Brian & Lynne Brandt, 25 years

Martinsburg, St. Joseph
Kenny & Audrey Schafer, 50 years

Moberly, St. Pius X
Darrell & Judy Ann Schmit, 35 years

Montgomery City, Immaculate Conception
Jake & Julie Beck, 18 years

Palmyra, St. Joseph
Ted & Theresa Hudson, 66 years
Joe & Veronica Thomas, 42 years
Greg & Carolyn Foster, 40 years
Roger & Tammy Foster, 38 years
Ted & Susan Lantz, 37 years
Bruce & Carolyn Foster, 35 years
Kirt & Debbie Malone, 32 years
Dwayne & Becky Goodwin, 25 years
Luke & Christie Mahsman, 19 years

Names for the People Page

Information for the People Page comes from parish correspondents and individual parishioners, as well as bulletins and newspapers.

Submissions for anniversaries (10 years or more), birthdays (90 years or more), and baptisms, deaths, marriages and initiations of local parishioners may be e-mailed to editor@diojeffcity.org or mailed to *The Catholic Missourian*, 2207 West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914.

St. Martins, St. Martin
Bill & Diana Lueckenotte, 50 years
Keith & Donna Meller, 40 years

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul
John & Margaret Hanlon, 62 years
Bill & Ruth Lehman, 58 years
Bill & Sandy Mayfield, 58 years
Jerry & Jayne Connery, 55 years
Howard & Bobby Simon, 40 years
David & Stephanie Scheid, 25 years
Jim & Susan Van Horn, 25 years
Tom & Diane Eschbacher, 20 years

Vandalia, Sacred Heart
Sonny & Alice Wright, 62 years
Kenny & Shari Brewer, 36 years

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus
Stanley & Mary Kolb, 55 years

Westphalia, St. Joseph
Dave & Donna Hart, 57 years

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels
Bob & Karla Nanneman, 49 years
Melvin & Tammy Sartain, 39 years
Charlie & Theresa Morrison, 39 years
Dan & Debbie Minshall, 35 years
Stephen & Connie Meissen, 34 years
Eric & Kasie Stallo, 25 years

Marriages

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Rebekah Kempker & Cody Schulte**

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Katie Charlton & Paul Lackman III**

OSPINO

From page 9

dodge bullets and stop wars. Can anyone like her take on the lords of war of our time? In the film, Wonder Woman stops and brings the mythical Ares, the Greek god of war living disguised among humans promoting conflict, to his demise.

I smile and wish it were that easy. Yet, it occurs to me that we have Mary, the mother of Jesus, woman of wonders. In times of war and struggle, Catholics for centuries have turned to her in prayer. It is not accidental that one of her most popular titles is Queen of Peace.

On Friday, March 25, 2022, I attended a Mass with hundreds of people, joining Pope Francis and millions of Catholics throughout the world, to consecrate humanity, particularly Ukraine and Russia, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

It is through actions like this, I think, that the Virgin Mary is already working wonders. I see Mary taking on the lords of war of our day, bringing us together, in the name of Jesus, to ponder about the dignity of every human life. That is the greatest miracle that can bring entire wars to an end.

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

Baptisms

California, Annunciation — **Jackson James Benne**, son of Tyler & Alayna Benne

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Annistyn Gail Riley**, daughter of Jared & Johnna Riley

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Esther Hoih, Cameron Schaefer, Beau Thelen**

Fulton, St. Peter — **Collins Crews Oestreich**, daughter of Andrew & Jamie Oestreich; **Laila Jo Wickell**, daughter of David Wickell & Alyssa Murrell

St. Elizabeth, St. Lawrence — **Colt Henry Heckemeyer**, son of Cody & Jessica Heckemeyer; **Prescott Blair Loethen**, daughter of Ryan & Morgan Loethen

Birthdays

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Deacon Robert Rackers**, his 90th on April 21

Owensville, Immaculate Conception — **Robert Huesgen**, his 90th on April 10

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Shirley Orbals**, her 95th on April 20

Honors

Sedalia, Sacred Heart — Coach **Steven Goodwin**, as KMZU Radio's 2022 Basketball Dream Team Class 2 Boys Coach of the Year

Elections

Martinsburg, St. Joseph — **Samantha Bohr**, president; **Jamie Bukovac**, vice president; **Jina Deimeke**, secretary; **Mandy Cope**, treasurer, of the Home & School Association

MARROCCO

From page 9

telling Him to get off the cross and pick up the sword? Do we quickly call our neighbors "the enemy," forgetting they're our sisters and brothers?

At the heart of the Gospel is Jesus creating peace, in contradiction to the universally held human belief in the necessity of violence. Where do we stand?

The earliest proclamation of the Church is this: "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" (Lk. 24:34).

"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, we implore you to stop the hand of Cain, enlighten our conscience, let not our will be done, do not abandon us to our own doing." — A prayer of Pope Francis, CNS translation, March 16, 2022.

Marrocco can be reached at mary.marrocco@outlook.com.

Deaths

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Kelly Elliott**

Brunswick, St. Boniface — **Irma Widhalm**

California, Annunciation — **Belinda Fisher**

Canton, St. Joseph — **Michael Tuley**

Hermann, St. George — **Flora Mae Birk**

Holts Summit, St. Andrew — **Elizabeth White**

Hurricane Branch, St. Joseph — **Frankie Gladbach**

Indian Creek, St. Stephen Church — **Joseph P. Hays**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Jennie L. McDougal**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Mary E. Bollinger**

Marshall, St. Peter — **David Lakenburger, Billie Dean Tucker Jr.**

Meta, St. Cecilia — **Bernadine A. Otto**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Mary K. Kirkweg, Lorraine G. Smith**

Steelville, St. Michael — **Sara Farmer**

Tipton, St. Andrew — **Gary D. Arnold**

Vandalia, Sacred Heart — **Carolyn McBride**

The Catholic Missourian publication schedule

April 15 & 29
May 13 & 27
June 10 & 24
July 8 & 22
August 5 & 19
September 2, 16 & 30
October 14 & 28
November 11 & 25
December 9 & 16

Crossword puzzle answers

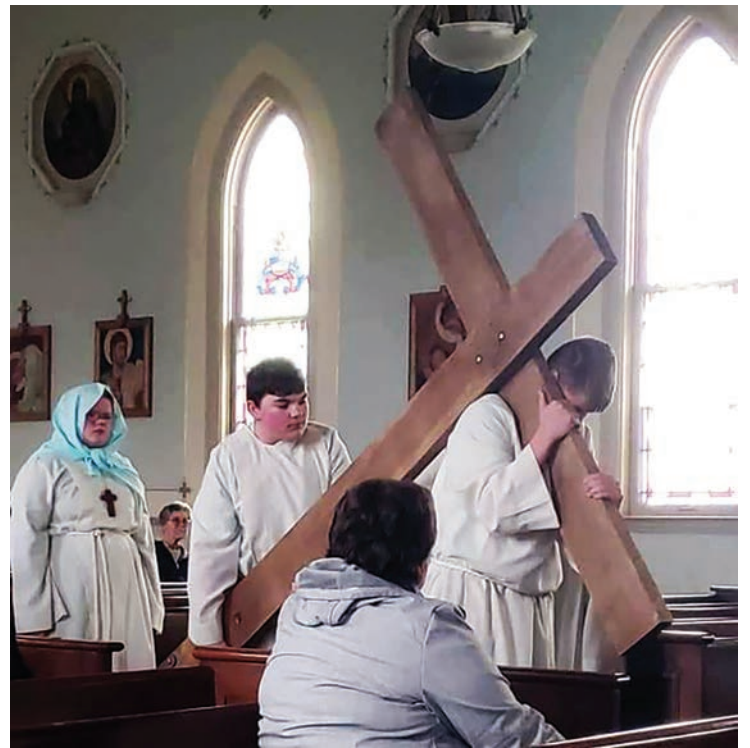
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Were you there...



Members of the high school youth group from Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City and St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek present their annual live Stations of the Cross on April 10 in Holy Rosary Church. Everett Pangborn portrayed Jesus. — Photo by Donna Long

...when they crucified my Lord?



RIGHT: Students of St. Joseph School in Martinsburg present the living Stations of the Cross on April 7 in St. Joseph Church. — Photos by Brook Poindexter



'C' is for 'Careers'



Students at Immaculate Conception School in Macon celebrate "C is for Career/Community Helpers Day" April 7 by dressing up for a profession they'd like to have when they grow up. — Photo from the Immaculate Conception School Facebook page



Goal shattered for helping refugees



RIGHT: Challenged by the Our Lady of the Snows School Student Council in Mary's Home to collect 200 items to be donated to Refugee Services of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, students on March 30 display the 544 items they collected. — Photo from the Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School Facebook page

The apostles appear before the Sanhedrin

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

One day, after Jesus returned to His Father in heaven, the apostles were all together in Solomon's Portico at the Temple in Jerusalem.

Although the people were afraid to join them, they held the apostles in esteem.

The people also brought their sick onto the streets on mats and cots. They hoped that Peter's shadow would fall on the sick people as he walked by and they would be healed.

People from nearby towns also came to Jerusalem with their sick and those afflicted by unclean spirits, and all were cured.

The high priest and his companions, who were all Sadducees, became jealous. They rose up and laid hands on the apostles and put them in jail.



During the night, the angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and led them out.

"Go and take your place in the Temple area, and tell the people everything about this life," the angel said.

The high priest questioned the apostles before the Sanhedrin. He reminded them that they had been given strict orders to stop teaching in Jesus' name.

"We must obey God rather than men," Peter and the apostles replied. "The God of our ancestors raised Jesus. ... God exalted him at His right hand as leader and savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit that God has given to those who obey Him."

The court officers returned empty-handed from the securely locked and guarded jail. As everyone wondered what to do, a report came that the apostles were in the Temple area. The captain of the Temple guard and the court officers brought in the apostles without force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

Bible Accent

There are several other times in the Bible when God helped apostles who were in jail.

For example, in Acts 12, we learn that King Herod was persecuting Christians. He had the Apostle James killed, and he had Peter arrested and put in jail. He planned to put Peter on trial after the Passover.

On the night before Peter was to stand trial, he was secured in double chains and sleeping in his cell between two soldiers. Outside the door, guards kept watch on the prison.

The angel of the Lord sud-

denly appeared and woke Peter. The angel told him to gather his things and follow him.

The angel led Peter past two guards and to the iron gate that led out into the city. The gate opened by itself, and the angel led Peter outside the jail and into an alley before disappearing.

And in Acts 16, Paul and Silas were put in jail when they were preaching in Philippi. At midnight, there was a great earthquake, and the prison doors flew open and the chains on the prisoners were loosened. Even though they had a chance

to escape, Paul and Silas stayed to evangelize the jail guard and his family, who were all baptized. In the morning, the authorities set Paul and Silas free.

Trivia

What happened to the apostles after they appeared before the Sanhedrin? (Hint: Acts 5:40)

Answer: They were flogged and released.

Saint Spotlight



St. Mary Mazzarello was born into a peasant family in Italy in 1837. She worked long hours in the fields and vineyards. She joined a sodality whose members nursed victims of typhoid fever in 1860. Mary caught the fever and nearly died. Her weakened health prompted her to change jobs, so she created a dressmaking business to employ local girls. This endeavor turned into the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco, which now has 1,400 houses in 54 countries. Mary died in 1881, and we remember her on May 14.

Puzzle

Using the hints provided, fill in the blanks in the sentences about the first followers of Jesus.



1. Ananias and his wife, _____, sold a piece of property. (Acts 5:1)
2. In the community of believers, no one claimed their _____ were their own. (Acts 4:32)
3. Philip went to _____ to proclaim the Messiah to the people there. (Acts 8:5)
4. Tabitha was a follower of Jesus who lived in _____. (Acts 9:36)



Answers: 1. Sapphira; 2. possessions; 3. Samaria; 4. Joppa.

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Rough edges are part of the message of 'Father Stu' motion picture

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

New York

Positive priest characters are certainly a rarity in contemporary films, so Catholics will welcome the uplifting fact-based biography "Father Stu" (Columbia).

While deeply moving, however, this dramatization of the life of Stuart Long (Mark Wahlberg) is also hard-edged, particularly in terms of its dialogue.

Yet that's part of the point. The movie is fundamentally about God's ability to use seemingly unpromising people to do His will, in this case a once-boozy ex-boxer.

With the continuance of his somewhat successful career in the ring rendered too dangerous by a medical condition, Stuart moves to Los Angeles and tries to reinvent himself as a Hollywood star. Instead, he winds up as a directionless



Mark Wahlberg stars in a scene from the movie "Father Stu."

— CNS photo/Sony Pictures

supermarket clerk.

But things begin to turn around for him when he falls at first sight for Carmen (Teresa Ruiz), a devout CCD teacher. Determined to win her over, he goes through the motions of becoming a Catholic, though an awkward confession and other interactions show that he has yet to be won over in reality.

All that changes after a mo-

torcycle accident and a close brush with death during which he experiences the presence of the Virgin Mary. The result is not only a genuine conversion but a prayer-inspired realization that God is calling him to the Priesthood.

Predictably, the news of this radical change in direction proves crushing to Carmen. It's also a source of consternation to his emotionally abusive father, Bill (Mel Gibson), an implacable atheist, and his caring but equally unbelieving mother, Kathleen (Jacki Weaver).

A tribute to a future cleric who showed dogged determination and grit in the face of a series of apparently insurmountable obstacles, writer-director Rosalind Ross's profile also showcases Stuart's unconventional but effective approach to preaching the Gospel. And Wahlberg brings his striking, memorable character vividly to life, skillfully portraying Stuart's odd combina-

Movie Ratings



The Adam Project (PG-13)
The Batman (PG-13)
Don't Look Up (R)
The Lost City (PG-13)
Morbius (PG-13)
Turning Red (PG)
Windfall (R)



Deep Water (R)



X (R)

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

tion of crudity and idealism.

Grown viewers will easily get past the earthy language with which the script is filled to appreciate the picture's faith-inspiring core. But the persistent vulgarity, while justified in context, may prove more problematic for younger movie fans who might otherwise benefit from this portrait of a vocation.

Still, at least some parents may feel that the credibility lent to Stuart's struggles by the saltiness of his starting point outweighs what would normally be objectionable elements of speech and behavior. If the outcome of that calculation were either increased zeal

or, in particular, openness to journeying down the path Stuart himself followed, his hard-won spiritual triumph might be replicated in real life.

The film contains some physical violence, a bloody accident, offscreen premarital sexual activity, about a half-dozen uses of profanity, several milder oaths and pervasive rough and crude language.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Mulderig is on the staff of Catholic News Service.

Easter Sunday programming on EWTN

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

New York

Here are some television program notes for April 17, Easter Sunday. All times are Central Daylight Time.

•Solemn Mass of Easter

Sunday — 3-4:30 a.m. Live broadcast as Pope Francis celebrates the solemn Mass of Easter in Vatican City. The Liturgy will be rerun 6-7:30 p.m.

•"Urbi et Orbi: Message and Blessing" — 5-5:30 a.m. Pope Francis gives the traditional address and blessing to the city of Rome and to the world. The event will be rerun 8-8:30 p.m.

•Easter Sunday Mass, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Broadcast live from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

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Jeffrey Ferguson, now deceased, spoke with filmmaker Lisa Boyd during an interview. Before his execution, Ferguson was incarcerated at the Potosi Correctional Center in Potosi, Missouri, and was active in the Catholic ministry there, in a hospice program, tutoring and as an activities clerk interacting with volunteers at the prison.

— Screen shot from “An American Tragedy”

RECONCILE

From page 6

the home of Jim Hall, who had watched the copy of “POTOSI” she had brought for his family.

“He broke down and said he wished he had seen this before the execution,” said Mrs. Boyd. “Because he now saw Jeffrey Ferguson as a human being, not as the monster who killed his daughter 26 years before — and that he would have fought to save Jeffrey’s life.”

That experience changed Mrs. Boyd forever.

“I saw the world lift from his shoulders,” she said. “Seeing Jim go from having so much anger to literally, physically lighting up right in front of me — it just validated my faith in God, 2,000-fold.”

Doors wide open

Mrs. Boyd had promised Mr. Ferguson to share his story in any way she could.

The intermediate result would be the production of “An American Tragedy,” with its growing circle of participants.

Jim Hall had kept a collection of news clippings and TV segments he had recorded on VHS tapes throughout Mr. Ferguson’s trial.

These provided invaluable information for the new documentary.

One morning, Mrs. Boyd

went to photograph the place where Kelli Hall died.

She found the tree that marked the place, wrapped in a misty halo, illuminated by the sun.

“Not a rainbow but a halo,” Mrs. Boyd pointed out. “It

her to do: Get out of the way and let Him do His work.

“The doors kept opening,” she stated with awe. “And when God opens a door, you have to walk through it, because that’s why He opened it.”

Mrs. Boyd has befriended Jeffrey Ferguson’s daughter, Jennifer.

“She’s a very courageous woman to go through everything she went through as a child, as a teen-ager, as an adult and as a mom,” said Mrs. Boyd, “and then to be interviewed for the film and say what she said — she’s a very dynamic and powerful woman.”

“A lot of power”

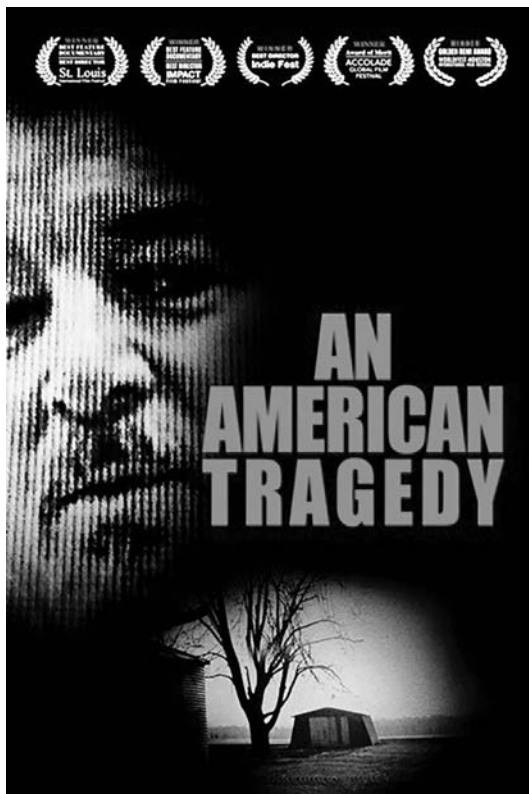
“An American Tragedy” recently landed top honors at the St. Louis International Film Festival and at other festivals.

Mrs. Boyd hopes the accolades will help spread the story.

“All of this has cemented my belief. I’m a lifer!” she said. “And I’m truly humbled. How can you not believe in God, when miracles are being revealed right in front of you?”

“I got to see the transformation of the Hall family,” she said. “I got to see the transformation of Jim Hall. I got to see Jeff’s last wish.

“And with my own eyes,



was as if Kelli was there, letting me know that she’s okay.”

Jim Hall died before the film’s release.

Mrs. Boyd is convinced that he, his daughter and the man who took her life, having hopefully been reconciled to God and each other in heaven, approve of the finished product.

She also believes that she has done what God needed

Daily Readings

Sunday, Apr 17

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Ps. 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Col. 3:1-4 or 1 Cor. 5:6b-8
Jn. 20:1-9 or Lk. 24:1-12

Monday, Apr 18

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

Tuesday, Apr 19

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

Wednesday, Apr 20

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

Thursday, Apr 21

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

Friday, Apr 22

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

Saturday, Apr 23

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

The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for April:

We pray for Christians facing new We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

Sunday, Apr 24

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

Acts 5:12-16
Ps. 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
Rv. 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
Jn. 20:19-31

Monday, Apr 25

St. Mark, evangelist
1 Pt. 5:5b-14
Ps. 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17
Mk. 16:15-20

Tuesday, Apr 26

Acts 4:32-37
Ps. 93:1-2, 5
Jn. 3:7b-15

Wednesday, Apr 27

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

Thursday, Apr 28

St. Peter Chanel, priest and martyr; St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, priest

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

Friday, Apr 29

St. Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor of the Church

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

Saturday, Apr 30

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

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I got to see Kelli’s father and Jeff’s daughter meet up in the same cemetery.”

Mrs. Boyd’s next step is to produce a full-length feature film about the story for national distribution.

She is adamant that it will be true to facts and, more importantly, true to God.

She has reaffirmed her intention to live her own life in the same manner.

“You know, by getting out of the way and letting it all fall into place, I recognized Christ at work right in front of me,” she said.

“There’s a lot of power in this story,” she added. “Redemption, forgiveness and resurrection.”

“An American Tragedy” is available as of April 15 on Amazon.

Marian Cenacle to be held in Monroe City

DATE: May 2
TIME: 10 am

Father Richard Cortese, U.S. national director of the Marian Movement of Priests, will lead a Regional Cenacle on Monday, May 2, in Monroe City.

It will be held at 10 a.m. in Holy Rosary Church, 405 S. Main St.

All are invited to join in honoring the Blessed Mother. "Cenacle" is Latin for "Upper Room," where the first Apostles were gathered with

Mary in Jerusalem, awaiting the First Pentecost.

"In these Cenacles for our present times, the Blessed Mother again is inviting us to join her in prayer in preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit in a Second Pentecost to renew the face of the

earth," the event's organizers stated.

The Cenacle consists of: an invocation of the Holy Spirit; five decades of the Rosary; a prayer for the Holy Father; readings from the message from Our Lady from the book, *To the Priests, Our Lady's*

Beloved Sons; and a consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Mass in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will follow.

Contact Judi Eckman at 573-650-1406 for information.



NEW MEXICO
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with Fr. Matthew Flatley

October 24-29, 2022

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For information, contact Fr. Flatley at
mflatley@diojeffcity.org
573-202-3590



Diocesan Confirmation Retreat

DATE: April 23
TIME: 10 am - 4 pm

NET Ministries will lead the diocese's 2022 Confirmation Retreat, on Saturday, April 23 in Jefferson City.

Open to all who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2022, the retreat will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, 2207 W. Main St.

The theme will be "With Great Power!"

"With great power comes great responsibility," the retreat's organizers stated. "At Confirmation, the grace of Pentecost is unleashed and we receive greater access to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. God can do incredible things with us if we are open to His action."

The cost is \$25 per person. Contact Maureen Quinn at

maureenquinn@diojeffcity.org or 573-635-9127 for information.

diojeffcity.org/confirmation-retreat-2022

Pope asks priests to be forgiving

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Marking the 500th anniversary of the election of Pope Adrian VI, "the penultimate pope coming from the Germanic world," Pope Francis asked German priests to be men of peace and reconciliation in their personal lives as well as in their ministries.

The priests meeting the pope April 7 study in Rome and live at the Pontifical Teutonic Institute of Santa Maria dell'Anima. Pope Adrian VI, who was born in the Netherlands and elected pope in 1522, is buried in the institute's church. The next pope elected from the "Germanic world" was Pope Benedict XVI in 2005.

Elected just five years after Martin Luther sparked the Protestant Reformation by publicly posting his 95 Theses, Pope Adrian "above all sought reconciliation in the church and in the world," Pope Francis said.

Remembering Pope Adrian's "solicitude for the promotion of concord and reconciliation," Pope Francis asked the priests to make that concern a priority in their ministries, especially through the sacrament of penance.

"This is important: the task of the confessor is to forgive, not to torture," he told them. "Be merciful, be great at forgiving, that is what the Church wants you to be."



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Jake Seifert
Director of Development
573-635-9127 x-227
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Jefferson City, MO 65110-4900
diojeffcity.org

Have you already remembered your parish or school in your estate plans? Please let us know!