

Anne's Anchor in Bowling Green

A new transitional maternity home in Bowling Green helps new moms get the skills they need to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.
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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

April 29, 2022 • Vol. 65 No. 22

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March for Life: *Roe v. Wade* may fall; stay vigilant



A mother from the Jefferson City diocese rocks her sleeping baby while keynote speaker Abby Johnson addresses a crowd of over 2,000 at an April 20 rally in the Missouri State Capitol Rotunda as part of the 2022 Midwest March for Life. — Photo by Jay Nies

**More than 2,000 pile
into Missouri State Capitol Rotunda**

**Consensus is that Supreme Court will
overturn or weaken *Roe*, giving states
more authority to regulate abortion**

Would ignite new battles in all states

**See Bishop McKnight's remarks
on Page 3**

By Jay Nies

The U.S. Supreme Court may well overturn or seriously undermine its 1973 decisions that decriminalized abortion-on-demand throughout the United States.

A likely outcome of such action would be to give states more authority to regulate abortion.

“If the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade* as we have been praying and working for, or it greatly expands the limitations on abortion that can be legally enforced” — which the Court seems poised to do when it announces its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* this spring or summer — “abortion will be debated again in every state legislature. Guaranteed,” Bishop W. Shawn McKnight declared at an April 20 rally for the 13th annual Midwest March for Life in Jefferson City.

Bishop McKnight spoke to a mostly jubilant but resolute crowd of over 2,000 people from Missouri and neighboring states in the Rotunda of the Missouri State Capitol.

“To advance the culture of life,” he noted, “we must at this moment be willing to make the case for life ourselves, not only in the important decision-making processes that go on in this Capitol building and in the courthouses across

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Venerable Fr. Tolton inspires aspects of Cathedral renovation

By Jay Nies

Venerable Father Augustus Tolton received his priestly calling at baptism, so it's only fitting that his likeness will help illuminate the new baptismal font in the renovated Cathedral of St. Joseph.

Born to enslaved parents and baptized in part of what is now the Jefferson City diocese, Fr. Tolton (1854-97) successfully fought to become the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

He is currently under formal consideration to be declared a saint.

Three important moments from his life will make up one of the new stained glass windows that are being created for the Cathedral, which is undergoing major renovation and renewal.

“This window depicts Fr. Tolton's priestly ordination by the Cardinal Prefect for the Propagation of the Faith as the main scene in the middle; his baptism, which took place in

our diocese, in the lower left; and his First Solemn Mass in the lower right,” Bishop W. Shawn McKnight stated.

All 13 new windows, which are being created by Associated Crafts & Willet Hauser studio in Winona, Minnesota, are designed to teach people of all ages about discipleship. They will illustrate aspects of Verse 2:42 from the Book of Acts: “They devoted themselves to the teaching of the Apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.”

Bishop McKnight said every fourth window in the series will include an image of a person whose life helps illustrate the three dimensions of Catholic communion: “what we believe” (the teaching of the Apostles), “how we live” (the communal life) and “how we pray” (breaking of the Bread and prayers).

See FR. TOLTON, page 17

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

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04/29/22

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 563-650-1406 for information.

Pray for deceased priests

May 6 — Msgr. Charles H. Patterson, St. Joseph Home, Jefferson City (2010)

May 11 — Msgr. Francis E. Hagedorn, St. Joseph, Pilot Grove (1981)



St. Louis Marian Conference

DATE: May 13-15

The 23rd annual St. Louis Marian Conference will be held from Friday through Sunday, May 13-15 at the Renaissance Hotel—St. Louis Airport, 9801 Natural Bridge Road in St. Louis.

It will be held from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday; 7:45 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday; and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday.

It will include three dynamic days of inspiring talks, Mass, Adoration, Confession, a large

selection of vendors, beautiful music and fellowship with Catholics from all over the country.

Confirmed speakers include: Fr. Donald Callaway of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Fr. Wade Menezes of the Fathers of Mercy, Fr. Steven Imbarato, Msgr. Eugene Morris, Fr. Charles Becker, Sr. Deirdre Byrne of the Little Workers of the Sacred Heart, John Carpenter and emcee Zip Rzeppa.

The registration cost is \$60 per person.

For registration or more information, visit stlmc.org or call 314-850-7718.

J.C. vigils to oppose May 3 execution

The State of Missouri plans to execute Carman Deck at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3, at the Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Cen-

Mother’s Day Mass

DATE: May 8
TIME: 10:15 am

The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church in Laurie, will have Mass at the outdoor altar at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, May 8, Mother’s Day.

Every woman will receive a long-stemmed rose in honor of the Blessed Mother and all mothers.

The shrine is located at 176 Marian Drive, off of Highway 5 in Laurie.

mothersshrine.com

ter in Bonne Terre.

Catholic teaching strongly opposes the use of the death penalty because it disregards the sanctity and dignity of human life.

Observances to give witness against the execution and in favor of reconciliation and alternatives to the death penalty will be held in Jefferson City on May 3.

•A respectful protest will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in the corridor outside the Governor’s Office (Room 216) in the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City.

•A peaceful, silent vigil opposing the execution will be held from 5-6 p.m. on the sidewalk across from the Missouri Supreme Court Building, 207 W. High Street in Jefferson City.

The public is invited to take part in any and all of these observances.

Pope Francis noted in his 2015 address to the U.S. Congress that he has been advocating for an end to the death penalty worldwide.

“I am convinced that this way is the best, since every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity, and society can only benefit from the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes,” he said.

Pope St. John Paul II, while offering Mass in St. Louis in 1999, called for a consensus to end the death penalty, declaring it to be “both cruel and unnecessary.”

For more information about the vigils, call 573-301-3529.

Mass times for Eldon, Mary’s Home

The following weekend Mass times will be effective the weekend of May 7-8 through Sept. 3-4:

•**Eldon:** 4 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. Sunday, Sacred Heart Church

•**Mary’s Home:** 6 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. Sunday, Our Lady of Snows Church

Prayer for a Communion of Desire

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

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:

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- ▶ **Director of Child and Youth Protection**
- ▶ **Director of Communications**
- ▶ **IT Coordinator**
- ▶ **Payroll and Benefits Clerk**

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

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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MAKING CONNECTIONS

Bishop McKnight

Choose life: the way of blessing

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight delivered the following reflection during a rally for the Midwest March for Life on April 20 at the Missouri State Capitol:

"I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the LORD, your God, heeding His voice, and holding

fast to Him." (Deuteronomy 30:19-20)

We have waited a long time and with steadfast hope for the Supreme Court of the United States of America to take another good look at its own *Roe v. Wade* decision; for the court to acknowledge finally the fallacies underlying the logic of abortion and uphold the con-

stitutional right to life for all human beings, no matter how small, no matter how young. We have suffered

as a nation in the wake of this landmark decision, as it has eroded the culture of life in our society and rejected the many blessings the choice for life secures for us as a people.

The Supreme Court's decision deceived many about the curse of abortion, and it qualified the inherent value and dignity of every human life.

The horrific and cruel destruction of little "somebodies" cries out to heaven and brings with it the curse of the breakdown of our social bonds.

It is never good, never just, never charitable, never life-giving to treat an innocent human being as something to be discarded and thrown away.

Safeguarding the supposed "right to kill the innocent" is simply bad, unjust, cruel and death-dealing.

The dignity of our humanity and the fundamental right to life must be recognized above all other rights, no matter what.

We must choose life, as the Bible says, the way of blessing.

We stand together this day at a critical juncture in the history of our state and nation.

Our beloved State of Missouri has been a leader in the pro-life movement from the beginning, and we have fought this good fight together as brothers and sisters of different faiths and different races.

If the Supreme Court overturns *Roe*, as we have been praying and working for, or it greatly expands the limitations on abortion that can be legally enforced, abortion will be debated again in every state legislature. Guaranteed.

To advance the culture of life, we must at this moment be willing to make the case for life ourselves, not only in the important decision-making processes that go on in this capitol building, and in the courthouses across the street, but also in our conversations and in our actions in daily life.

And to stand up for what is right, we must also practice what we ourselves preach.

We must be a people unafraid to stand up for the weakest among us, to give hope and



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight speaks to the crowd in the Rotunda of the Missouri State Capitol April 20 during a rally for the Midwest March for Life. Visible in the photo are keynote presenter Abby Johnson and Mark Serafino, master of ceremonies for the event.

— Photo by Jay Nies

a helpful hand to the young woman tempted or coerced to choose an abortion.

We must show women facing an unwanted pregnancy the concrete options for choosing life in our supportive community, including adoption.

The choice for life is not only possible but better for the mother, the father and the child who is already part of our community.

We must support the dignity of all human life and never tire of the demands of what it


means to be pro-life.

Our obligations to God and our fellow men and women require that we adhere to the original values of our nation, including the recognition of our God-given right to life.

May our protection of the weakest among us be our strength as a state and as a nation.

May we never tire of choosing life and rejecting death so that we may enjoy the abundant blessing of life forever.

God bless you all.



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

APRIL

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 Meeting, 6 pm, Bishop's Residence

May 4 Confirmation Ceremony, St. George Parish, Linn and St. Francis Xavier Parish, Taos, 6:30 pm; St. George Church, Linn

May 7 Confirmation Ceremony, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 10 am and 11:30 am, Columbia

May 8 Confirmation Mass, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish, 2 pm, Columbia

May 9 Catholic Rural Life Board Meeting, 10:00 am, Virtual

May 10 Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Parish, 6:30 pm, Pilot Grove

May 11 Confirmation Mass, St. Lawrence Parish, 6:30 pm, St. Elizabeth

May 14 Confirmation Ceremony, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 11 am Sacred Heart Chapel and 1 pm St. Patrick Chapel, Sedalia

May 15 Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick Parish, Rolla, St. Anthony Parish, Rosati, and Immaculate Conception Parish, St. James, 2 pm; St. Patrick Church, Rolla

May 17 Stewardship Formation for Pastors, 9 am, Chancery; Diocesan School Advisory Council Dinner Meeting, 5:30 pm, Bishop's Residence

May 18 Confirmation Ceremony, Immaculate Conception Parish, Macon, Mission of Sacred Heart, Bevier, and St. Patrick Parish, Clarence, 6:30 pm; Immaculate Conception Church, Macon

May 19 Center for Ministry Development Board Meeting, 10 am, Virtual


May 20 St. John Society Dinner, 5:30 pm, Bishop's Residence

Bishop McKnight's May prayer intention for our Local Church

For all expecting mothers, biological and adoptive; that through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, they may prepare for the new life in the womb and may receive the support of a nurturing community of faith in the raising of their children.

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

Por todas las madres embarazadas, biológicas y adoptivas, que por la intercesión de María, Madre de la Iglesia, puedan prepararse para la nueva vida en su vientre materno y reciban el apoyo de una comunidad de fe en la crianza de sus hijos.



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



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A song for Mother Tolton

By Shannen Dee Williams
Catholic News Service

This spring marked the 165th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Scott v. Sandford* (1857), which infamously denied the freedom petition of Dred, Harriet, Eliza and Lizzie Scott — an African American family held in bondage in antebellum Missouri.

Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, the high court's first Catholic, authored the majority opinion, which ruled that free and enslaved Black people were not citizens and declared that Black people "had no rights which the white man was bound to respect."

The U.S. Civil War and the ratification of the 13th, 14th, 15th and 19th Amendments eventually overturned the tenets of the Dred Scott decision. However, the anti-Black animus that guided Taney and the other supporting justices remains with the nation and Church today.

So, too, does the spirit of resistance that fought against such hateful attitudes and unjust laws.

As a historian who is Black and Catholic, I am often asked how I can keep the faith knowing that my Church's history includes people like Taney, who was also a member of one of Maryland's most prominent slaveholding families.

My answer is always the same: Martha Jane Chisley Tolton.

Many Catholics have heard of Martha Jane's youngest son, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, the nation's first self-identified Black priest and one of six African Americans currently under consideration for a declaration of sainthood in the Catholic Church.

However, there would be no Fr. Tolton without the devout faithfulness, extraordinary

courage and spiritual leadership of "Mother Tolton."

Born into Catholic slavery in the "Holy Land" of Kentucky in 1827, Martha Jane was given away as a wedding gift in 1849.

Martha Jane never saw her family again. She also never forgot them.

After her Catholic union to Peter Paul Tolton in Missouri produced children, Martha Jane named her first and second-born sons after her brother, Charley, and her father, Augustine, respectively.

Following the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, Peter Paul escaped slavery to join the Union Army to fight for his family's freedom, since Missouri was exempted from the decree. However, he soon died in the war.

A turning point came in mid-1863, though, just six years after *Scott v. Sandford*. That year, Martha Jane liberated herself and her three young children, including 20-month-old daughter Anne, from Catholic slavery by fleeing to Quincy, Illinois.

In so doing, she rejected the legitimacy of a nation and Church that could justify destroying families and holding people in slavery.

However, like many of the Church's formerly enslaved, Martha Jane chose to remain Catholic and fought to rid the Church of racism and exclusion.

While many narrations of Fr. Tolton's fiercely contested journey into the Catholic Priesthood center on the few white nuns and priests who formally educated him, the surviving record is clear: Martha Jane was her son's first and most dedicated champion.

Martha Jane not only nurtured and supported her son's religious vocation, but also

that of a young woman who eventually joined the historically Black Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore.

Martha Jane and Anne also remained at Fr. Tolton's side after he began his ministry first in Quincy and later in Chicago where they served the city's neglected Black Catholic community.

Martha Jane lived with her son, assisted in his evangelization work, which brought over 600 Black people into the faith, and eventually served as the sacristan at St. Monica, the city's first Black Catholic parish.

Although white Church leaders refused to assign a Black priest to lead St. Monica's after Fr. Tolton's untimely death at age 43 in 1897, Martha Jane Tolton and Anne held the line.

Mother Tolton, as she was

affectionately known by her son's parishioners, served as the sacristan at St. Monica until her death in 1911.

Anne also supported the parish until her death in 1912 — underscoring the fact that

Black Catholic schools; nurtured Black religious vocations; and brought hundreds of Black people into the faith (often-times singlehandedly).

Yet, most of these local and national "saints" remain hidden figures in Church history.

Therefore, let us pledge to rediscover and remember the lives and labors of the Black women,

like Mother Tolton, who in the face of unyielding discrimination fought to make the Church in the United States truly Catholic.

Shannen Dee Williams is the Albert Lepage assistant professor of history at Villanova University. She is completing her first book, Subversive Habits: Black Catholic Nuns in the Long African American Freedom Struggle.

There would be no Fr. Tolton without the devout faithfulness, extraordinary courage and spiritual leadership of "Mother Tolton."

— Shannen Dee Williams

Fr. Tolton's ministry was always a family endeavor.

Mother Tolton's journey is representative of the thousands of Black laywomen who kept the faith alive when most in the white-dominated Church sought to abandon Black Catholics.


In the face of often humiliating segregation and exclusion, these holy Black women of God organized Black missions and parishes; established

Among notable Missourians



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight notes the presence of Brush Creek native Venerable Father Augustus Tolton (1854-97) (upper right), the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States, in a display of "Some Missourians who are worth remembering" in the Missouri State Museum at the Missouri State Capitol March 20. Bishop McKnight was one of the speakers at the Midwest March for Life at the Capitol that day.

— Photo by Jay Nies

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Local interfaith ministry to mothers is serious about breaking intergenerational cycle of poverty

Anne's Anchor Grand Opening, May 6, Bowling Green Knights of Columbus Hall

By Jay Nies

Two pregnant women with young children have moved into the Anne's Anchor transitional maternity home in Bowling Green to begin a powerful transformation of their future.

And their children's future. "Homeless to homeowner: that's what we're all about," said Georgia Hearn, Anne's Anchor's program director. "We're breaking the generational cycle of poverty by teaching the mom all of these important life skills and then in return she teaches those same skills to her children, who then will teach them to their children."

"It's that ripple effect that we're most excited to see," she said.

Anne's Anchor is a locally funded interfaith nonprofit agency that provides a safe, welcoming community for pregnant women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The agency's staff and board of directors are committed to helping the residents, as well as nonresident clients in the community, acquire the skills they need to become the best parents, providers and community members they can be.

"It is truly a self-sufficiency program," said Mrs. Hearn, a member of St. Clement Parish in St. Clement. "A successful client is a mom who is willing to work harder than she's ever had to work before."

Residential clients commit to spending a full year in the program but may end up living at the home for three years with their children, saving up money and acquiring valuable life skills.

"We know that big changes take big time," said Mrs. Hearn. "We're not going to have them launch until they're fully ready."

Moms in training

Anne's Anchor is named in honor of St. Anne, mother of the Blessed Mother and grandmother of Jesus.

Its goal is to help young mothers learn how to do for their families what St. Anne helped Mary prepare to do as mother of the Savior.

Clients use the "My Ridicu-



Anne's Anchor in Bowling Green provides a safe, welcoming community for pregnant women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. — Photo from the Anne's Anchor Facebook page

lously Amazing Life" curriculum developed by Jane Dalton, executive director of the Bridges program in Rolla.

That challenging and effective method for teaching essential life and parenting skills focuses on seven core competencies for achieving self-sufficiency.

Mrs. Dalton's daughter-in-law, Faith Dalton, a graduate of the Bridges program and certified Options Coach and Client Success Coach for the Pregnancy Resource Center of Rolla, is helping Mrs. Hearn implement the program at Anne's Anchor.

Faith and Jane are members of St. Patrick Parish in Rolla.

Faith's story was featured in the January 2021 issue of *Columbia*, magazine of the Knights of Columbus, and the April 2, 2021, issue of *The Catholic Missourian*.

Mrs. Hearn noted that a relationship with God is essential to achieving "My Ridiculously Amazing Life" — but timing is key.

"What Faith told me is, when the moms first come into a program like this, spirituality is the last thing on their mind," said Mrs. Hearn. "Many of them as individuals have never been exposed to God or spirituality."

"But," Faith told her from experience, "once I learned to focus on spirituality, everything else fell into place."

As such, each of the moms in the program takes part in daily devotions and is required to attend weekly church services with her children.

Answered prayers

Board members Paulette Bruch, Carrie Capps and Michelle Nacke began laying the groundwork for Anne's Anchor in 2018, filing paperwork with the IRS, visiting churches, lining up financial support and searching for a house to buy

Pike County — including St. Clement Parish in St. Clement and St. Joseph Parish in Louisiana — stepped up to support the program.

"All God's doing"

Mrs. Hearn holds an associate degree in nursing and worked as a nurse until she and her husband, Cody, had their first child.

They now have two girls, ages 7 and 4.

Mrs. Hearn then served as lead teacher in the preschool room of the Learning Center in Bowling Green.

"That experience, along with being a first-time mom myself, helped me see how important early childhood education is," she said.

She eventually decided to go back to school to study human services.

Bachelor's degree in hand, she went to work at Champ Clark Ser-

vice Coordination in Bowling Green, assisting people who have developmental and intellectual disabilities.

"We assisted them by supporting, advocating, connecting and empowering those individuals and their families to resources so they could live a full and enriched life. That's when I realized a big missing link in the government system."

Namely, she said, much of

Grand opening

Anne's Anchor will celebrate its grand opening with a gala fundraiser on Friday, May 6, at the St. Clement Knights of Columbus Hall.

It will include live music, dinner, an auction and Faith Dalton sharing her story.

Tickets are \$30 per person.

Contact Georgia Hearn 573-777-0473 or Elisha Koenig 573-823-7358 by phone or text message for information.

and renovate.

"They were trying to raise over \$100,000 to purchase a house," said Mrs. Hearn. "And then COVID really set them back."

They kept praying.

"And one day, Larry Gamm the treasurer of Second Baptist Church called and said, 'We have a house and we want to give it to you,'" Ms. Bruch recalled.

The home served for many years as a parsonage and had

See ANNE'S ANCHOR, page 23



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Good Friday tradition in Sedalia brings the Stations of the Cross to life

By Chris Howell

Members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County presented the Stations of the Cross by circumnavigating the St. Patrick Chapel in Sedalia in costume on Good Friday.

“The live Stations includes a mix of teenagers and adults,” St. Vincent de Paul parishioner Osmaro DeLeon stated. “There are between 20 and 22 actors. The main character is Jesus, played by Mario Rojas. We practiced maybe twice a week in the last six weeks. We ordered 20 different costumes from Mexico, and everybody got trained according to that time.”

Parishioners spent a lot of money and time to enact the final hours of Jesus, said Father David Veit, one of two pastors in *solidum* of St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

“The Church’s tradition of devotion to the Stations was an opportunity to appreciate the great love that Jesus has for us,” Fr. Veit said. “To relive and walk with Him in those moments and reflect on them affects our ability to inspire us to answer His call.”

Many churches contain statues, frescos or paintings representing the 14 Stations of the Cross, where congregations move from one station to the next to reflect on Jesus’ passion

and death.

“In many churches, that has become impractical due to the size of the congregation,” Fr. Veit noted. “But there’s also a tradition of doing live Stations, where everybody moves with actors reenacting Jesus’ last hours with His passion and suffering.”

It’s one thing to see a painting or fresco and try to imagine what Jesus went through on His walk to Calvary, but to the people who gather outside St. Patrick Chapel on Good Friday each year, the live Stations of the Cross is a more visceral experience.

“We’re very tangential people,” Fr. Veit noted. “That’s why in liturgy we use everything in our bodies — not just our minds — but also what we smell, what we see, what we can touch.”

Starting on Holy Thursday, with many of the cast fasting to feel the suffering of Jesus more fully, Good Friday becomes a focal point of the days leading up to the resurrection of Jesus and the redemption of His follower’s souls on Easter Sunday.

“For us it’s the most important part,” Ms. DeLeon stated. “To live out Jesus’ last hours before death — for us, that’s when everything changes, it’s like inspiration for us.”

This year, coming out of the



Veronica, played by St. Vincent de Paul parishioner Alyssa Luna wipes Jesus’ face during an outdoor reenactment of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday outside St. Patrick Chapel in Sedalia. Jesus was portrayed by Mario Rojas.

— Photo by Chris Howell, courtesy of the *Sedalia Democrat* newspaper

pandemic adds extra meaning to the Stations of the Cross.

“It’s a great tradition,” said Fr. Veit. “The organizers obtained a permit to walk down the street around the church, so that the whole community can participate and join in. The live Stations really allows those moments to wash over our minds and hearts and realize just how much Jesus loves us and (how much) He endured because of that love.”

This is a slightly revised version of an article originally published

in the April 18, 2022, edition of the Sedalia Democrat newspaper per sedaliademocrat.com. It is published here with permission.

Spring pilgrimage to Starkenburg, May 15

DATE: May 15
TIME: 10 am

Father Philip Niekamp, pastor of St. George Parish in Hermann and Church of the Risen Savior Parish in Rhineland, will lead this year’s Spring Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg on Sunday, May 15.

It will begin at 10 a.m. with Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the chapel.

The Pilgrims will carry a replica of the “White Lady,” an image that has been at the Shrine since 1852, in a Rosary procession through the Shrine grounds, stopping at each of the outdoor Stations of the Cross.

A traditional German meal will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Valentine Hall, which is air-conditioned and handicap-accessible.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available after the meal.

The St. Anne’s Ladies Sodality will have a country store and prize drawings.

Religious articles will be available for sale and will be

blessed in the afternoon.

Weather permitting, Benediction will take place at the outdoor altar at 1 p.m., followed by an outdoor Mass at 2 p.m.

In case of rain, the Mass will be celebrated in the nearby St. Martin’s Church Museum.

“We look forward to welcoming pilgrims from all over Missouri to our Spring Pilgrimage” said Fr. Niekamp. “All are invited to spend a refreshing, prayerful day in the pastoral environs of this beautiful shrine.”

The Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows is located in Montgomery County, two miles north of the Katy Trail, on Highway P.

The street address is: 197 Hwy P, Rhineland, MO 65069.

The shrine is accessible to people with mobility impairments.

The Shrine and St. Martin’s Church Museum are open daily for visitors.

For more information about the history and other events at the shrine, visit historicshrine.com or valentinehall.org, or call 573-236-4390.

‘You ought to wash one another’s feet’



QUESTION CORNER

Why is cremation OK now? / Bowling to a priest

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Q. My mother and I have been discussing how some of the rules in the Catholic Church have changed. One example is cremation. Why is it OK now, but it wasn't some years ago? Who gets to make the rules, and how do we know that they are truly acceptable to God? (Wichita, Kansas)

A. In 1963 the Catholic Church changed its policy and lifted the ban on cremation. Among the reasons were sanitation risks, overcrowded cemeteries and financial considerations (i.e., the expense of traditional burials). At the same time, though, the Church has continued to express a strong preference for the burial or entombment of the deceased, preferably in a Catholic cemetery.

A Vatican instruction from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued in 2016 underlines the theological thinking behind the change. It explains that “cremation of the deceased’s body does not affect his or her soul, nor does it prevent God, in His omnipotence, from raising up the deceased’s body to new life.”

However, that same instruction explains that “in memory of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord, the mystery that illumines the Christian meaning of death, burial is above all the most fitting way to express faith and hope in the resurrection of the body.”

So cremation is now permitted for Catholics, so long as it is not chosen in denial of the Christian teaching on resurrection and the sacredness of the human body.

The Church’s teaching also notes that the following are not considered to be reverent dispositions of the cremains: scattering them, dividing cremated remains (e.g., among family members) or keeping them in the home.

As for your final questions, the Vatican makes the rules; as to their acceptability to God, the Church decides after prayer and reflection — as it has done here — based on its teachings and on what seems reasonable under specific circumstances.

Q. My dad told me about a new member of his parish who bows to the priest as the priest is processing out at the end of Mass. My dad thinks that this is horrible and borders on worshipping the priest. I could see it, though, as not being so offensive in some contexts or cultures, especially if we believe that the priest is acting “*in persona Christi*” (in the person of Christ). Could you help give me some insight? (Gate City, Virginia)

A. Although not prescribed in any of the Church’s liturgical directives, I see no harm with a member of the congregation’s bowing to the priest as the priest exits following Mass.

I would interpret it as you do — as simply a sign of courtesy and respect (and also, I would think, of gratitude for the blessings of the Mass). As a priest for more than 50 years, it has never occurred to me that parishioners were “worshipping” me when they have bowed in my direction.

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



Papal Audience April 27, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on the meaning and value of old age, in the light of God’s word, we now reflect on the figure of the widow Naomi as presented in the biblical Book of Ruth. This short yet beautiful story speaks of the relationship of love and mutual support between

the elderly Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth. Naomi, dwelling in a foreign land, is left alone when her two sons die. Despite her grief, she encourages her two daughters-in-law to remain among their own people as she returns to Bethlehem, her native town. Ruth chooses not to abandon her beloved mother-in-law, and accompanies her to Judah, telling her: “Your people shall be my people, and your God my God” (1:16). Ruth’s love supports Naomi, and Naomi in turn helps Ruth to find a new husband, Boaz. God blesses this marriage with a son, Obed, who was the father of Jesse, the father of David. The story of these two faithful women shows us that, in God’s providential plan, the covenant of love and fidelity uniting the generations can prove immensely enriching for our families and for the growth of a society that respects the dignity and gifts of each of its members, however young or old.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s audience, especially those from England, Denmark and the United States of America. In the joy of the Risen Christ, I invoke upon you and your families the loving mercy of God our Father. May the Lord bless you!

Officials: East Africa drought is ‘dire’

Catholic News Service

Nairobi, Kenya

Catholic priests, nuns and Church agencies are providing some relief in East Africa’s drought, which scientists and experts describe as the worst in 40 years.

But the need for food, water and other basics in the drought, resulting from a fourth successive rainy season failure, is so huge that this seems a “small drop in the ocean.”

Harvests are decimated, water sources have dried up and the scorching heat has wiped out live-

stock pastures. Dead livestock or wildlife carcasses have become common by roadsides, as small-scale farmers and herders suffer the devastation.

By April, agencies estimated that nearly 16 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia were in urgent need of food assistance due to the drought and were suffering hunger, severe food shortages and extreme hardships.

“The situation is very bad,” Bishop Peter Kihara Kariuki of Marsabit, Kenya, told Catholic News Service. “The people are depending on relief aid that comes.”

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The thrifting Catholic: giving new life to old things

By Christina Capecchi



Emily Hannon was surprised by the children's clothes she saw at big-box stores and popular websites when she became a mom. And not in a good way.

Obnoxious graphics, offensive messages, neon colors.

It fell short of her long-held beliefs as a Catholic and her powerful new emotions as a mother. It didn't suit her newborn son with his peach-fuzz and bright eyes.

The 29-year-old Pittsburgh photographer had always sought beauty in hidden places. She'd taken to heart St. John Paul II's words in his 1999 letter to artists and quoted a passage in her Instagram profile: "beauty that stirs you to wonder...to the sense of eternal."

Now she was choosing how to dress her son, Jack, and feeling compelled to look beyond the mall.

"The loud graphics and words all over clothing take away from the beauty and dignity of the person wearing them," Emily said. "God made us each with

such intricacy and complexity, and our clothing shouldn't detract from that but should simply point to it."

Outfits saved from her childhood and her husband's seemed like the answer, which led Emily to visit consignment stores. Oh, was she in for a treat! Peter Pan collars! Smocked dresses! Knit sweaters! Corduroy overalls!

Vintage children's clothing felt timeless, like her baby himself: not dated or defined by one era, but rather, shimmering with a transcendent beauty, rising above.

"It reflects the joy that a new baby brings into the world just by their very existence," Emily said. "They are perfectly pure and deserving of all our love."

As Emily and Sean were blessed with another son, Peter, and then a daughter, Lucy, the young mom's appreciation for classic children's clothing has grown. The thrill of a great find spurs her along, prodding her to frequent a few favorite thrift shops.

Some discoveries seem meant to be, like a high-end European brand tucked between modern dresses. "Beauty is always there — you just have to open your eyes to find it!" she said.

Thrifting feels countercultural, in

keeping with Pope Francis' caution about a "throwaway culture." It feels Catholic.

"Our culture is constantly pressuring us to buy more, spend more, accumulate more. We've lost a sense of reusing things from the past or passing down things that may not be brand new but still hold tremendous value."

Searching for secondhand finds cultivates a loving disposition. It fosters a forgiving and unrushed eye, the ability to slow down and sift through, recognizing the potential in something old and overlooked. It feels spiritual. Emily can give an old dress another chance, another child.

Emily couldn't keep her thrifted finds to herself — nor did she need them all. Four months ago, she opened an online shop to sell her secondhand purchases: vintage children's clothing, heirloom toys and antique homewares. She named it The Simple Daisy, a nod to the St. Therese quote about the "simple

charm" of a daisy, and secured the domain thesimpledaisyshop.com.

To her surprise, the shop has been a huge hit. She has already sold hundreds of pieces. Thanks to savvy marketing on social media, sharing glimpses of what's to come, many pieces sell three to five minutes after a "drop," or online release.

Emily is excited to grow the shop in 2022. Stepping into a new year surrounded by old clothing feels like a hug from the past. It harkens back to simpler times and warms the future with well-worn history.

"I love that each piece tells a story, often one we don't know," Emily said. "I sometimes imagine other children who are now fully grown playing with the toys my children play with. It makes me feel connected to others, even those I'll never meet, like we're all part of something bigger."

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

Elderly and the victims of war

By Sr Constance Veit, I.S.P.



Many years ago, I watched an older woman making Ukrainian Easter eggs at an international crafts fair. The complex process, intricate patterns and bright colors fascinated me, so I purchased a kit and spent time during Lent trying to master the traditional art of "Pysanky," as the eggs are called.

I learned that Pysanky symbolizes Christ's resurrection, hope, new life and prosperity. They are traditionally made during the last week of Lent by the women of the village, who work at night as their children sleep. Prayers are said as the intricate designs are drawn on eggs with beeswax, each line bearing an intention for the person destined to receive the egg.

In this way, one author noted, the creation of Pysanky becomes a contemplative practice similar to praying the Rosary.

Egg dyeing is just one of many traditions of which millions of Ukrainians will be deprived this Easter. The same author suggested that the making of Pysanky would be a good way for people around the world to show solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

Although it's a little too late for me

to get started on a big Pysanky project, it's never too late to pray and offer sacrifices for the suffering people of Ukraine.

It is often said that women, children and the elderly are the first victims of war.

As a Little Sister of the Poor, I naturally focus on the plight of seniors. My heart aches as I think of the Ukrainian grandmothers who should be busy at home making Pysanky, Paska — Easter bread — and other traditional dishes for their families. I can't imagine where they find the strength to endure as they hide in basements or board refugee buses bound for unfamiliar destinations, carrying their possessions in sacks and plastic bags.

The worn, tear-stained faces of these women follow me throughout the day.

Every day I see media reports in which elders weep at the loss of their sons and daughters, their homes and everything they hold dear. After surviving the second World War and a Soviet-inflicted famine in their youth, they cannot believe that such carnage is again visiting their homeland.

In March of this year Pope Francis suggested that as much as they are suffering, the elderly have an invaluable contribution to make during tragic times. Like Moses, he said, "The elderly

REFLECTION

In tune with God's heart

By Mark Saucier

An iconic image in Celtic spirituality is the apostle John reclining next to Jesus at the Last Supper.

According to the Gospel of John, the apostle lays his head on the chest of Jesus to look up and talk to Him.

That would not have been unusual, as diners "reclined at table," lying on their sides on couches or pillows. What the early Celtic mystics reflected on though was that, in this position, John could hear the very heartbeat of the Divine.

We may never know what that moment meant to John, but we might.

As a little kid, I was running and fell. I skidded downhill on my stomach and a rock tore a gash in my side. My mother took me inside and cleaned my wound with iodine, which, despite her words, "This will make it better," definitely did not.

As I screamed in pain, she wrapped her arms around me and held me tight. Swaddled there, between sobs, I was suddenly aware of the beat of her heart.

I don't know whether I heard it, felt it or both, but under its spell I was assured that all would be well.

When a baby enters this strange, cold world, the newborn is placed on Mom's chest. This skin-to-skin contact warms and calms the baby, bonds mother and child, and helps both with nursing.

But if you ask a baby, I think you'd find something else. Inside the womb, the little one could hear Mom's heartbeat. Now, lying on her bosom, the baby hears that heartbeat from the outside, still echoing its familiar message of presence and care.

Have you ever nestled up against someone you loved in silence deep enough to hear the rhythm of their heart? Have you listened long enough to sense the life pulsing through the other?

Have you wanted your heart to find that cadence so that you seemed to share one heart? If you have, you know that you have found an intimacy that could only be described as holy.

Yesterday, we hiked a trail, and everywhere spring was champing at the bit. After a stuttered start, life was eager and impatient. The redbuds waved their pink blossoms, calling all the other colors to join the fun. Trees were frothy with young leaves while squirrels dug up the last of their winter stash.

Perhaps nature has a heartbeat, as well.

Who's to say that, in these moments, we're not hearing the heartbeat of God?

See SR. CONSTANCE, page 19

Bishop: Life in the Risen Christ must lead the faithful to mercy, gratitude

By Jay Nies

“We were indeed buried with Him through Baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we, too, might have newness of life.”

This statement from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans points to new life after physical death, as well as to resurrected life shared here and now in Christ and the Holy Spirit.

“We are baptized in order to live in the Light of Mercy in a world that can be very dark, full of death, violence, greed and hatred, and so unmerciful,” said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight in his homily for the Easter Vigil.

“Our lives are different because of the mercy we have received,” the bishop said. “And living the resurrected life means living in Christ’s peace with God and one another.

“All of our past sins against God and one another have been nailed to the Cross, so now is the time for us to practice the mercy we have received,” he said.

The bishop celebrated the Easter Vigil at dusk on Holy Saturday, concurrently with priests in parishes throughout the diocese.

Symbols of fire, light, water, oil, bread and wine were highlighted in a Liturgy filled with some of the Church’s oldest and richest traditions and rituals.

The bishop baptized members of the elect and confirmed and gave First Holy Communion to the candidates for full communion at Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, as did priests in parishes throughout the diocese.

He did so in temporary quarters in the St. Joseph Cathedral School gymnasium, while the Cathedral of St. Joseph is closed for renovation.

The bishop noted that Easter, which lasts for 50 days, is the apex of the entire liturgical year.

“All that has come before,” he said, “beginning with Ad-

vent and Christmas, and all that flows afterward, with the Easter Season, the celebration

“It definitely means being humbly obedient to God, trusting that He will sustain us in the sacrifices we make and the actions we take to share His love with others,” the bishop said.

“All of our past sins against God and one another have been nailed to the Cross, so now is the time for us to practice the mercy we have received.”

— Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

In perfect gratitude

of Pentecost, and the rest of Ordinary Time — the entire liturgical year centers on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!”

Humbly obedient

The Easter Vigil was the culmination of the Church’s communal observance of Holy Week and the 40-day period of penitential preparation.

“Christ died and rose again in glory so we could know the fullness of His love, now and forever,” Bishop McKnight preached on Palm Sunday, one week before Easter.

He noted that God’s incomprehensible love entered the world as “a tiny, vulnerable infant and grew into a man Who fearlessly, humbly and selflessly accepted God’s plan for Him.”

Jesus, fully aware that He would soon be betrayed and would suffer an unspeakable death, entered Jerusalem openly to shouts of acclamation.

“Jesus’s courage and resolve are more than heroic,” Bishop McKnight noted, “for He knows Who He is and what His mission is.

“He sacrifices Himself in this ultimate act of love, to show us that nothing is greater than the love of our Father,” the bishop continued. “In His suffering and sacrifice, Jesus shows us that the ultimate act of love is forgiveness.”

The only proper response to that forgiveness is to follow Jesus’s path of sacrifice while spreading the Good News of His love and mercy.

During Mass on Holy Thursday, Bishop McKnight spoke of gratitude as it pertains to the Last Supper, specifically the institution of the Holy Eucharist and of the Ministerial Priesthood, and Jesus’s command to His apostles to love another.

“Of all the people at the Last Supper, Jesus was the only One Who was entitled to anything,” Bishop McKnight noted. “And He did not cling to what He was owed, but instead humbly served others.”

Modeling perfect gratitude to the Father, Jesus instructed His apostles to “Do this in memory of Me.”

By instituting the Eucharist, He brought forth a whole new way of living.

“When Jesus said to the men at the table of the Last Supper, ‘Do this in memory of Me,’ He was literally talking about ‘doing the Eucharist’ about serving as His priests, in the key of charity,” Bishop McKnight noted.

He emphasized that Priesthood and every vocation must be rooted in a desire to serve, not to be served.

“A true disciple looks not how much better they are in comparison to others, but how they might be of help to them in their needs,” the bishop asserted. “Being a joyful giver of one’s time, talent and treasure is the way to live out the Eucharist we will celebrate on this altar on this night.”

“And our regular participation as Mass, especially when we receive Holy Communion, serves to inoculate us against sins of ingratitude,” he said.

Vatican officials in U.S to study alleged miracles in Fr. Tolton’s cause

Catholic News Service

Quincy, Illinois

The local ABC-TV affiliate in Quincy, where Father Augustus Tolton grew up and is buried, reported April 14 that Vatican representatives were in the United States to investigate possible miracles related to the priest’s sainthood cause.

Fr. Tolton was born into slavery and is the first recognized African American priest ordained for the Roman Catholic Church in the United States.

His cause for canonization was officially opened by the Archdiocese of Chicago in 2010 and he received the title “Servant of God.”

On Dec. 10, 2016, his cause took a step forward at a cemetery in Quincy where his remains were exhumed, verified and reinterred. In June 2019, Pope Francis declared that Fr. Tolton lived a life of heroic virtue, giving him the title of “Venerable.”

The next step is beatification, which requires verification of a miracle attributed to the sainthood candidate’s intercession. In general, a second such miracle is needed for canonization.

While Fr. Tolton died in Chicago in 1897, he requested to be buried in Quincy, which is now part of the Diocese of Springfield. He and his family had fled there after escaping slavery in nearby Missouri and it’s where he returned to minister after being ordained in Rome on Easter in 1886.

At the time Fr. Tolton’s remains were exhumed, Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry, who is postulator of the priest’s cause, said two miracles were possible and had been sent to Rome, where they were being looked into.

“We received about 50 some testimonials of people from all over the country testifying to

favours from God through (Fr.) Tolton’s intercession,” said Bishop Perry, one of the nation’s African American Catholic bishops.

“Remarkable things — everything from needed employment to illness in the family to all kinds of problems,” he told *Chicago Catholic*, the archdiocesan news outlet. “These people are really just excited about their prayers being answered because of him. He’s been pretty active up there, I think. He probably needs a secretary up there to handle all that has been put on his lap.”

In its April 14 report, KHQA-TV Channel 7 provided no details as to what the alleged miracles under investigation might entail.

In November, as part of celebrations for Black Catholic History Month, a grassroots effort emerged that called on Pope Francis to canonize Fr. Tolton and five other Black Catholics whose canonization “causes” have been officially opened.

These other sainthood candidates are: Mother Mary Lange, founder of the Oblate Sisters of Providence; Sister Thea Bowman, the first African American member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration; and Julia Greeley, known as the city of Denver’s “Angel of Charity” — all three of whom have the title “Servant of God; and Mother Henriette Delille, founder of the Sisters of the Holy Family, and Pierre Tousseint, both of whom have the title “Venerable.”

More about Fr. Tolton’s sainthood cause and the Fr. Tolton Guild can be found at tolton.archdiocese.org/the-cause.

Contributing to this story was Nate Tinner-Williams, co-founder and editor of Black Catholic Messenger.

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Seven Churches pilgrimage in central Missouri expanded Holy Thursday experience into the night

By Jay Nies

Seven churches in and near Jefferson City stayed open until midnight for prayer and pilgrimage on Holy Thursday.

People were encouraged to visit all seven after the Mass of the Lord's Supper and prayerfully contemplate seven moments leading up to Jesus's betrayal and death.

"The Seven Churches Veneration is a powerful way to spend time in Adoration, meditating on Christ's sacrifice of love for the salvation of souls in preparation for the joy of Easter," said Father Jeremy Secrist, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, who organized the pilgrimage with pastors of neighboring parishes.

In Rome, the custom is closely tied to visiting the seven major Roman basilicas. Catholics remember how Jesus asked His disciples to stay and watch with Him while they were in the garden after the Last Supper.

"It's the intentional acceptance of Christ's request for His disciples to keep vigil with Him, to journey with Him, and to contemplate the gift of His redeeming love, which leads to His Cross on Good Friday," said Fr. Secrist.

Participating parishes included: St. Andrew in Holts Summit; Cathedral of St. Joseph, Immaculate Conception and St. Peter in Jefferson City; St. Martin in St. Martins; St. Francis Xavier in Taos; and St. Stanislaus in Wardsville.

At each of the seven stationary churches, participants stopped to adore Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament, enthroned on an altar of repose.

They then meditated on one of the events of the first Holy Thursday following the Last Supper:

- Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22: 39-46)

- Jesus bound and taken before Annas (John 18: 19-22)

- Jesus taken before the High Priest, Caiaphas (Matthew 26: 63-65)

- Jesus taken before Pilate (John 18, 35-37)

- Jesus taken before Herod (Luke 23: 8-9; 11)

- Jesus taken before Pilate again (Matthew 27: 22-26);



LEFT: People visit the altar of repose in St. Martin Church in St. Martins.



CENTER: People visit the altar of repose in St. Peter Church in Jefferson City.



RIGHT: People visit the altar of repose in St. Francis Xavier Church in Taos.

— Photo by Father Jason Doke

— Photo by Father Jeremy Secrist

— Photo by Deacon Michael Berendzen

and

- Jesus crowned with thorns (Matthew 27: 27-31).

Pilgrims read the appropriate Scripture passage for each station and engaged in private prayer and adoration.

Some concluded their pilgrimage by observing a Holy Hour at the seventh church they visited.

"Powerful experience"

Bill and Diane Lueckenhoff, their daughters Kristin Morris and Kara Pabst, son-in-law Jeff Pabst and grandchildren Olivia and Will Pabst visited all seven churches after Mass.

"It was a valuable and relevant occasion to spend time in adoration with Our Lord with our family," said Mrs. Lueckenhoff, a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in St. Thomas.

"The opportunity to venerate the seven altars of repose and reflect on appropriate Scripture readings at each altar certainly helped us to engage and follow Jesus preparing for His crucifixion," she said.

Rose Granich, a member of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, said Holy Week and the Easter Triduum are always special days for her, but this opportunity for pilgrimage on Holy Thursday made them all the more so.

"Each church decorated an altar of repose where visitors could come and pray," she said.

"That alone was exciting to see as each church made it inviting for us to come and meditate on a station of the cross."

Rose and her husband Jim spent about 15 minutes at each church. Their drive time between each included further discussions about Jesus's sacrifice.

"Just meditating on what Our Lord went through during Passion Week and what little crosses I have in comparison to Him made me more aware of what Our Lord said to His disciples: 'Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not undergo the test,'" said Mrs. Granich.

It brought about a change of perspective that she hopes will last throughout the year.

Shawn and Sarah Gerstner of St. Peter Parish made the pilgrimage together.

Mr. Gerstner said taking time to travel from church to church and to pause and reflect on the events Christ and His apostles experienced that night "really brought home the meaning of it all."

"The quiet of the churches with the incense from Mass

still in the air and the gathering of those participating made me think of what it was like that night for the apostles as the events unfolded, leading



People visit the altar of repose in the chapel of St. Andrew Church in Holts Summit.

— Photo by Father Roberto Ike

and the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish Adoration Chapel.

"It was really good," said Fr. Antweiler. "I was amazed and inspired and pleasantly

surprised by the number of people who visited our church and prayed before moving on."

Father Roberto Ike, pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Holts Summit, said a steady stream of people visited St. Andrew Church until about 11:45 p.m.

Mrs. Granich is grateful for the effort that went into organizing

and preparing the pilgrimage. "I thank the priests from all those parishes for the hard work in putting this on for us," she said.

Fr. Secrist said he hopes the pilgrimage becomes an annual tradition in the diocese, with the number of participants increasing each year.

"There is something very special about visiting churches late into the night," he said.

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— Rose and Demetrius,
Lavender’s parents

Lavender,
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MARCH FOR LIFE

From page 1

the street, but also in our conversations and in our actions in daily life.”

This will require people of faith to put more radically into practice what they preach.

“We must be a people unafraid to stand up for the weakest among us,” said Bishop McKnight. “We must support the dignity of all human life and never tire of the demands of what it means to be pro-life.”

Most of the daylong event’s festivities were moved inside due to rain, although the March did take place through the streets of the Capital City.

“God stirred up the sky this morning,” said pro-life activist Bridget VanMeans, CEO and vision leader of ThriVe St. Louis. “It looks like He said, ‘Remind My people that I weep for the unborn.’”

In the opening prayer, Father Anthony Viviano, moderator for pro-life ministries in the Jefferson City diocese, pleaded with God to “enkindle an undying passion for the mission for which we gather this day.”

“Father,” he prayed, “we gather as protectors for ‘the least of Yours,’ those most precious to You, in their complete and total innocence. We come before You, Lord, as ‘poor beggars,’ seeking the courage, the resilience and a warrior’s spirit to protect the unborn.”

“Stand up”

Ms. VanMeans presented the event’s Patriot for Life Award to state Rep. Mary Elizabeth Coleman.

“I don’t know why we’re still fighting this 50 years later, but our time is not God’s time, and He calls us not to be successful but to be faithful,” Rep. Coleman stated.

Missouri Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe presented a Vision Champion for Life Award to Ms. VanMeans.

“It is essential that we continue to make our voice heard,” she proclaimed, her words resonating off the marble and granite walls of the Rotunda.

Midwest March for Life organizer Kathy Forck, co-director for the Columbia 40 Days for Life Campaign, honored

the students of St. Joseph School in Westphalia for their enthusiastic participation in last year’s March.

St. Joseph seventh-grader Cameron Reinsch said it’s important to “stand up for the babies who can’t stand up for themselves.”

“We need to stand up for all the babies who don’t have a voice,” seventh-grader Trenton Orscheln added.

Several St. Joseph students talked about what they could do throughout the year to advance the pro-life cause.

“We could have fundraisers to raise money for mothers who are having a hard time with money problems,”

said eighth-grader Kaylee Juergensmeyer.

“Praying for the babies

is also very important,” said Cameron. “We pray to God that mothers can have the

strength to keep and raise their babies or put them up for adoption.”

Mercy and compassion

Lisa Rowe, CEO of an organization called Restore: Healing After Abortion (*healingafterabortion.com*), urged everyone present to cultivate a listening ear and an open heart in order to help people who have been wounded by abortion find the healing they need.

“There’s always more than one victim of abortion,” she noted.

Since about half of the abortions that take place in this country are a woman’s

See PRO-LIFE, page 14



Participants in the 2022 Midwest March for Life in Jefferson City on April 20 give thanks for a break in the rain while marching past the Governor’s Mansion.

— Photo by Jay Nies

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PRO-LIFE

From page 13

second or greater, “speaking with compassion can cut the abortion rate in half,” she said.

She urged everyone to be aware that an average of 1 in 4 women in this country has had an abortion by age 45.

Research shows that 22 million women and men whose lives have been touched by abortion would get help finding healing if they knew where to look for it, she said.

Therefore, it’s important to speak compassionately and non-judgmentally, listen openly to a woman’s story, and know how to put her in contact with people who can help her heal.

“Focus on the person who’s hurting, thus humanizing the conversation on abortion,” said Mrs. Rowe.

“Jesus met sinners right where they were,” she noted. “This is Divine Mercy. You can all live Divine Mercy in your own lives.”

Souls in peril

Keynote speaker Abby Johnson, a pro-life activist who previously was a manager of a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Texas, emphasized the importance of not just saving babies’ lives but of saving people’s souls.

That’s why she founded And Then There Were None, an organization that helps people who are employed in the abortion industry get out.

“I want not one person to perish in hell,” she declared. “Not one! And while the work



— Photos by Jay Nies



that we do is very important — saving babies from abortion — the work that we do with these mothers, the work that we do with these abortion-clinic workers — their souls are just as important as the physical lives of the babies we are trying to save.”

She said it’s important to interrupt the devil’s work in a person’s life.

“Be willing to offend somebody with God’s truth,” she said.

She noted that people standing on the sidewalk outside the abortion clinic she used to manage spoke honestly with her, telling her that what she was doing was wrong.

“You know what? The best way you can love someone is to speak truth into their life,”

she said.

Mrs. Johnson believes her work is about converting hearts, not changing laws.

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.

“You want to change a culture, you convert hearts to Christ,” she said. “You want to end abortion? You bring these women to Jesus Christ.”

Never-ending mercy

After getting caught in God’s tears while marching

through Jefferson City, young participants returned to the Rotunda to learn about how to defend the cause for life.

Pro-life youth activist Hope Miller said the goal cannot be to change another person’s mind with one discussion.

“Your goal must be to plant a seed that someone else will help grow,” she said.

Reagan Barklage, national field team director for Students for Life America, said it’s important to explain compassionately what an abortion entails.

“Argue the humanity of the human baby,” she said.

“Read, learn, speak intelligently, have conversations, work to change hearts,” she said. “Nobody has all the answers, and that’s okay. But never be afraid to get involved and speak up.”

Later that afternoon came an in-depth discussion about post-abortion healing.

Bishop Joseph Coffey, a retired U.S. Navy chaplain who is now an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services USA, led a prayer for women who are living with silent and lonely regret.

“We ask you to let them know that Your love and mercy is never-ending,” he prayed.

A couple from the St. Louis area spoke candidly of how they had agreed to have an abortion before they were married, when they were 17,

frightened and naive.

Their parents helped convince them that abortion would be their best course of action.

“I would give anything if I could go back and not do it,” the husband said.

Wracked with guilt for decades, the mother felt like she did not deserve to have any children.

A friend helped them find post-abortion healing by attending a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat. Now the couple is active in pro-life ministry and in helping other couples find the healing they need.

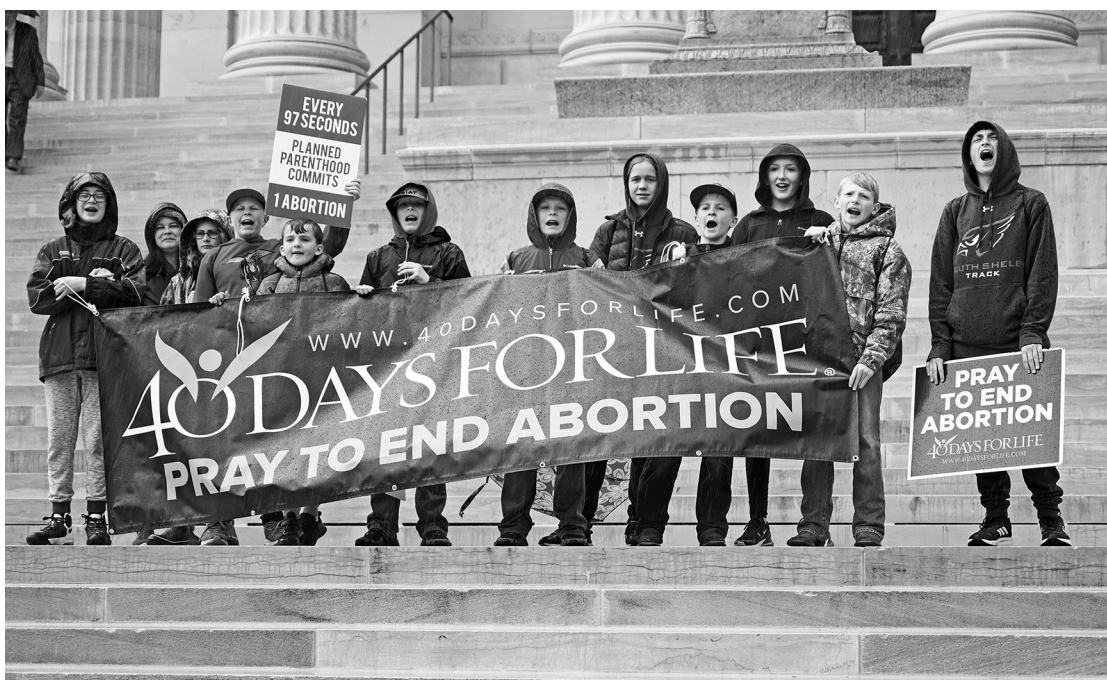
Mary Lovee Varni with the Respect Life Apostolate of the St. Louis archdiocese, spoke passionately about helping people who are suffering after abortion (archstl.org/hope-healing).

“I’ve seen miracles whenever a brave man or woman steps forward to claim their lost motherhood or lost fatherhood to abortion,” she said.

She said 9 out of 10 people who need post-abortion healing do not know where to look for it.

Most turn to trusted friends, which is why it’s helpful to know where to send them for help.

“You can provide that caring and confidential environment to help someone start their healing journey,” she said.



Light of Risen Christ dispels darkness of fear, pope tells young people

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Young people should not allow the darkness of fear to overwhelm them and instead allow the light of Easter to illuminate their lives and give them courage, Pope Francis said.

Fears “must be brought to light. And when fears, which are in darkness, come into the light, the truth bursts out. Do not be discouraged: If you are afraid, put it to the light and it will do you good!” the pope told thousands of young men and women gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

The April 18 event, titled “*Seguimi*” (“Follow Me”), was organized by the Italian bishops’ conference and brought young teens from all of Italy for a prayer vigil in Rome. While initial projections expected 57,000 people at the event, the Vatican said an estimated 100,000 young people were present.

It was the first large-scale gathering of its kind in St. Peter’s Square since the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered all public events in the country in 2020.

After riding around and greeting the crowd on his popemobile, Pope Francis welcomed them and said the “square has long been waiting to be filled with your presence, your faces, and your enthusiasm.”

“Today, all of you are together, coming from Italy, in the embrace of this square and in the joy of the Easter that we have just celebrated,” he said.

However, the pope said that although Jesus’ resurrection “conquered the darkness of death,” there are still dense clouds “that darken our time.”

“In addition to the pandemic, Europe is experiencing a terrible war, while injustices and violence continue in many regions of the earth that destroy humankind and the planet,” he said. “Often it is your peers who pay the highest price: Not only is their existence compromised

and made insecure, but their dreams for the future are trampled on. Many brothers and sisters are still waiting for the light of Easter.”

Reflecting on a Gospel reading from St. John, in which the Risen Christ appears to his disciples while they were fishing on the Sea of Galilee, the pope said young people, like the disciples, can experience moments in life that “put us to the test” and “make us feel naked, helpless and alone.”

In those times of uncertainty, he continued, young people must not keep to themselves, because “fears must be said, fears must be expressed in order to be able to drive them away.”

“Darkness puts us in crisis; but the problem lies in how we manage this crisis,” the pope explained. “If I keep it only for myself, for my heart, and I don’t talk about it with anyone, it doesn’t work. In times of crisis, you have to talk, talk with the friend who can help, with your dad, your mom, your grandfather, your grandmother, with a person who can help. Crises must be illuminated to overcome them.”

He also encouraged the young men and women present to not be afraid of life and all that it entails but instead to be afraid “of the death of the soul, of the death of the future, of the closure of the heart.”

“Life is beautiful, life is meant to be lived and to give it to others; life is meant to be shared with others, not to close it in on itself,” he said.

Like children who call on their mother when in need, Pope Francis said Christians can call upon Mary who, in her adolescence, “accepted her extraordinary vocation to be the mother of Jesus.”

“May Our Lady — the mother who was almost your age when she received the angel’s announcement and became pregnant with Him — teach you to say: ‘Here I am!’” the pope said.

MCC supports proposed law to keep mothers who are in prison together with their newborns

By Jay Nies

Babies born to women in prison would be able to stay with their mothers for up to 18 months under a bill awaiting action by the Missouri Senate.

The state’s House of Representatives has already passed HB 1897, sponsored by state Rep. Bruce DeGroot of Ellisville, by a vote of 127-1.

The Senate has until 6 p.m. Friday, May 13 — the end of the current legislative session — to vote on the bill.

It would allow the Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC) to establish nurseries in the state’s female correctional facilities.

It would create a Correctional Center Nursery Program Fund to cover the costs of the program. The fund would be able to receive money from legislative appropriation; assignment of child support by prison residents; and gifts, grants and donations.

The bill would give DOC authority to determine which women are eligible for the program.

In order to participate, the women would have to meet educational and counseling requirements, such as completion of a high school equivalency program and participation in evidence-based parenting classes.

The Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC), public-policy agency for the state’s four Roman Catholic dioceses, testified in favor of the bill, noting that nearly a dozen states have already established prison nursery programs.

Advocates say that those programs have led to a decrease in recidivism for the mothers and have improved the overall atmosphere and culture of the entire facility.

“In addition, supporters say that allowing in-

fants to remain with their mothers during such a crucial time in development will lead to better health and emotional outcomes for them, as well,” the MCC stated.

Father Louis Dorn, a retired priest of the diocese who has been visiting prisons for 35 years, said giving women in prison the chance to bond with their babies could contribute to their rehabilitation.

“Having been chaplain to incarcerated women for many years, I know that one of the most painful things for them is the separation from their newborn infants,” he stated.

“It is demoralizing and harmful to their mental health,” he said.

Father Joseph Corel, vicar for ministry to the incarcerated in the Jefferson City diocese, said passing the law would allow the DOC to provide stability and a safe, nurturing environment for infants born to mothers in prison.

Anytime such an environment can be created for parents and children, “the child will do much better, and the parent will have the dignity to be who they are called to be as a parent,” said Fr. Corel.

“As the Department of Corrections does what it can to ensure that the mother is receiving the tools she needs to be a responsible, healthy parent for her expectant child once the child is born, we want to support and encourage these efforts,” said Fr. Corel, who is also one of two pastors *in solidum* of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Pettis County.

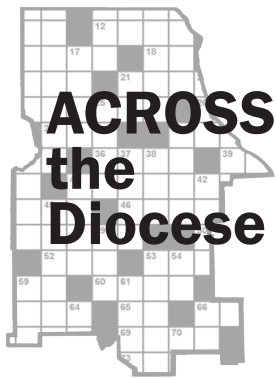
He added that if passed, the law would provide a good opportunity for Catholics to volunteer for programs to help mothers and their children in prison.

The Senate Committee on Seniors, Families, Veterans and Military Affairs held a public hearing on the bill on April 20.

Unfathomable mercy



An image of Jesus of Divine Mercy is seen in St. Peter’s Square as people wait for Pope Francis to lead the “*Regina Coeli*” at the Vatican April 24.
— CNS photo/Paul Haring



By Father Don Antweiler

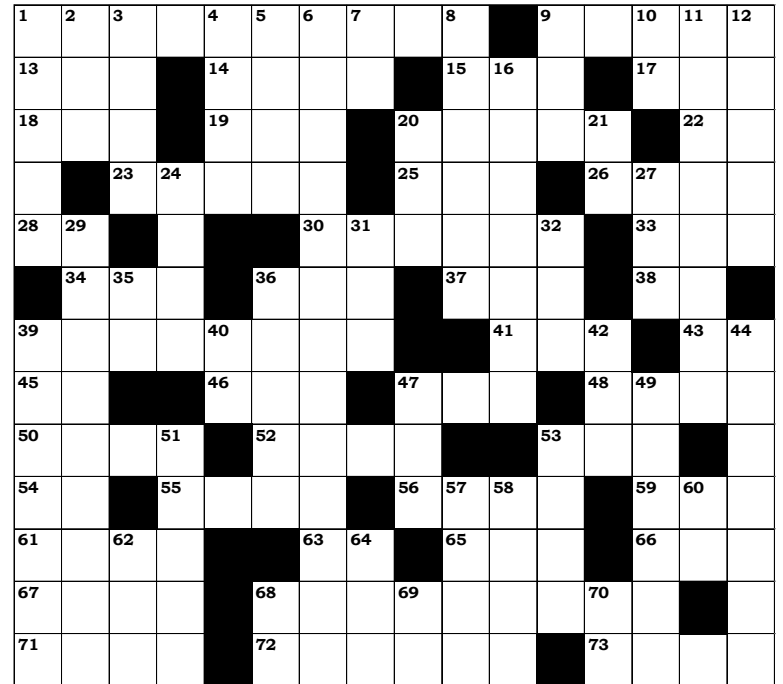
ACROSS

1. Bismarck, capital of North Dakota, has its counterpart in Bismarck, Mo. in ____ County (2 wds.).
9. "One sows and another _____," (John 4:37).
13. ____ Aviv; Israel's largest city.
14. "...pay back your neighbor when a ____ falls due..." (Sirach 29:2).
15. "____ *missa est*"; concluding words of the old Latin Mass.
17. "Merciful God, grant us unwearied hearts, hearts that seek less to be satisfied than to be ____ on fire," —*The Lost Art of Walking on the Water*; by Fr. Michael Heher.
18. Car club.
19. I used to listen to the radio for the week's ____ 10 hit songs for the week.
20. "Better to be a ____ than
22. The parents of Laura Ingalls Wilder, Charles and Caroline, were simply known to all as ____ and Pa Ingalls.
23. Columbia, capital of South Carolina, has its counterpart in Columbia, Mo. in ____ County.
25. One of the 5 evil Midianite kings killed during the time of Moses (Numbers 31:8).
26. When I go to the barber, I always get just a ____.
28. Letters for Sacred Scripture.
30. Springfield, capital of Illinois, has its counterpart in Springfield, Mo. in ____ County.
33. 6th sense.
34. Lower digit.
36. ____ Tin Tin; canine star in 27 old Hollywood movies.
37. Abbr. for route.
38. Unit of blood, perhaps.
39. Helias Catholic High School says its goal is to produce a community of saints and ____.
41. A period of time in history.
43. Do it ____ you will be sorry!
45. "____, what's up, doc?" —

46. Pro B-ball org.
47. The Irishman winked and said when he wakes up he is always happy to find himself still on this side of the ____.
48. "See how the farmer waits...being patient until (the crop) receives the early and ____ rains," (James 5:7).
50. Austin, capital of Texas, has its counterpart in Austin, Mo. in ____ County.
52. Slang for a citizen of Britain.
53. Big ____ in London.
54. Letters at a train crossing, perhaps.
55. Dry.
56. Arab ruler.
59. Genetic stuff.
61. Energy, style, enthusiasm.
63. Abbr. for each.
65. In the transport industry and in the military, letters for Actual Time of Arrival.
66. "In this ____-race everybody's guilty till proved guilty," —Bette Davis.
67. Circus need.
68. Dover, capital of Delaware, has its counterpart in Dover, Mo. in ____ County.
71. "____ *bien*"; "it's ok" in Mexico.
72. Hartford, capital of Connecticut, has its counterpart in Hartford, Mo. in ____ County.
73. "Never was so much ____ by so many to so few," —Winston Churchill, speaking about the Royal Air Force in the Battle of Britain, 1940.

DOWN

1. "...by ourselves we flounder: We need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the ____," —Pope Francis.
2. The Boston ____ Party caused the British to crack down even more on the colonists and helped lead to the Am. Revolution.
3. What one wants to lose by exercising.
4. The four voice ranges in a choir are soprano, ____, tenor and bass.
5. "High ____"; 1952 Western classic movie.
6. Jackson, capital of Mississippi, has its counterpart in Jackson, Mo. in ____ County (2 wds.).
7. "Get Me to the Church ____ Time" —song by
8. The Lone Ranger's Hi-Ho ____ — away!
9. Possible abbr. before a clergyman's name.
10. "A description of a time of such dreadful chaos ____ prevailed during the four years of (Civil) war in Mo., is impossible, at least for my pen," —*Longer than a Man's Lifetime in Missouri*, memoirs of a German Immigrant in Missouri, Gert Goebel.
11. Concord, capital of New Hampshire, has its counterpart in Concord, Mo. in the bootheel county of ____.
12. As a ____ collector, I esp. collect First Day of Issue covers.
16. "For after the Earl arrested him, and brought him forward, as a man sorely ____, he fell sick suddenly," —Henry VIII; "Shakespeare."
20. "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will ____ God," (Matthew 5:8).
21. Alien.
24. Sandwich cookie.
27. Letters for Residents Encounter Christ; a Catholic prison retreat program.
29. St. Paul, capital of Minnesota, has its counterpart in St. Paul, Mo. in ____ County (2 wds.).
31. Nurses.
32. Suffix for auction or musket.
35. Uh-____; I goofed up.
36. "Immediately (Judas) went over to Jesus and said 'Hail ____!'" (Matthew 26:49).
39. To discharge a substance



- Stanley Holloway from the musical "My Fair Lady."
40. Like Cir. or St.
42. "There is a delightful public house overlooking the creek. I have a strong inclination to savor the local ____, for which I have heard the most extravagant claims," —Sherlock Holmes in *The Shadows On The Lawn*; Barry Jones.
44. At a family reunion, I enjoyed discovering that I am ____ to so many interesting people.
47. Abbr. before a female French saint.
49. Helena, capital of Montana, has its counterpart in Helena, Mo. in ____ County.
51. Mr. Claus.
53. A spoiled unruly child, perhaps.
57. The pre-Columban ____ civilization in the greater Yucatan area was known for its art, architecture, astronomy, calendar, and highly-developed writing system.
58. The ____ I wanted to buy was out of stock.
60. Sodium on the periodic table.
62. Insect not intimidated by a rubber tree plant.
64. Toward the back of a ship.
68. Letters for long playing vinyl record.
69. Prefix for other or gel.
70. "Truman felt he had been so lucky since he had become President that he attributed it ____ God. 'He guides me, I think.'" —*Mr. Truman's War*, by J. Robert Moskin.


ANSWERS on page 19

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FR. TOLTON

From page 1

“The very last stained glass window, which sits over the new baptistery and nearest to the altar, is the hagiographical window of how we pray,” the bishop said.

That will be the window depicting Fr. Tolton.

Mission field

Young Augustus Tolton escaped with his mother and siblings to Illinois during the Civil War. His father escaped and lost his life while fighting for the Union.

With help from God and from family and friends, “Gus” came to recognize his priestly calling and set about overcoming the tremendous obstacles to answering it.

No U.S. seminary would accept him because he was Black. He was eventually admitted to the Pontifical Urban College for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome, a seminary for Catholic missionaries.

Ordained in 1886 in the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome, he was missioned back to Quincy to serve among those who knew him.

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

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

drawing Black and white Catholics together for Mass each Sunday.

He ministered with grace and weathered many difficulties in Quincy before being reassigned to Chicago, where he served as pastor to some of the city’s poorest and most vulnerable individuals until he died of heatstroke and exhaustion at age 43.

Cardinal Francis George OMI, now deceased, of Chicago opened a sainthood cause for Fr. Tolton in 2011.

Pope Francis in 2019 acknowledged Fr. Tolton’s heroic virtues and bestowed on him the title “Venerable” — meaning that he lived at a heroic level a life of

From light into light

The Cathedral of St. Joseph’s first major renovation in its 53-year history will incorporate classical elements into the familiar

“We cannot have images of people in the church for veneration until their beatification,” the bishop noted.

The niche will be decorated with marble

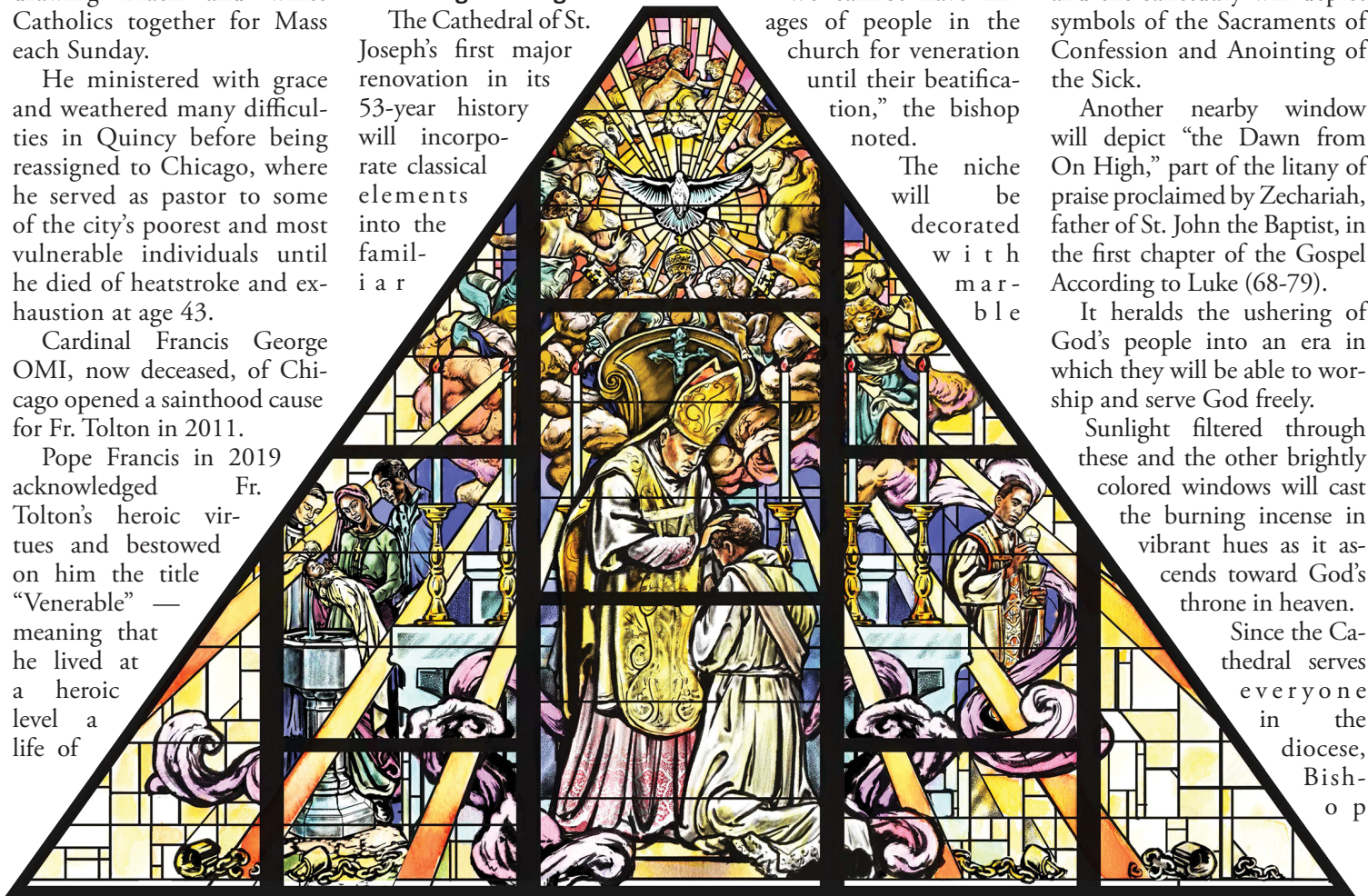
and the sanctuary will depict symbols of the Sacraments of Confession and Anointing of the Sick.

Another nearby window will depict “the Dawn from On High,” part of the litany of praise proclaimed by Zechariah, father of St. John the Baptist, in the first chapter of the Gospel According to Luke (68-79).

It heralds the ushering of God’s people into an era in which they will be able to worship and serve God freely.

Sunlight filtered through these and the other brightly colored windows will cast the burning incense in vibrant hues as it ascends toward God’s throne in heaven.

Since the Cathedral serves everyone in the diocese, Bishop



faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance.

An authenticated miracle attributed to God through Fr. Tolton’s intercession will be needed in order for him to be beatified (declared blessed), and yet another miracle for him to be declared a saint.

mid-century structure, enhancing its beauty, functionality, capacity for hospitality and uniquely Catholic identity.

Bishop McKnight noted that space near the sanctuary is being reserved for what is to become a shrine in Fr. Tolton’s memory in the event he is declared blessed.

imported from Africa, the continent from which Fr. Tolton’s ancestors were taken against their will, and to which he hoped as a seminarian to be sent as a missionary.

The stained glass windows between the new baptistery

McKnight invites Catholics from all parishes to contribute toward the cost of the renovation, as long as doing so does not reduce their regular, sacrificial support of their own parish.

Visit diojeffcity.org/cathedral-renovation for info.

O God, we give You thanks for Your servant and priest, Father Augustus Tolton, who labored among us in times of contradiction, times that were both beautiful and paradoxical. His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly Catholic gathering in faith in our time. We stand in the shadow of his ministry. May his life continue to inspire us and imbue us with that confidence and hope that will forge a new evangelization for the Church we love.

— From the Prayer for Fr. Tolton’s Canonization, Bishop Joseph N. Perry, 2010

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| • Knowing that you will help Catholics in need in our diocese | 75-79 | 5.4-6.2% |
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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. 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; **Montgomery City**, Immaculate Conception Parish Spring BBQ, 4:30-9 pm, K of C Hall

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 573-690-4271

May 8

Belle, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am; **Brunswick**, St. Boniface Cemetery benefit dinner, 11 am-1 pm, K of C Hall; **Jefferson City**, Fr. Helias K of C Council 1054 Mother's Day breakfast, 7-11 am, St. Peter Parish's Selinger Centre

May 20

Freeburg, Cruise-in/Holy Family Parish & School BBQ, 5 pm-midnight; **Jefferson City**, El Puente-Hispanic Ministry trivia night, 6-9 pm, St. Peter Parish's Selinger Centre, register online at elpuentemo.org; **Linn**, 2nd Annual Pro-Life Golf Classic benefiting Vitae Foundation,

noon-5 pm, Osage Country Club, for info or to register visit vitaefoundation.org

Meetings/ Workshops

May 2

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

May 3

VIRTUAL, "SSND Around the Globe" presentation for women ages 18-45, to learn about SSND ministries around the globe, 7 pm, for info or to register visit ssnd.org/events/5-3-22; **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

May 21

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

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

30 abril

Columbia, Misa de Sanación, 10-11 am, Parroquia Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Jacques

line 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 Cruz al 660-292-1402 o por correo electrónico a aureliac595@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

21 mayo

Columbia, Planificación Familiar Natural-Familia de las Américas, 9 am-12 pm, Parroquia Sagrado Corazón, para información sobre instructores y clases contacte a Enrique o Crisithia Castro al 573-680-3650 / 501-454-8308 o por correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org

jeffcity.org / cmguzman10@gmail.com

28 mayo

Jefferson City, Encuentro de Discípulos (parte 2), para más información contacte e lli Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

May 6-8

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

May 13-15

St. Louis, 23rd Annual St. Louis Marian Conference, featuring Mass, Adoration, Confession, talks, music, vendors and fellowship, Renaissance Hotel-St. Louis Airport, for info or to register visit stlmc.org

May 14

VIRTUAL, "Let Your Light Shine" virtual day of reflection from the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL, 9:30 am-noon, for info or to register visit snows.org/reflection514

May 15

Starkenburg, Annual Spring Pilgrimage, 10 am, with dinner 11 am-1pm, confessions 12:30 pm, Benediction 1 pm, outdoor Mass 2 pm, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows

Liturgical

May 8

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

May 14

Linn, Rosary Rally, noon-1 pm, St. George Church

Youth

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

May 2

Freeburg, Blood drive, 1-6 pm, American Legion Post 317



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*Embracing Father,
You grace each of us with equal
measure in Your love.
Let us learn to love our neighbors
more deeply,
so that we can create
peaceful and just communities.
Inspire us to use our creative energies*

*to build the structures we need
to overcome the obstacles
of intolerance and indifference.
May Jesus provide us the example
needed
and send the Spirit to warm our
hearts for the journey.
Amen*

Anniversaries

Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels

Jim & Irene Buechter, 52 years
David & Donna Haller, 43 years
Nicholas & Cindy Raithel, 12 years

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes

Bill & Diana Lueckenotte, 50 years

Freeburg, Holy Family

Dave & Patty Phelps, 35 years
Patrick & Kathy Bliss, 26 years
Scottie & Misty Bastion, 20 years
Gary & Rosalyn Welschmeyer, 13 years
Kevin & Jessica Bax, 10 years

Holts Summit, St. Andrew

Douglas & Linda Werdehausen, 40 years
Patrick & Kristina Hartman, 25 years

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception

Dan & Sally Bernskoetter, 51 years

Jefferson City, St. Peter

Charles & Tricia Faherty, 20 years

Koeltztown, St. Boniface

Mark & Roxie Loehner, 41 years
Paul & Sandy Falter, 36 years
Paul & Laura Baumhoer, 34 years

Martinsburg, St. Joseph

John & Barb Poindexter, 48 years
Richard & Jan Schafer, 43 years
Jason & Brook Poindexter, 19 years

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows

Eric & Brittany Schulte, 20 years
Robert & Nikki Evers, 15 years

Mokane, St. Jude Thaddeus

John & Pat Horstman, 62 years
Bob & Lois Spencer, 57 years
Deacon John & Kay Neudecker, 50 years
Danny & Judy Jansen, 29 years
Glen & Ruthie Horstman, 26 years
Darren & Heather Murphy, 18 years
Travis & Kelly VanLoo 16 years

Montgomery City, Immaculate Conception

Jim & Linda Krattli, 45 years
Jerry & Sue Beck, 44 years
Paul & Angela Schaffrin, 33 years
Rick & Beth Boschert, 30 years
Justin & Jill Dunlap, 15 years
Brian & Rachel Rakers, 14 years

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart

Bob & Jean Fick, 39 years
Dale & Tammy Pope, 37 years
Eric & Roxie Mebruer, 20 years
Brian & Edie Reichel, 20 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.

Russellville, St. Michael

Steve & Carolyn Baker, 43 years
Fred & Becky Kolb, 43 years
Jeff & Diane Thompson, 30 years
Bob & Martha Francis, 29 years
Kenny & Eveleen Stevens, 29 years
Mike & Janice Loesch, 24 years
Mitch & Andrea Koetting, 22 years
Brian & Jessica Deschu, 15 years

Vienna, Visitation

Leo & Susie Kleffner, 53 years
Brian & Becky James, 47 years
Mark & Joyce Weidinger, 47 years
Don & Robin Stratman, 37 years
Duane & Donna VanScoy, 37 years
Mark & Valerie Haller, 31 years
Shane & Kelly Backues, 28 years
Justin & Amy Harker, 27 years
William & Jodi Nichols, 18 years
Glen & Allison Rowden, 17 years
John & Beth Wulff, 15 years

Birthdays

Hermann, St. George — **Arthur Landolt**, his 90th on April 28

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Rita Reinkemeyer**, her 90th on May 1

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Lorene Meissen**, her 99th on May 9

Vienna, Visitation — **Leonard Weidinger**, his 96th on April 15

Marriages

Chamois, Most Pure Heart of Mary — **Karina Mehmert & Nick Hoelting**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Lisa Rivers & Gary Vogel; Leigh Anne Hentges & Andrew Bennett**

SR. CONSTANCE

From page 9

see history and pass on history.”
“An old age that is granted this clarity is a precious gift for the generation that is to follow. Listening personally and directly to the story of lived faith, with all its highs and lows, is irreplaceable. Reading about it in books, watching it in films, consulting it on the internet ... will never be the same. There is a tone and style of communication to direct, person-to-person storytelling that no other medium can replace. An older person, one who has lived a long time, and receives the gift of a lucid and passionate testimony of his or her history, is an irreplaceable blessing.”

The pope asserts that great social challenges and peace processes call for dialogue between the keepers of memory — the elderly — and the young, who move history forward. “Each must be willing to make room for others ... Encounter and dialogue between generations should be the driving force behind a healthy politics.”

“I can give a personal testimony,” the pope said. “I learned hatred and anger for war from my grandfather, who

Deaths

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Jerome C. Reinkemeyer**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Dan Oswald**

Eldon, Sacred Heart — **Mary A. Mergelkamp**

Hermann, St. George — **Steve Bockting, Evelyn Vogel**

Indian Creek, St. Stephen — **Melvin F. Montgomery**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Mary L. Distler**

Marshall, St. Peter — **Sandra Sullivan**

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Mary D. Feind**

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Gregory D. Russell**

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Marie Rustemeyer, Martha Schneider**

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul — **Rudy Rehmer**

Honors

Columbia, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School — **Joseph Powers** (Class of 2016), with the 2022 Blazer Alumni Achievement Award; **Matt Robe**, with the 2022 Fr. Augustus Tolton Service Award

Baptisms

California, Annunciation — **Brynlee Sue Hoback**, daughter of Justin & Daniella Hoback

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Skylar Idel**, child of Meredith Williams; **Nora Jane Williams**, daughter of Tysen & Meredith Williams

Fulton, St. Peter — **Max Omohundro, Lila Joanne**, and **Moses Matthew Rose**, children of Matthew Rose & Emily Omohundro; **Theodore Gilbert Polson**, son of Luke & Erin Polson

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Kayden Joseph Holtmeyer**, son of Cory & Cortney Holtmeyer; **Liam William James Vignola**, son of John & Claire Vignola; **Julia Ryan West**, daughter of Ryan & Mary West

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Calvin Michael Hoey**, son of Brendan & Kayla Hoey

Kahoka, St. Michael — **Adilynn Catherine Bertelli**, daughter of Bryson & Abigail Bertelli; **Nyla Anne Sedore**, daughter of Gus & Alexandra Sedore

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Hadley Mae Bax, Paige Marie Bauman**

Marceline, St. Bonaventure — **Theo Scott**, son of Jason & Toni Scott

Marshall, St. Peter — **Adriana Abernathy, Fatima Mignery Almazan, Emmett Barr, Beau Brown, Alberta Midkiff, Hazel Midkiff**

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart — **Brexlyn Paige Schulte**, daughter of Jared & Brittaney Schulte; **Dean Turner Wolfe**, son of Dalton & Brooke Wolfe

St. Elizabeth, St. Lawrence — **Clay Curtis Kuester**, son of Chad & Cassey Kuester; **Carter Vance Rehagen**, son of Austin & Amber Rehagen

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Lucas Taylor Fitzgerald**, son of Travis & Kristin Fitzgerald

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **Celeste Angelica Stevenson**, daughter of Ethan & Genevieve Stevenson

Crossword puzzle answers

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

Indian Creek Easter Bunny



Children greet the Easter Bunny and gather colored eggs during the 14th annual Easter Egg Hunt on the grounds of St. Stephen Church in Indian Creek on Easter Sunday. Knights of Columbus St. Stephen Council 1971 sponsors the event each year. — Photos by Sally Lemongelli

Lift high the cross!



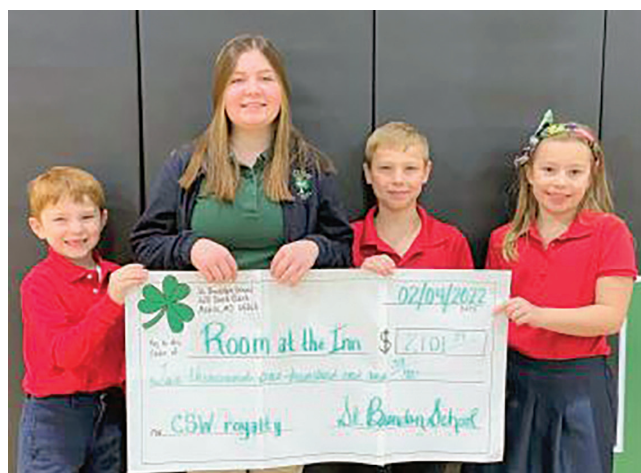
First graders and class helpers at St. Lawrence Parish in St Elizabeth celebrate the Risen Christ with an Easter cross art project. — Photo by Andrea Holtmeyer

Help for suffering people



Officers of the Visitation Inter-Parish School Student Council in Vienna present a check for \$570 to help the people of Ukraine. The students and staff held several “wear jeans for a donation days” during the course of several weeks. — Photo by Peggy Neubert

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St. Brendan students making a difference



Students of St. Brendan School in Mexico modeled stewardship in several different ways during Catholic Schools Week. They organized a “Souper Bowl” food drive that resulted in donations of three cartloads of food that was delivered to the Laura Miller George Help Center. To assist the Room at the Inn, a local nonprofit organization that provides emergency shelter for the Mexico community, students contributed much-needed funds. A check for \$2,101.39 was presented at the beginning of February with the money raised from the royalty contest. The final way the school assisted the community was by preparing Blessing Bags for Pin Oaks. Twenty-five bags were filled with fun items to entertain residents such as puzzles, coloring books, dominoes, etc. St. Brendan School appreciated the support from families to help in its mission to provide assistance to others in Mexico.

Jesus appears to seven apostles

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

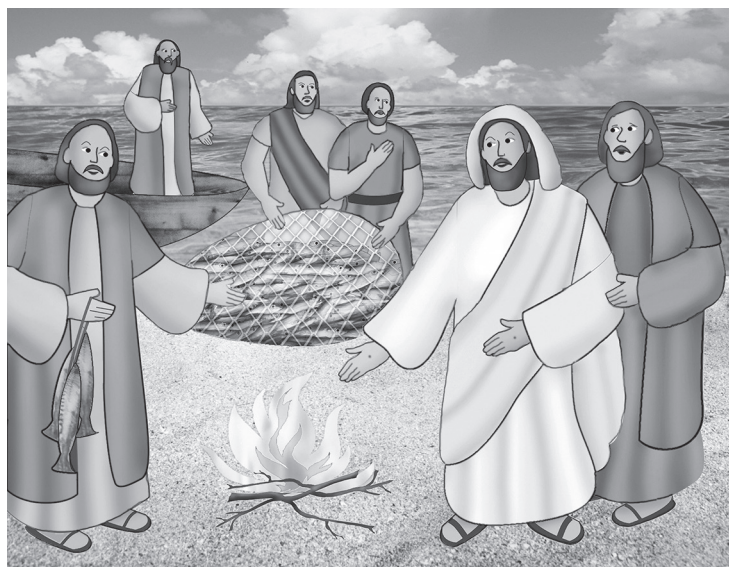
One day, soon after Jesus' resurrection, seven of the apostles were at the Sea of Tiberias. One of them was Simon Peter, who decided to go fishing. The rest of his friends decided to go along.

They cast their net all night long but did not catch any fish. As the sun began to rise, they decided to head toward shore.

As they got close to land, they noticed a man standing on the beach. He was trying to get their attention.

"Children, have you caught anything to eat?" the man shouted over the sound of the waves.

When the apostles said no, the man told them where to cast their net. They listened,



and they caught so many fish that they could not drag the net onto the boat.

Suddenly, the apostle whom Jesus loved recognized the man.

"It is the Lord," he said.

When Simon Peter heard this, he jumped into the sea and swam to shore. The rest of the apostles came in on the boat.

Bible Accent

Simon Peter was a very important apostle. Based on some things Jesus said to him, and because of some of the responsibilities the Lord gave him, the Catholic Church sees Simon Peter as the first pope.

For example, in Matthew 16, Jesus asked His apostles who they thought He was. It was Simon Peter who answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus told Simon Peter that he was blessed, because no man could have given the correct answer on his own. That knowledge came to Simon Pe-

ter directly from God.

"And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven," Jesus told Simon Peter.

In John 21, it was Simon Peter whom the resurrected Jesus commanded to feed and tend His lambs and sheep. Jesus was referring to the people of God, who would need an

earthly shepherd to help them after Jesus returned to His Father in heaven.

Also in John 21, it was Simon Peter to whom Jesus gave this command: "Follow me."

Essay

Jesus was sent by His Father to help the Israelites stop sinning against God. When have you seen someone doing something bad or wrong, and what did you do about it?

Puzzle

Answer the following questions about Jesus' apostles. Hints have been provided.



1. Which apostles were called "the sons of Zebedee"? (Mark 10:35)
2. Which apostle betrayed Jesus? (Luke 22:1-6)
3. Which apostle doubted that Jesus had risen from the dead? (John 20:24-25)
4. Which apostle had been a tax collector? (Matthew 10:1-4)
5. Which apostle's mother-in-law was healed by Jesus? (Matthew 8:14-15)



Answers: 1. James and John; 2. Judas Iscariot; 3. Thomas; 4. Matthew; 5. Peter.

Jesus had started a fire and had cooked some fish on it. He also had some bread. As the apostles drew near, He said, "Come, have breakfast." None of the disciples dared to ask who He was, because they realized it was the Lord. This was the third time Jesus had appeared to His friends after His resurrection.

Jesus took the bread and gave it to them. Then He did the same thing with the fish. After everyone had finished eating, Jesus turned to Simon Peter.

"Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" the Lord asked.

Simon Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You."

"Feed My lambs," Jesus said.

Twice more Jesus asked whether Simon Peter loved Him, and each time the apostle said yes. In reply, Jesus told Simon Peter to tend His sheep, then to feed His sheep.

"Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go," Jesus said.

He then said to Simon Peter: "Follow me."

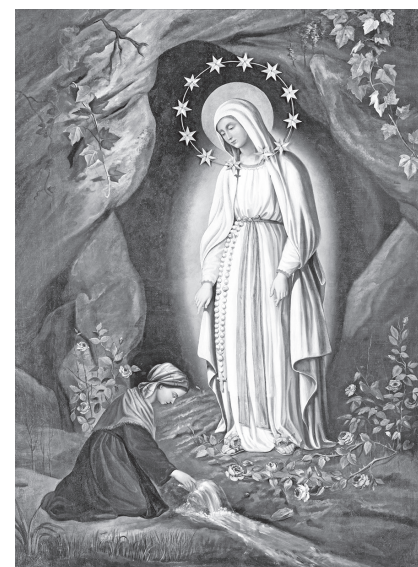
Read more about it...

John 21

1. Who was the man on shore calling to the apostles?
2. What did Jesus tell Simon Peter to do?

Saint Spotlight

St. Bernadette was born in Lourdes, France, in 1844. When she was 14, she had 18 visions at the nearby River Gave. The lady she saw in her visions told her to have a chapel built there. She wanted people to be able to drink from and wash in the water that flowed from a place in the ground where Bernadette had dug. In one of the visions, the lady said she was the "Immaculate Conception." Bernadette eventually joined the Sisters of Notre Dame at Nevers. She was plagued by bad health, and she died in 1879 at age 35. We honor her on April 16.



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Author offers archaeological insight into Jesus and His times

Jesus of Nazareth: Archaeologists Retracing the Footsteps of Christ, by Michael Hesemann. Ignatius Press (San Francisco, 2021). 322 pp., \$21.95.

Reviewed by Allan F. Wright
Catholic News Service

Michael Hesemann studied history and cultural anthropology at Goettingen University, has participated in archaeological excavations in the Holy Land and has previously written extensively on topics related to archaeology and Christianity.

The author's research and observations are well-documented and informative, transporting the reader back in time uncovering the footsteps of Christ and other biblical and historical figures who impacted the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

Early on in his book, *Jesus of Nazareth: Archaeologists Retracing the Footsteps of Christ*, in the chapter titled "Where the Word Became History," he writes about the relationship and proximity of the tomb of

King Herod to the birthplace of Jesus:

"Still in his lifetime, not in the splendor of a palace but in the semi-darkness of a stable-cave, the true king of the Jews, the promised messiah, the redeemer of mankind, was born there. His tomb, too, was shattered, but is still venerated today as a holy place by 2 billion people."

The impact of the proximity of Herod's palace to Bethlehem, which cast its long shadow over the tiny village, has implications for the life Jesus experienced living under the constant shadow of Roman rule and terror.

Hesemann's accurate description of the house where Jesus was born is an example of his exegetical knowledge that is aptly displayed throughout his book.

In understanding the differences in the words St. Luke chose for the English word often translated as "inn," combined with the archaeological evidence that Hesemann puts forward from how first-cen-

tury, Middle Eastern peasant homes are built, gives light and understanding to the most momentous event in history, which nearly everyone gets wrong in the retelling of the Christmas story.





Engaging chapters include familiar biblical sites such as Nazareth, Cana, Jerusalem, the Temple Mount and the pool at Bethesda as the author delves into historical events, archeological findings and connections to Scripture.

One of the most intriguing chapters focuses on Sephoris, a major Roman city located four miles from Nazareth where Jesus and St. Joseph would have found ample work, yet the city is never mentioned in the Gospels. The excavations point to a vibrant city, the "jewel of the Galilee" as it would become, yet would faithful Jews, Jesus and St. Joseph, work to build a pagan city? A lively discussion indeed.

The archaeological landscape of Israel and the Middle East is fluid, with new discoveries each year. A few of the conclusions Hesemann makes are of a minority view, so each position he takes can't always be backed up with certitude. The author presents a definitive answer for the birth date of Jesus and while he may be correct, other scholars would disagree while observing the same evidence.

This book is an excellent resource for anyone interested

Movie Ratings

| | |
|--|---|
|  | The Bad Guys (PG) Sonic the Hedgehog 2 (PG) |
|  | The Adam Project (PG-13) Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore (PG-13) Father Stu (R) The Lost City (PG-13) Morbius (PG-13) Turning Red (PG) Windfall (R) |
|  | All the Old Knives (R) Ambulance (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.

in the Bible and for Christians who seek the "story behind the story." Hesemann successfully brings the reader back 2,000 years and then right back to the present time, never losing sight of Jesus of Nazareth, without whom the book would be a collection of historical facts and lose its soul.

Also of interest: *The Life of Jesus Christ: Understanding the Story of the Gospels*, by Russell Shaw. Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Indiana, 2021). 128 pp., \$15.95.

Wright is principal of *Koinonia Academy* in Plainfield, New Jersey.

Wahlberg: Movie's hopeful message is for everyone

Catholic News Service

Philadelphia

Mark Wahlberg's newest movie, "Father Stu," may be a story about a Catholic priest, but it holds a hopeful message for people of all faiths — or no faith at all.

"This is a biopic that really inspires people and challenges people to do better. Everybody's been dealing with very difficult things in life, especially now more than ever," Wahlberg mused, glancing out the window of a high-rise hotel in Philadelphia during a recent one-on-one interview with the *Catholic Star Herald*, newspaper of the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey.

The story of "Father Stu," he said, is a message all need even

more after COVID-19.

"I hadn't missed church in over a decade, and my faith was questioned. I went through things I never imagined I would go through, depression and things of that nature," Wahlberg, a Catholic, said of the pandemic.

"This movie hopefully will reignite people's hope and faith and encourage people to find the good in everything, the good in people especially. And be inspired to do better and also find your role in God's big picture," he said.

"Father Stu," which opened in theaters across the country April 13 and by April 20 had grossed over \$10 million in ticket sales. Wahlberg stars in the title role.

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Sundays, 8 am, KRLL-AM 1420, California

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94.7 FM, Columbia
103.3 FM, Fulton
K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

ANNE'S ANCHOR

From page 6

the available assistance does little to help people improve their lot and rise out of poverty.

"People wind up having to be reliant on these programs that are not designed to be relied on long-term," she stated.

That's one of many reasons she loves Anne's Anchor so much.

"This program really gives these moms the hand-up they need to be able to provide for their child, so they can be the mom that God intended them to be," she said.

Ideally, that means earning enough money to support herself and her children in their own home, while maintaining a strong relationship with Jesus.

"We give them all the tools so that they can do it, and then we celebrate their accomplishments," she said.

Mrs. Hearn accepted an invitation to serve on the Anne's Anchor board of directors last October.

At her first meeting, she was asked to create a job description for a program director.

"So I did that, and the next meeting, we talked about who we should hire," she recalled. "And the other board members said, 'We think we already have a candidate.' And I said, 'Great! Who do you have in mind?'"

It turns out, they thought Mrs. Hearn's experience and temperament make her an ideal candidate for the job, which includes managing the home and coaching the residents.

"It's all God's doing!" she said. "I didn't see it at the time, but He's been preparing me for this all along."

"It's up to them"

One of the mothers who recently moved into Anne's Anchor painted an image of a flower for the home's May 6 Grand Opening celebration.

On the painting, she wrote: "When a flower doesn't bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower."

"I love that!" said Mrs. Hearn. "She's only been living at Anne's Anchor for a week, but she already feels that now she's in a positive new environment, she's going to be able to blossom."



Georgia Hearn, program director for Anne's Anchor in Bowling Green, her husband, Cody, and their daughters pose for a family photo.

Hard work and accountability play a large role in creating that kind of environment.

"We work with these young women to help them establish goals and work toward becoming self-sufficient, where they are no longer reliant on any kind of government assistance," said Mrs. Hearn.

The core competencies range from education and job training, to employment, to personal finance and budgeting, to transportation, to parenting and life skills.

tion after that.

The moms are expected to work at least part-time outside the home while taking the required classes.

"We are there to support them and help them learn life skills — things that are integral to raising children and running a household but that they might not have learned at home," said Mrs. Hearn.

"We don't do anything for them; we are very much against creating any kind of dependence," she said. "We support them through it and talk them through it and help them make their goals, but it's up to them to actually do it and follow through."

The same goes for community clients who do not live in in the Anne's Anchor home.

The program focuses on being positive and grateful while working through struggles, with clients being encouraged to ask themselves, "What was your big win for today?"

Whenever appropriate, the babies' fathers are encouraged to take part in the programs that help them become better parents.

"We encourage co-parenting and keeping up the communication between Mom and Dad while encouraging Dad to spend time with the child," said Mrs. Hearn.

"God is in charge"

Mrs. Hearn asked for

Daily Readings

Sunday, May 1

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41
Ps. Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13
Rv. 5:11-14
Jn. 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

Monday, May 2

St. Athanasius, bishop and doctor of the Church
Acts 6:8-15
Ps. 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30
Jn. 6:22-29

Tuesday, May 3

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

Wednesday, May 4

Acts 8:1b-8
Ps. 66:1-3a, 4-7a
Jn. 6:35-40

Thursday, May 5

Acts 8:26-40
Ps. 66:8-9, 16-17, 20
Jn. 6:44-51

Friday, May 6

Acts 9:1-20
Ps. 117:1bc, 2
Jn. 6:52-59

Saturday, May 7

Acts 9:31-42
Ps. 116:12-17
Jn. 6:60-69

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for May:

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

Sunday, May 8

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 13:14, 43-52
Ps. 100:1-3, 5
Rv. 7:9, 14b-17
Jn. 10:27-30

Monday, May 9

Acts 11:1-18
Ps. 42:2-3; 43:3-4
Jn. 10:1-10

Tuesday, May 10

St. Damien de Veuster, Priest (USA)
Acts 11:19-26
Ps. 87:1b-3-7
Jn. 10:22-30

Wednesday, May 11

Acts 12:24:13:5a
Ps. 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Jn. 12:44-50

Thursday, May 12

Ss. Nereus and Achilleus, martyrs; St. Pancras, martyr
Acts 13:13-25
Ps. 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27
Jn. 13:16-20

Friday, May 13

Our Lady of Fatima
Acts 13:26-33
Ps. 2:6-11ab
Jn. 14:1-6

Saturday, May 14

St. Matthias, apostle
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
Ps. 113:1-8
Jn. 15:9-17

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prayers for the moms and children who are being helped by Anne's Anchor, as well as the life coach who is working with them.

"And of course, we pray that God will continue to bring us donors to sustain our program, because we are 100-percent community funded," she said.

She noted that most who have applied to live at Anne's Anchor or to receive services are from Pike County.

Twelve women applied for

the two available units in the home.

"So there's definitely a need for this in our community," she said.

The former parsonage property has room to build more houses that would allow Anne's Anchor to serve more clients.

"That's a possibility we could look into in the future," said Mrs. Hearn. "God is in charge, and we'll see where He leads us."

annesanchor.org

Mass with the Fr. Tolton Legacy Society, May 1 in Columbia

DATE: May 1
TIME: 11 am

The Fr. Tolton Legacy Society will host its fifth Celebration Mass for Venerable Father

Augustus Tolton on Sunday, May 1, in Columbia.

The Mass will be at 11 a.m. in the St. Thomas More Newman Center Chapel, 602 Turner Ave. on the University of Missouri Campus.

Father Roberto Ike, pastor

of St. Andrew Parish in Holts Summit, will preside at the Mass, with Deacon William Seibert of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City assisting.

Gifted trumpeter Carlot Dorvé will be the guest musi-

cian.

A Fr. Tolton birthday reception with cake, cookies and punch will be held in the courtyard after Mass.

All are welcome to attend.

Fr. Tolton, born into an enslaved family on April 1, 1854, in northeastern Missouri, became the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

He is a candidate for being declared a saint.

The Mass will be livestreamed on St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish's Youtube channel: [youtube.com/user/CoMoNewmanCenter](https://www.youtube.com/user/CoMoNewmanCenter)

Poles' response to refugee crisis reflects enduring values

Catholic News Service

Warsaw, Poland

As Russia's war on Ukraine continues and refugees keep seeking safety in Poland, a Polish official said, "I'm getting less and less diplomatic" with other European government officials.

"I say, 'Thank you for your admiration, but we need your help,'" said Pawel Szefernak, Poland's deputy minister of the interior who, since April 1, has been in charge of the government's program for war refugees from Ukraine.

The national government, local governments, social organizations, including Caritas Poland, and ordinary citizens are working hard to avoid the creation of refugee camps and a humanitarian crisis, he said.

"Solidarity and support from other European Union countries is necessary, and we are appealing for it," he said April 21 during an interview in his office. Szefernak said more than 2.8 million Ukrainians had entered Poland since Russia invaded Ukraine Feb. 24.