

Hospitality opened door to becoming Catholic

Judith Giger opened her home to a young woman who invited her to church. Then everything fell into place.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

May 13, 2022 • Vol. 65 No. 23

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Sixth-graders explore how to answer call to be saints



“Made for Mission” was focus for Sixth Grade Vocation Day, held virtually in schools throughout the diocese

By Jay Nies

The collection of sixth-grade faces turned a certain shade as the question sunk in.

“How many of you are in a relationship?”

“Everyone thought she was talking about dating!” Colten Stundebek, a sixth-grader at St. Joseph School in Salisbury, recalled while holding back laughter.

The actual point was, everyone needs to be in an ever-deepening relationship with God and with other people in order to carry out the mission God has had in mind for each individual since the beginning of time.

“There are no Lone Rangers when it comes to following Jesus,” said Kelsey Emmerich, principal of St. Joseph School in Salisbury.

Mrs. Emmerich and Joseph Morris, sixth-grade teacher at St. Mary School in Glasgow, facilitated the local observance of Sixth Grade Vocation Day for the Salisbury and Glasgow students in the St. Joseph Parish Hall in Fayette.

Using videos and other materials provided by the diocesan Vocation Office, Catholic schools throughout the diocese guided their sixth-graders in a virtual observance of an event that usually draws several hundred students to the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City each spring.

With the Cathedral undergoing major renovations this year, organizers worked with the schools to keep the event close to home.

See VOCATIONS, page 13

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Sixth-graders from St. Mary School in Glasgow and St. Joseph School in Salisbury take part in a virtual experience of the diocese's annual Sixth Grade Vocation Day while gathered in the St. Joseph Parish Hall in Fayette. — Photo by Jay Nies

Fr. Roberto Ike: Venerable Fr. Tolton never let God stop working through him

By Jay Nies

God made overnight fishing extremely difficult for St. Peter and his companions, in order to maximize the power of the Risen Jesus's appearance at dawn.

“The Lord always meets you where you are. God always has a plan,” said Father Roberto Ike, Ph.D., administrator of St. Andrew Parish in Holts Summit, referring to the final chapter of John's Gospel.

Fr. Ike presided and gave the homily at the Fr. Tolton Legacy Society's sixth annual Celebration Mass on May 1 in Columbia.

Joining him at the altar of the St. Thomas More Newman Center Chapel was Deacon William Seibert, who assists the pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City.

Fr. Ike spoke with awe of the faith and determination of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, who was born into a family of enslaved people and baptized into the Catholic Church

at Brush Creek in northeastern Missouri.

Fr. Tolton overcame tremendous obstacles toward becoming the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

“And by the way, we ought to canonize his mom, too,” said Fr. Ike. “That woman was a rock!”

With faith handed down from his mother, Fr. Tolton never wavered in his desire to serve God in the way he was being called — as a priest.

“God met young Augustus where he was — as an enslaved boy in a family of enslaved people — and never stopped propping him up and pushing him forward and asking for his obedient persistence,” said Fr. Ike.

“God allowed this young man Augustus to grow up desiring to be a priest when he knew the chances of him

See LEGACY, page 14

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

NEW ADDRESS

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ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

NEW PARISH _____

OLD PARISH _____

05/13/22

Pray for deceased priests

May 15 — Fr. Norman J. Ahrens, St. Joseph, Martinsburg (1990)

May 17 — Fr. James J. Burns, Immaculate Conception, Shackelford (1959)

May 18 — Fr. William D. Baskett, Sacred Heart, Eldon (1965)

May 21 — Fr. James P. Owens, St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Thomas (1987)

May 23 — Msgr. Bernard A. Timpe, Holy Family, Freeburg (1973)

May 27 — Fr. James P. Stanley, St. Anthony of Padua, Folk (1970)

May 28 — Msgr. Herman J. Breit, St. Andrew, Tipton (1977)

Weekly Rosary in Baring

Throughout the summer, people will gather at the grotto outside St. Aloysius Church in Baring each Tuesday at 6 p.m. to pray the Rosary.

The Rosary will be prayed indoors in the event of inclement weather.

Wien school reunion

DATE: June 5
TIME: noon-3 pm

Alumni of the former St. Mary of the Angels School in Wien are invited to an All School Reunion from noon to

3 p.m. on Sunday, June 5.

It will be at 12520 Saint Mary's Ave., New Cambria.

Call 660-226-6229 for information, or search "St MarysWienMO" on Facebook.

Teachers Needed

Visitation Inter-Parish School in Vienna, Mo. is looking for part-time teaching positions for the next school year (2022-23). We are looking for part-time computer, PE, music and art teachers (one day a week). Our school has approximately 40 students in grades kindergarten through 8th grade. If interested, please email the Principal, Marilyn Bassett at mbassett@visitationip.org or call (573) 422-3375.

IT Coordinator - Chancery Office



The Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking applicants for the position of **IT Coordinator**. This person will be responsible for coordinating, planning and leading computer-related activities within the diocese. This position provides direct support to the chancery office and is a supportive consultant to parishes. The focus of this position will require the coordinator to have hands-on experience with complex data management systems such as Blackbaud, email maintenance, telecommunication systems, website development as well as management and support for telecommunications and audio visual needs. Qualified candidates should send their resume to HRDir@diojeffcity.org.

Healing prayer service in Westphalia

DATE: May 22
TIME: 2 - 4:30 pm

invites everyone to take part in a healing prayer service on Sunday May 22, at St. Joseph Church, 125 E. Main St.

"We ask you to join us as we ask for God's blessing of physical, mental, spiritual and emotional healing for ourselves and our loved ones," the event's organizers stated.

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament and opportunities for the Sacrament of Confes-

St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia

sion will start at 2 p.m., followed by a Healing Rosary at 3 p.m.

Father Mark Bozada will speak at 3 pm and offer the opportunity for individuals to be prayed over after the talk.

Healing prayer services may seem a bit foreign to many Catholics. St. Joseph Parish has compiled information at stjosephwestphalia.org/special-events.html to help answer any questions.

A free-will offering will be taken up to help to help cover the cost of the event.

Online survey for women's ministry

The Diocese of Jefferson City Women's Ministry Office invites Catholic women throughout the diocese to take a few moments to complete an online survey before June 1.

All information gathered will be used to discern proper resources, educational formation

opportunities, programs and events specifically targeted to women throughout the diocese.

The results of the survey will be shared with pastors and parish women's ministry representatives.

To complete the survey online, go to diojeffcity.org/womensministrysurvey.

[womensministrysurvey](http://diojeffcity.org/womensministrysurvey).

For opportunities to get involved in the ministry, please contact your parish women's ministry representative or LeAnn Korsmeyer, director of Women's Ministry, at lkorsmeyer@diojeffcity.org or at 573-635-9127, ext. 222.

St. Gianna's daughter plans to open spiritual pilgrimage center in Illinois

Catholic News Service

Springfield, Illinois

Dr. Gianna Emanuela Molla, a pediatrician and daughter of Italian St. Gianna Beretta Molla, plans to open an international pilgrimage site and center in Springfield to help spread knowledge of and devotion to her parents and promote marriage and family life.

"I learned from my saint mom and holy dad to have deep faith and unwavering confidence in divine providence," Molla said. "The establishment of this international center is one of those

times I am trusting in God to show me the way and all those who are involved in the project. I am filled with humility to start this international center so we can promote and help families grow holier together."

She said she chose the location because of Springfield Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki's faith-filled leadership and commitment to defend innocent life. She also thought

the city's location — in driving distance of St. Louis and Chicago — was helpful.

Ultimately, she said: "It was God who chose Springfield."

The St. Gianna Beretta Molla and Pietro Molla International Center for Family and Life will be located near the St. Francis of Assisi Church and the Evermode Institute, which is a new center for Catholic spiritual and intellectual formation.

The Catholic Missourian

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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PRIZE DRAWINGS



Catholic Charities counseling services director: Grade-school students learn lessons from each other

By Jay Nies

Dala Hemeyer wondered how the grade school students she was working with were feeling, so she came right out and asked them.

Offering a list of words ranging from negative to positive, she asked each student to pick the word that best describes his or her own emotions, write it down and submit it to her anonymously.

“So, they’re sitting with me and laughing and joking

and seeming connected and supportive of each other, but when I looked at their sheets, I could see that they have some big, hard emotions going on pretty regularly,” said Mrs. Hemeyer, Director of Counseling Services for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO).

“Sadness or hopelessness or loneliness — you wonder what a seventh-grader has to feel hopeless about, but it’s in there,” she said. “From the

outside, you might not see it. But from the inside, it can be a very different story.”

It was a good lesson for everyone.

“We can’t always see it,” she said. “We need to be aware of how the way we treat other people might be influencing them on the inside.”

Mrs. Hemeyer, a lifelong Catholic with children of her own, has been CCCNMO’s counseling services director since last September.

She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and holds a master’s degree in counseling.

Part of her work includes visiting Catholic schools in the Jefferson City diocese and teaching about the importance of mental/emotional health and treating people with kindness and empathy.

“As a Catholic with kids, I have a stake in looking to their mental and spiritual health,” she said. “My intention has been to help tie the two together.”

She pointed out that children have many of the same struggles adults have.

“It just shows up in different ways,” she said. “And the schools have noticed that it’s just getting harder and harder to be empathetic as adults, and it’s filtering down.”

She said parents have been asking schools to help them address this challenge.

“As humans, we’re all injured in some way,” she noted. “For some people, that injury influences us more than others.”

The teachers want to help, but like many of the parents, they have a lot of other responsibilities and can’t always give mental and emotional health the level of attention it warrants.

Meanwhile, civility and compassion have been taking a beating in politics, popular culture and social media.

“For us as adults, it can be easy to lose track of how our own actions are impacting those around us and setting examples for the children who



Dala F. Hemeyer, MSW, LCSW

are watching,” she said.

Mission oriented

Mrs. Hemeyer recently conducted a six-week series of classes for fifth- through eighth-graders at St. George School in Linn and Our Lady of the Snows School in Mary’s Home, focusing on kindness and empathy.

She built the lessons around tried-and-true emotional learning strategies and curriculum.

“I put a Catholic spin on it, bringing in influences from var-

ious saints as well as characteristics we all need to be constantly cultivating that contribute to our own sanctity,” she said.

The program, called “Mission Secret Saints,” reinforces compassion, empathy and mental toughness by “gamifying” acts of kindness.

“Basically, it’s sort of a way to encourage kids to do things that are little more difficult to do,” she said. “We make it into a game. There are chal-


lenges they have to work on as a team in order to carry out their mission each week.”

The missions are tied to the social-emotional learning goals.

The program culminates with a service project, with all the students taking part.

“We hear a lot in our society about antisocial behavior,” said Mrs. Hemeyer. “And where our focus goes, that’s what we tend to see, it’s what tends to get elevated.”

See MENTAL HEALTH, page 15



Bishop McKnight’s Calendar

MAY

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

May 21 Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Parish, 4:15 pm, Salisbury

May 22 Confirmation Mass, St. Mary of the Angels Parish, 8 am, Wien

May 25 Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 6:30 pm St. Anthony

May 26 Confirmation Mass, St. George Parish, Hermann and Church of the Risen Savior Parish, Rhineland, 6:30 pm, St. George Church, Hermann

May 28 Confirmation Ceremony, Holy Family Parish, Hannibal and St. Joseph Parish, Palmyra, 2 pm, Holy Family Church, Hannibal; Confirmation Mass, St. Clement Parish, St. Clement, Mission of Mary Queen of Peace, Clarksville, and St. Joseph Parish, Louisiana, 5 pm, St. Clement Church, St. Clement

May 29 Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Parish, Edina, St. Aloysius Parish, Baring and St. John Parish, Memphis, 9 am, St. Joseph Church, Edina

May 30-31 Episcopal Ordination of Most Reverend Earl Fernandes, St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus, Ohio

JUNE

June 1 Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Board of Directors Meeting, noon, Catholic Charities Center, Jefferson City; Confirmation Mass, St. Brendan Parish, 6:30 pm, Mexico

June 3 Mass for Totus Tuus Team, noon, St. Alphonsus Liguori Chapel, Chancery


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.


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

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.



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Welcome new members of the Catholic Church!

Here are names of many who received Sacraments of Initiation at Easter in parishes throughout the Jefferson City diocese.

Additional names will be included on the People Page in future editions of The Catholic Missourian as they become available.

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish

Levi Malott, Kelsey Malott, Barb Patterson, Dustin Reimund, Dillon Slaughter, Kelsey Slaughter

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

Jamie Caldwell, Madison Ely, Robert Evilla, Patrick Feehan, Carol French, James French, Judith Giger, Logan Gray, Christina Hamilton, Mitchell Hildebrandt, Devon Lindstrom, Logan Nichols, Cathy Partusch, Phoebe Rastorfer, Savannah Roach, Karen Thies, Charles Thurman, Rhyleigh Thurman, Larry Tuttle, Meg Tuttle, Megan Van Buren, Austin Welch, Brittany Welch, Georgie Welch, Marcus Welch, Tucker Welch

Columbia, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish

Travis Bassford, Jacob Berding, Andrew Boyer, Mackenzie Claypoole, Brendan Heslin, Gabe Johnson, Chance Joost, Brenden Kleiboeker, Haley Kruse, Remington March, Hunter Mesko, Youmin (Gwen) Park, Michael Szura, Shawn Weber

Folk, St. Anthony of Padua Parish

Grant Broeker

Fulton, St. Peter Parish

Abby Lamb, James Lamb IV, James Lamb V, Zachariah Lamb

Hannibal, Holy Family Parish

Bryce Lind, Adam Majors, Davis Noble, Jon Painter, Luran Painter, Terry Weaver

Hermann, St. George Parish

Aimie Brendel

Jefferson City,

Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish

Abigail Alber, Kasen Alber, Kash Alber, Kole Alber, Michael Alber, Destiny Evans, Emmet Evans, Angela Hayward, Elizabeth Peters, Michael Reed, Hayden Reinsch, Delanie Stralka, John Stralka

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception Parish

Carla Brown, Emma Brown, Ella Brown, Jesse Brown, Steve Brown, Ashley New, Iris Wetzal, Kason New, Lance New, Jim Wetzal, Trueman Wetzal

Marshall, St. Peter Parish

Kimberly Harris, Breck Hart, John Hoffman, Eric Johanning, Lauren King, Alberta Midkiff, Hazel Midkiff, Kloe Midkiff, Joseph (JR) Wandell

Mexico, St. Brendan Parish

Logan Brundege, Lucas Brundege, Chris Crawford, Gulliver Crawford, Michelle Crawford, Penelope Crawford, Winifred Crawford, Victor Griffith, Ember Nichols, Scarlet Snow, Vella Snow, Mark Woodsome

Moberly, St. Pius X Parish

Ashley Aleshire, Chris Hankins, Cayden Hulett, McKenna Hulett, Sarah Hulett, Jerry Fleming, Cassie Schmidt

St. Anthony,

St. Anthony of Padua Parish

Sara Roberds

St. Clement, St. Clement Parish

Amelia Kriegel, Merissa Kriegel, Caitlin Parker, Amy Schuster, Brayden Schuster, Josh Schuster, Wyatt Schuster, Jacob Stonebraker

St. Martins, St. Martin Parish

Cade Botts, Hannah Botts, Nash Botts, Tatum Botts, Leonard Coffelt,

Catherine Cunningham-Cliburn, Rose Estes, Madison Fink, Lee LaFarge, Carley Vest, Conner Vest, Tammy Vest

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul Parish

LiShanna Bredehoeft, Jared Bredehoeft, Heather Jetmore, Isaac Jetmore, Diana Louise Carter Jones, Michael Bryce Jones, Annette Owens, Jeffrey Lee

Owens, Jared Owens, Jessica Stratton, Kendra Bloess, Aubrey Hopper, Matthew Hopper

Taos, St. Francis Xavier Parish

Chloe Forck, Karrie Forck

Westphalia, St. Joseph Parish

Benjamin Bommel, Alyssa Stegeman

Lord, we pray for those who journey to You.

Strengthen their faith.

Open their hearts to the fullness of Your love.

Deepen their understanding.

Set their hearts afire for the Kingdom.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life for all. Amen.



Monroe City, Holy Rosary Parish

Jonah Barry, Donnie Eckman, Tracy Grove, Kory Johnson, Sharee Lincoln, Mary Minter, Shawn Terrill, Rita Thompson, Andy Utterback, Heather Utterback

Rhineland,

Church of the Risen Savior Parish

Mercedes Gotsch, William Petty, Hannah Schluss

Pope: Jesus invites people to hear Him, know Him, follow Him

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Christians must listen to God's word, go where Christ goes, seek those who are lost and reach out to their neighbors, Pope Francis said.

"Do I let Jesus love me, and by allowing him to love me, do I pass from loving him to imitating him?" the pope asked May 8 before praying the "Regina Coeli" prayer with pilgrims in

St. Peter's Square.

The pope also wished mothers a happy Mother's Day, which was being celebrated in many countries.

"Let us affectionately remember our mothers — a round of applause for our mothers — even those who are no longer with us down here, but who live in our hearts. Our prayer, our affection and our best wishes for all our mothers," he said.

In his main address, the pope reflected on the Sunday Gospel reading from St. John, which begins with Jesus saying, "My sheep hear My voice; I know them, and they follow Me."

Jesus offers "a beautiful image of the shepherd who stays with the sheep," and He explains it with three verbs: to hear, know and follow — actions each Christians are asked

to imitate, the pope said.

People must be open to listening for the voice of the shepherd and others, he said.

"Today, we are inundated with words and by the urgency to always have something to say or do," he said.

"We are afraid of silence. How hard it is to listen to each other! To listen till the end, to let the other express him or herself, to listen in our families, to listen at school, to listen at work, and even in the church!" he said.

Christians must be "listening children," he said, finding time for the Word of God and giving "space and attention to our brothers and sisters."

Jesus also knows and loves His sheep, "He does not condemn us," he said. "The way to discover the Lord's love is to listen to Him."

"He wants to give us a new and marvelous awareness — that of knowing we are always loved by Him and, therefore, that we are never left alone by ourselves" as "He sustains us above all in our sufferings, in our difficulties, in our crises."

People who listen to their shepherd, "experience they are known by the Lord and they follow the Lord Who is their shepherd," the pope said.

"What do those who follow Christ do? They go where He goes, along the same path, in the same direction," he said.

"They go to seek those who are lost," feel compassion for those who suffer and reach out their hands to help their neighbors, he said. "May the Holy Virgin help us listen to Christ, know Him always more and follow Him on the way of service."

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To report abuse, call the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline:

1-800-392-3738 or 1-844-CAN-TELL

Missouri Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 1-800-392-0210

Any known or suspected abuse or neglect of children or adults should be immediately reported to the appropriate legal authorities.

To report concerns or suspected abuse by diocesan personnel, also contact:

Jacqueline Baldwin, Victim Assistance Coordinator

reportabuse@diojeffcity.org | 573-694-3199



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Website and Donor Reports Reveal Cross Catholic Outreach's Major Impact on Global Poverty

Every donor wants his or her charitable contributions to have a big impact. They also want to know how their gifts have been used. To satisfy these donor demands, Cross Catholic Outreach has worked hard to develop highly effective aid programs and to provide donors with excellent follow-up reports on the projects they fund.

“One of the ways we highlight our ministry’s impact is through a special section of our website. It can be reached at CrossCatholic.org/impact,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. “In addition to this, we provide donors with detailed reports on many of our major projects.”

The information paints an inspiring picture of what Catholics in the U.S. have accomplished by funding nearly 320 specific projects in more than 30 developing countries.

“In addressing hunger alone, we took on 92 projects in 18 countries and delivered 20,592,416 meals to needy families. We also blessed 96,417 people with clean, safe water; built, repaired or upgraded 391 homes for 2,270 people; shipped \$1,325,284 in COVID-19 prevention supplies to seven countries; funded academic scholarships for 4,531 needy students; and shipped \$17,145,443 in supplies to help families struggling after natural disasters,” Cavnar said. “That’s just part of the impact our donors have had on the lives of the poor. Compassionate U.S. Catholics have also funded agricultural projects and micro-loans to help families become more self-sufficient. These incredible works of mercy have transformed lives and communities in profound ways.”

Cross Catholic Outreach achieves these works of mercy by partnering with a diocese or in-country ministry to minimize expenses.

“We want as much of the donor’s dollar as possible to reach the poor, and the best way to do that is to empower in-country Church leaders and programs already working in the trenches in countries like Haiti, Guatemala, Kenya, Malawi and the Philippines,” Cavnar confirmed. “It is an approach that also supports the Church’s spiritual formation programs, building the faith of the community.”

“We want as much of the donor’s dollar as possible to reach the poor, and the best way to do that is to empower in-country Church leaders.”

Jim Cavnar, President
Cross Catholic Outreach

Africa is one of the places Cross Catholic Outreach focuses its efforts, and the results it has achieved there have been life transforming — particularly its efforts to feed the hungry, educate the poor and supply communities with safe water. (See related story on the opposite page.)

When asked why Cross Catholic Outreach places such importance on results and on keeping its donors informed about the impact of their giving, Cavnar said the ministry pursues these goals because it creates a stronger bond between the ministry, Church missions and those who contribute.

“People often want to give to support a specific cause — feeding the hungry, building dignified housing or providing clean water to the poor. They also want to know that their gift produced a lasting, positive change,” Cavnar said. “Our goal is to provide them with those



Addressing hunger in poor communities is a priority for Cross Catholic Outreach. The charity’s recent annual report shows progress made in 18 countries, where 20,592,414 meals were delivered to needy children and families. Behind these impressive statistics are the joyful faces of the many children who were blessed by this work of mercy.

opportunities and to show them that their giving has an impact. When we do that, they are thrilled and often want to become even more involved. Many end up supporting multiple Church missions and helping us further expand our outreaches to the poor of the world.”

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach food programs and other outreaches to the poor can contribute through the ministry

brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02031, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner or write “Monthly Mission Partner” on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.

Dedicated Catholics Make Major Impact on Poverty by Serving as ‘Mission Partners’

Consistency and reliability have always been recognized as important character traits in the American culture, and most of us bring up our children to uphold those values, especially in the workplace. We do that because we know consistency and reliability produce stability and help us weather the unexpected storms in life.

The same is true when it comes to charity, according to Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. That is why his ministry cherishes its

Mission Partners — donors who have committed to monthly giving.

“Mission Partners represent the foundation of our ministry,” he said. “Their commitment to helping the poor on a monthly basis gives us a steady, reliable way to serve. Without them, the missions we support in the developing world would never know whether they could rely on us to help with long-term projects, and it would be much more difficult for us to respond to disaster situations. When we can depend on the

support of Mission Partners, we can move forward confidently and take on every challenge that’s put before us.”

Because monthly giving is so important to Cross Catholic Outreach’s work overseas, the ministry makes it as easy as possible for its donors to become Mission Partners. That option is included on appeals, on the charity’s website, and in the brochures it distributes at Catholic parishes and in Catholic newspapers.

“Ultimately, we ask people to become Mission Partners because monthly

giving has a huge impact on the priests, religious sisters and Catholic lay leaders working in the trenches, fighting to end hunger and alleviate poverty,” Cavnar said. “When they face an unexpected crisis or a natural disaster strikes, the missions know they can come to us for help because our Mission Partners have provided the resources needed to overcome those immediate challenges. We can make decisions in a matter of hours and send help within days — and the poor are blessed as a result.”

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

American Catholics Rally in Support of Catholic Ministry's Effort to Address African Water Crisis

In recent years, several African countries have been in the news because of droughts that resulted in famines, but according to Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, those natural disasters are only part of the water crisis families must endure.

"Even when weather patterns are normal, millions of families in Africa face extraordinary challenges getting safe water," he explained. "Of course, every African country is different and the situation in each of them is unique, but water scarcity is such a common problem that we chose to make providing water solutions a priority mission for Cross Catholic Outreach."

The ministry's most recent annual report includes details on the projects the charity took on just this last year — projects that supplied safe water to nearly 100,000 people. In addition to the installation of effective water systems, Cross Catholic Outreach's donors also supported educational efforts to address the health and sanitation problems that are typically linked to water scarcity.

"The installation of wells, special filters and community water distribution systems are all important, but we believe these families will only thrive if they understand the dangers of unsafe water and poor sanitation practices," Cavnar said. "To that end, the local field staff works with local Catholic leaders to provide something we call WASH training."



Above: Water scarcity is a major problem in many African nations. Families are often forced to draw their water from unsafe sources that can cause serious illnesses.

Below: Church leaders supported by Cross Catholic Outreach use drilling equipment to provide clean water wells in the neediest communities.

WASH is a commonly used acronym for an approach to helping the poor that focuses on **W**ater, **S**anitation and **H**ygien. Most experts agree that this combination of material aid and educational support vastly improves the impact of the water projects implemented in developing countries.

"We take it a step further by adding spiritual support to our WASH programs wherever possible, because we believe every outreach we undertake should inspire a greater faith in Christ," Cavnar added. "Opening minds and hearts to God is essential because only his divine love and guidance can create a lasting transformation of lives, families and communities. Acts of charity done without this spiritual support are never going to be as effective."

In the case of the water and sanitation projects Cross Catholic Outreach implements, community involvement is also an important part of the process,

according to Cavnar.

The American Catholics who support the ministry's humanitarian missions prefer this forward-thinking approach to charity and often tell Cavnar they appreciate his goal of strengthening communities and promoting greater self-sufficiency.

"We must always address urgent issues like hunger and the need for safe water, but our ultimate goal should always be to restore dignity to the poor by helping them earn a living wage and advance in life," Cavnar said. "I think most charitable donors want that too. They are eager to help end the suffering hunger and unsafe water create, but they also want to see long-term progress achieved in these poor communities. They want to give these families hope and the tools they need to escape the poverty that has ensnared them for generations. My hope is that American Catholics will continue to support our efforts in Africa so more can be done to help the poorest of the poor."



How to Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach's effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper, or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02031, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify an aid project, 100% of the donation will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.



QUESTION CORNER

Incense every Sunday? / The elderly and Mass attendance

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Q. How often is a priest supposed to use incense at Mass — every Sunday or just at special times? Our priest uses a pungent form of incense at each Sunday Mass. A lot of people are allergic to the incense he uses; we have approached him about it, but he seems to ignore the fact that people start coughing and sneezing — and some even walk out of church. Then he tells us that it is sin to leave early.

(A “distressed and allergic parishioner” from Indiana)

A. The use of incense has long held a place of honor in the history of religious worship. In the Book of Exodus (30:1-8), the Lord instructed Moses to build an altar for the burning of incense at the entrance to the meeting tent where the ark of the covenant was kept, and Jews continued to use incense regularly in their temple worship.

Incense serves a two-fold purpose: The visual imagery of the rising smoke is symbolic of the prayers of the congregation being lifted toward the Lord, and the act of incensing pays honor to the object to which it is directed — to the just-consecrated bread and wine at their elevation, for example, or the remains of the deceased at a funeral Mass.

It also helps to create the ambience of heaven, for as we are told in the Book of Revelation (8:3), “Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a gold censer. He was given a great quantity of incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the holy ones, on the gold altar that was before the throne.”

Wide discretion is granted to the priest as to how frequently to use incense. Theoretically, it may be used at any Mass, although most parishes limit its use to Masses of particular solemnity, funerals, and eucharistic adoration and processions.

At Mass, according to the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, in No. 276, incense may be used during the entrance procession, at the beginning of Mass, to incense the cross and the altar, at the procession and proclamation of the Gospel, at the offertory, to incense the offerings, the altar, priest and congregation, and at the elevation of the host and the chalice after the consecration.

The use of incense calls for a reasonable balance of the liturgical ideal with practicality. If it is bothersome to a significant number within the congregation, perhaps an accommodation could be worked out. Different types of incense vary in the strengths of their aroma, and more moderate brands are available.

Perhaps certain seats could be reserved for those who find incense troublesome, away from the areas of the church where it is most frequently used.

You indicate that you have raised your concerns with your pastor directly to little avail. Might it be more effective if you were to try again through an intermediary, perhaps a sympathetic member of your parish’s pastoral council?

Q. I live in a senior housing complex, and it is difficult for some of us to go to Mass every Sunday. No one drives anymore. The church is too far away to walk. There is no city bus and taxis are very expensive. I am 85 years old and my friend is 91. My question is whether we are still obligated to attend. I do get to Mass on all the major feast days and I watch the Mass on television at 6:30 every Sunday morning; a lay minister does a Communion service at our residence each Monday, with some prayers and the Sunday scriptural

See FR. DOYLE, page 23

Papal Audience May 11, 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 turn to the biblical heroine Judith. As a young woman, Judith had saved her people by slaying the Assyrian general Holofernes. The Scriptures tell us that after this victory she returned home and spent the rest of her life with her family. Judith can serve as an example for all those older people who, in retirement, find themselves adjusting to a new chapter of life and new opportunities for personal growth. Like Judith, who, at the end of her days, divided her inheritance and set her maidservant free, the elderly can be teachers of the young in the fundamental social virtues of generosity and attentive concern for the needs of others. In old age too, God asks us to employ our talents wisely for the good of our families and of society as a whole. As was Judith, may we be remembered not only for the accomplishments of our youth, but also for the creativity and passion with which we continue to bear good fruit in every season of life.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s audience, especially those from the United Kingdom, Sweden 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 condemn violence, threats after high court leak on abortion case

By Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

President Joe Biden’s administration officials issued a statement against violence May 9 following protests outside the homes of two Supreme Court justices in the Washington area as well as a spate of vandalism and disruptions targeting locales of groups that oppose abortion. Some of them include Catholic churches.

Referring to President Biden

by the Twitter handle for the President of the United States, or @POTUS, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said that he “strongly believes in the Constitutional right to protest.”

“But that should never include violence, threats, or vandalism. Judges perform an incredibly important function in our society, and they must be able to do their jobs without concern for their personal safety,” she tweeted.

The statement came after news agencies reported protests outside the home of Justice Brett Kavanaugh in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and the nearby home of Chief Justice John Roberts. Others said another justice and his family had to be taken to an undisclosed location because of threats, but it turned out to be unfounded.

After the online news site Politico published a report

See THREATS, page 17

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'A question is probably just a question'

By Bishop Brendan J. Cahill
Catholic News Service



I remember attending a workshop given by Father John Kemper in the early 2000s focused on the theme of teaching "Gen Xers." At the time, I was teaching in a seminary and it seemed that often we teachers would enter into conversations about the "young seminarians" and how hard it was for us to understand them. I still have my notes from the talk that day, and the memory I want to share with you is that he told us, "When a student asks a question, it probably is just a question."

That observation wouldn't appear to be so enlightening to many people, but for someone who often perceived a question as a challenge to authority, it changed a way of looking at questions. For example, I realized that if a seminarian asked me why I celebrated the Mass in a certain way, I simply needed to respond to the question.

One of the 10 themes listed in section 5.4 of the "vademecum" for the synodal process observes that "listening is the first step, but it requires an

open mind and heart, without prejudice." One way to look at this theme is to consider the areas in which I may have closed my mind and heart to another person or group, and even judged them before they opened their mouth to ask a question.

Using the story mentioned above, we could ask ourselves, "How do I listen to those in my 'classroom?'" and then follow with, "What are the labels or judgments I have placed on them?" and "Who do I keep out of the 'classroom?'"

The most basic attempt at the first question might reveal that there is a tendency to listen more closely to those who agree with me. There also could develop a tendency to shut down an alternate view or even a simple question, maybe without even realizing it.

Father Henri Nouwen wrote about this spiritual problem years ago in his book *Reaching Out*, observing how often a teacher spends time answering questions that aren't being asked.

Fr. Nouwen called for a spiritual movement in the classroom toward hospitality, in which students can be heard and appreciated for the questions they present. This image of the classroom can serve as an image for

the different levels of relationships in my life. It could be at work or at home, in the larger community of schools and civic involvements, even in the Church.

The process of synodality has been challenging each of us to not immediately shut down any voice, and to listen to the questions that are being asked. In the process I am becoming aware of my preconceptions and judgments. I'm learning to listen without immediately responding.

The process challenges each of us to come to a greater appreciation of who we have been cutting off or who we may be talking about in a dismissive way. The process reminds each of us that often we don't need to give an answer, we can simply sit and acknowledge another person's humanity.

Beyond the people I may have been dismissing in my environment are those I don't even know. It could be different cultures, languages, political views, ages, experiences or other

categories. The process of synodality outlines a path for each of us to go beyond stereotypes and what we hear about another group of people. Hopefully there will be a moment in which each of us can listen to someone from a "new" group. A beauty of the process can be in the realization that whatever group we belong to, many of us have similar questions, hopes and dreams.

Recently Pope Francis consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in communion with the bishops throughout the world. A part of the prayer of consecration acknowledged our own sins before God, including when "we grew indifferent and caught up in our own selfish needs and concerns."

May we develop listening hearts whose only concern is the salvation of all souls, especially those in most need of God's mercy.

Bishop Cahill has headed the Diocese of Victoria, Texas, since 2015.

Our wounds and our hope

By Effie Caldarola
Catholic News Service



A story about St. Teresa of Avila tells us that one day the devil appeared to her in the guise of Christ.

Immediately, she dismissed him. You are not Christ, she told the devil. The devil was puzzled. How did you know I wasn't Christ?

Because, Teresa replied, you have no wounds.

It's an old story, perhaps a legend, but we know Teresa did fight the good fight with the evil one.

The tale reveals much about our Easter encounters with Christ, our world today and our own wounded lives.

The world is full of woundedness. The situation in Ukraine drags on, the scenes of mass graves and old women weeping make us want to turn away. The old mantra about war, "never again," appears buried in the rubble of Mariupol.

And woundedness haunts our country as well. Income inequality, the lack of health care, the lies about a stolen election, our own centuries of racism, all these things reveal our pain.

Amid sorrow, the Easter season

gives hope and teaches us the value of wounds. The Risen Christ is often unrecognizable to His disciples, but He invariably carries with Him one clear badge of identification: His wounds.

Put your finger in My wounds, Thomas, He tells His doubting friend. It seems very important to the resurrected Jesus that His wounds be seen.

It's almost as if Jesus is reminding us that we all carry wounds. Woundedness is part of life and can't be airbrushed away to make the picture prettier. We're a product, in part, of the wounds we've suffered and endured. Sometimes the world inflicts them, sometimes they're self-inflicted.

Jesus was wounded, and He understands woundedness. In a worldly sense, He failed, and He understands failure and disappointment because He encountered them on a cross.

Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister said, "Hope is the ability to believe that good can happen out of anything."

Indeed, if good came from the brutal crucifixion and humiliating death of Jesus, good can come from our wounds as well.

That's why we get up each day and say with the Benedictines, "Always we begin again."

See CALDAROLA, page 18

REFLECTION

Saints, preserve us

By Mark Saucier

As a kid, I knew that St. Blaise was the patron saint of throat ailments because his blessing was on my birthday, and I narrowly escaped the horror of being named Blaise.

After that, I never paid much attention to saints and sicknesses until I got cancer and was happily buried in prayers to St. Peregrine for my recovery.

Since then, I've learned that I could turn to St. Lawrence for back pain, St. Werenfried for aching joints, St. Polycarp for hearing issues, and St. Rita for my frequent self-inflicted wounds.

There is a patron saint for about anything that ails you from appendicitis to vertigo, from poisoning to paralysis.

Even if there is no miraculous cure attributed to their intercession, it is good to have someone to unload your suffering, to seek some consolation, and to understand from their stories that your sickness doesn't define you.

We understandably turn to prayer when we're in agony or just had some difficult diagnosis, but I can't help thinking about Joni Mitchell's Big Yellow Taxi: "Don't it always seem to go, you don't know what you got 'til it's gone?"

Maybe, once in a while, I should pray in gratitude for this body that, despite a little wear and tear, continues to serve me well.

My feet may have some neuropathy, but they are still, as da Vinci said, "a masterpiece of engineering and a work of art." I may not be running, but there is still spring in my step — enough to chase a 3-year-old around the yard or go for a hike in the woods.

My hands, crooked and scarred, are still a symphony of 27 bones, 34 muscles and over 100 ligaments and tendons performing together. These can still cook, garden, repair, make and hold.

My neck remains an incredible gift, a swivel allowing me to watch a plane cross the sky and then instantly notice the wildflower at my foot. It's the neck that nods the head in quiet understanding.

I need to take time to give thanks for eyes that still see the detail of creation and ears that on a quiet morning, offer me the birdsong.

I don't know how old David was when he said in Psalm 139, "I praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made," but it is something I need to do more of, especially as I age.

Otherwise, I am going to be praying to St. Dymphna (patron for depression).

Fr. Elskamp: 60 years of Priesthood, learning and friendship

By Jay Nies

It became clear to Father Frederick Elskamp that he had a priestly calling because there was no way he would have made it through formation otherwise.

"I kind of stumbled into being a priest," he explained. "The more time I spent in the seminary, the more I enjoyed it. By the end, there was no doubt at all."

Fr. Elskamp, a retired priest of the Jefferson City diocese, is quietly observing his 60th priestly anniversary this year.

"In 60 years, you get to know a lot of people and get to love them even if they don't all love you," he said. "You come to be very grateful for all of it."

Always eager to go wherever he was needed, Fr. Elskamp spent time serving in Hannibal, Edina, Perry, Center, New London, Indian Creek, Monroe City, Kahoka, Ilasco, Rolla, Chamois, Morrison, Bonnots Mill, St. James, Rosati, Holts Summit, Jefferson City, Eldon, Tipton and California before retiring in 2016.

"I enjoyed my parishes very much," he said. "I got to know a lot of people — a lot of very

interesting people."

By his count, he has changed addresses 15 times.

"I keep moving," he said back in 2012. "I just can't hold a job!"

"Go anyway"

Fr. Elskamp was raised in Fulda, a farming town with a strong Catholic community in southwestern Minnesota.

He was the 10th of 11 children born to Frederick Sr. and Agatha Elskamp.

All of the Elskamp children were taught by Franciscan sisters at St. Gabriel School in Fulda.

As a young boy, Fr. Elskamp talked about wanting to be a priest, as did a lot of other altar servers at his parish.

"It wasn't all that unusual to talk about it back then," he recalled.

Those plans went dormant until his eighth-grade teacher told him outright. "You should be a priest."

"I wasn't thinking about a vocation at that time," Fr. Elskamp recalled. "I had just sung a really nice part in an operetta, and I really liked the girl I was singing with."

Fr. Elskamp's pastor raised concerns about finding a high school seminary for him to attend.

"But lo and behold, just then, a young new priest gets assigned to help out at the parish, who had just come out of the Josephinum," said Fr. Elskamp.

That is, the Pontifical College Josephinum, a seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

"He said, 'You can go to the Josephinum!'" Fr. Elskamp recalled.

The future priest's father's business was failing, and the family had no money to pay tuition.

The young priest said, "Go anyway. We'll help you."

As it turns out, there was no room for any more freshmen in the "House of Joseph."

Only when a student dropped out at the last minute did Fr. Elskamp get the letter welcoming him to the ranks of those discerning Priesthood.

"I took that as a sign that maybe I am being called," he said.

Odd jobs

Every seminarian at the Josephinum was given a laundry number so his clean clothes would get back to him without delay.

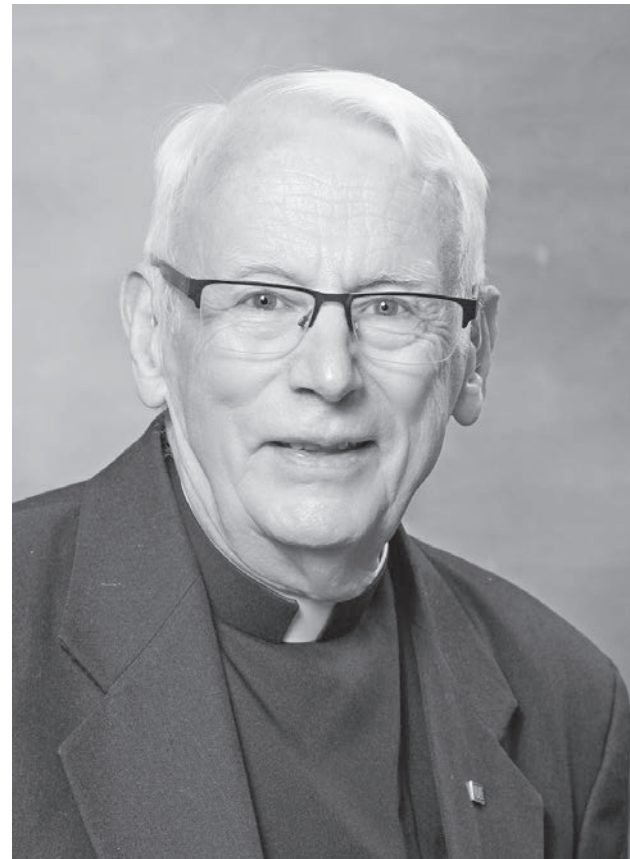
"My mother took my number and sewed it on everything — socks, shirts, handkerchiefs, everything," said Fr. Elskamp. "She was very good at that."

Tuition was \$100 per year. "I couldn't afford it," he said. "They gave me like a scholarship. I was probably the poorest kid in my class. And that was okay."

He mowed lawns to earn money the summer after his freshman year, and his older siblings chipped in to help with his expenses.

The following summer, he got a job working on his great-uncle's ranch in South Dakota.

"There were three bachelors:



Father Frederick Elskamp

"Especially Scripture studies: Old Testament and New Testament."

He immersed himself in language studies, including German, Greek, Latin and English.

"In those days, we studied a lot of language, especially Latin," he noted. "That really helped me with Spanish later on. It helped me pick it up fast."

MONSIGNOR Leonard Fick, a Rich Fountain native, taught him classes in English and American literature.

Another favorite professor was Dr. John Kleinz, who taught philosophy.

"One day, he

came to class and said, 'I got a new set of St. Thomas Aquinas's *Summa Theologica*, so I'm giving the old set away,'" said Fr. Elskamp.

The professor told his students to pick a number between 1 and 1,000.

Fr. Elskamp picked 325, which happened to be the year of the Council of Nicaea.

"He said, 'You win!'" Fr. Elskamp recalled. "I told him it was my laundry number. He said, 'If I didn't have such respect for these books, I'd throw them at you.'"

From MN to MO

Back then, seminarians at the Josephinum were encouraged to consider applying to a diocese where their priestly services would be in greatest demand.

Fr. Elskamp's home diocese had an abundance of priests, meaning he would likely wind up teaching high school rather than ministering in a parish.

"I didn't want that," he recalled.

The Diocese of Jefferson City was created in 1956 out of territory from the St. Louis archdiocese, the former Diocese of Kansas City and the former Diocese of St. Joseph.

"I knew that Bishop (Joseph

my great-uncle, a cousin he had working with him, and me," Fr. Elskamp recalled. "It was primitive," he noted. "We took our baths, such as they were, in the river each week before we went to church."

The following year, the pastor of his home parish needed a custodian.

"So I spent that summer cleaning the church, mowing the lawn and digging a good number of graves in the cemetery by hand," said Fr. Elskamp.

He often needed a pick-axe to break the hard soil.

"They always talk about '6 feet down,'" he noted. "I never went near that far!"

He worked for a construction company each summer thereafter.

"It was everything — concrete, forms, troweling, welding, block-laying, sheetrock, you name it — all that good stuff," he stated.

"It was fun," he said. "I learned a lot of skills there that helped me in the Priesthood. I knew a lot about construction and blueprints."

One for the books

Fr. Elskamp quickly came to love his time in the seminary.

"The more I went, the more I enjoyed my studies," he said.

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See FR. ELSKAMP, page 23

Exchange student's invitation helped host mother become Catholic

By Jay Nies

A Thanksgiving Day feast foreshadowed the gift to come.

Judith Giger prepared a 30-pound turkey and all the trimmings for the two exchange students she was hosting, as well as several people who had been resettled through Refugee Services of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO).

"We had six countries represented," Ms. Giger noted. "We went around the table and had everyone tell what they're thankful for. The people from other countries said it in English and in their own language. It was wonderful."

A place at the table. A connection to people from all over the world. Sharing a meal. Giving thanks.

These are things Ms. Giger now experiences on a cosmic level every Sunday as a fully initiated member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia, having received Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil this year.

Recognizance mission

Ms. Giger had felt drawn in many ways throughout her life toward being Catholic, but the act of hospitality is what finally brought it home for her.

She moved to Columbia from the state of Washington about three years ago in search of a change of weather and scenery.

She was working in a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital and began looking for a good place to transfer.

"I would get on the website to see where there were openings," she said. "If I would see a job and didn't know about where it was, I would research the area and look at the weather and the crime rate and the cost of living and things like that."

"Columbia sounded really good," she stated.

Her ex-husband, who is a good friend, and her son were traveling back to Washington from a trip to Alabama. They drove through Columbia to check it out for her.

"My ex said it looked nice and he thought I would like it

here," Ms. Giger recalled.

So she moved to Columbia to work at the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital.

"I come from a pretty strong military family," she noted. "My grandmother was one of 18, and all of her brothers were in the military. My Mom's father was in the Navy. My Dad was in the Army National Guard. Two of my brothers were in the military, and so were two of my children."

Ms. Giger began hosting foreign exchange students long before she moved to Missouri.

"These are my 31st and 32nd that I have now," she said of the young women from Poland and Bolivia. "They're high school age. They go to Hickman (High School)."

What's in a name?

Although she was raised in a different faith tradition, Pope St. John Paul II has been one of Ms. Giger's heroes for as long as she can remember.

She acquired a statuette of the beloved, long-serving pontiff in 2005, the year he died.

She displays it in a curio cabinet near the stairs in her home.

One of her current exchange students delighted in seeing it. She's Polish and is named Karolina, after Karol (Charles) Wojtyla, the name Pope John Paul received at Baptism.

"She asked me to take her to Mass," Ms. Giger recalled. "So we went."

It brought back memories of Ms. Giger telling her mother when she was 3 that she wanted to be both a nun and a mother.

"I heard that nuns are married to Jesus, and that was just super cool to me," she recalled. "My mom spent years trying to convince me that we weren't Catholic, and I couldn't figure out why she was so hung up on that."

The part about being a mother did work out for Ms. Giger — her children are now 36, 34 and 31.

Welcome guests

Ms. Giger lives close enough to Our Lady of Lourdes Church to be able to

walk there easily on a nice day.

"And interestingly enough, for our first Mass, there was a visiting priest," she recalled. "We asked him where he was from, and he said he was from Poland."

Karolina was able to go to Confession to him in her native language.

Ms. Giger said going to Mass that day planted in her a feeling of profound peace.

She told Karolina after that first Mass, "I just feel better."

Karolina responded, "I always feel that way after going to Mass."

The following Sunday, Monsignor Michael Flanagan, senior priest in residence and former pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, offered the Mass they attended.

"I asked him that day how I could become Catholic," Ms. Giger recalled. "He said, 'The guy you need to talk to is here today.'"

Dwaine Gelnar, the parish's adult religious education and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) coordinator, helped her sign up for the RCIA right away.

She needed a Catholic sponsor. Karolina volunteered.

"So I'm her host mother, and she became my godmother," said Ms. Giger.

Midnight encounter

Ms. Giger had been to Mass several times previously. Most memorably, while she was working at an assisted-living facility in Great Falls, Montana, she took a group of residents to Midnight Mass on Christmas.

One of the people she went with died about a week later.

"I worked with her son, who was a doctor," Ms. Giger recalled. "And when I was get-



Judith Giger (right) and Karolina (second from right), a foreign exchange student she is hosting in her home this year, who also served as her godmother through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, await having their feet washed during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 14, in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Columbia.

so I didn't pursue it. But I think the desire has always been there."

Her admiration for Pope St. John Paul II and for St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata stemmed from how she saw them put their beliefs into practice.

"Aside from being a good pope, John Paul was a good, kind, wonderful person," she said.

"And Mother Teresa, in addition to being a saint, was also just a very good person," she stated.

Dining with friends

Ms. Giger always stayed in the pew when others processed forward to receive Holy Communion.

Msgr. Flanagan told members of the RCIA class that they could come forward with their arms folded over their chest and receive a blessing.

"He said even though you cannot receive Holy Communion yet, you're still part of the family," she recalled.

Another member of the RCIA class had recently lost her mother and was looking for something different to do on Thanksgiving Day.

See INITIATE, page 17

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VOCATIONS

From page 1

The theme was “Chosen for Mission.”

The young participants wore blue T-shirts created for the occasion, emblazoned with an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Activities included Bible verse relay races, video presentations, one-on-one and group discussions and plenty of time to let off steam.

“Let fear disappear”

In the video clips, married couples, priests, religious sisters and lay missionaries talked about the joy and satisfaction they derive from knowing and doing what God created them to do.

The videos and activities repeatedly reinforced the message that the safest, surest way to find fulfillment in this life and eternal joy in the next is to figure out and follow one’s own calling from God.

Every Christian receives a universal calling to cultivate holiness in service to Him and other people.

God intends for each person to carry out that calling in a specific way — through Priesthood, consecrated religious life, Christian marriage or some other vocation.

The key, the event’s presenters noted, is to turn off the distractions whenever possible and listen for subtle clues that God places in people’s hearts.

“God doesn’t impose,” Father Christopher Aubuchon stated in one of the videos. “He proposes.”

In another video, Sister M. Karolyn Nunes of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George said fear is the biggest obstacle to following God’s will.

In discerning a vocation, she advised the students to ask: “Is this the best way for me to become a saint? Is this the right way my heart was made to love?”

“Let fear disappear!” Sr. Karolyn advised. “God’s plans are for your joy and for you to be fully alive!”

In another video, several priests talked about how they know they’re doing what God wants them to do.

“Being a priest is hard work but it is very satisfying and can be a lot of fun,” said Father Ja-

son Doke.

“Every day is different and every day is a new adventure,” stated Father Paul Clark.

“Your vocation is something that energizes you,” Father Anthony Rinaldo said. “That’s how I feel when I celebrate Mass or the sacraments.”

“Every day is different — that’s what I like,” said Father Joshua Duncan. “You never know what’s going to walk through your door next.”

In another video, a married couple talked about learning to love as God loves.

“The most perfect love”

A husband and wife in one of the videos suggested learning to grow in relationship with God before trying to figure out a vocation.

“The Holy Family — Jesus, Mary and Joseph — shows us how to live with sacrificial love,” Mrs. Emmerich stated after the video.

She advised the students to ask their own parents how they came to know that God was calling them to the vocation of Christian marriage.

“Talk to them about what they do to live out their vocation for God,” she suggested.

Kara Conley, a FOCUS missionary at the University of Missouri in Columbia, talked about the importance of having an active prayer life.

“Prayer is life itself!” she said. “God is love, the most

perfect love. So prayer is a conversation with your lover.”

That’s the kind of love that people simply can’t keep to themselves, hence the call to mission.

“Mission calls us to fall in love with God and share that with other people,” she proclaimed.

Saintly superheroes

One of the Sixth Grade Vocation Day activities involved students writing down positive and likeable traits about each of their classmates.

The point of that exercise was to reinforce that sometimes, it’s often easier to recognize such gifts from God in other people than it is to see it in oneself.

At the gathering in Fayette, the students were encouraged to ask their patron saints to join them in praying to God for help in discerning their vocation.

“They are your religious superheroes!” said Mrs. Emmerich. “They call us to prayer, and they intercede for each of us before the throne of God.”

“What can I do to please God the most?” Mrs. Emmerich asked the children. “Pray for God to send you that gentle nudge to help you know what He has in mind for you.”

Mr. Morris noted that it often takes time — sometimes years, sometimes decades — to discern one’s vocation.

That’s certainly okay with God. But it’s also important to work with God in figuring out one’s own vocation and then pursuing it with passion, Mr.

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

Morris stated.

“Your patron saint will help you find your passion,” he stated. “We all want to become the person God created us to be. The better you get at praying, the better you get at listening, the sooner you’ll be able to figure out your vocation.”

Enjoyable day

At the end of the day, sixth-grader Cheyenne Johnston said she liked hearing about how priests and sisters spend some of their time.

“I had a lot of fun today and made some new friends,” she said. “I hope the kids who do Sixth Grade Vocation Day after us have as much fun as we had.”

Sixth-grader Keith Bixenman enjoyed making new

friends, hearing about vocations and thinking about what he can do to make God happy.

Sixth-grader Colten Stundebek liked hearing concrete details about what priests, sisters and married couples do.

Sixth-grader Ella Linneman was reassured to hear that you don’t have to know what your vocation is right away.

“It can take a while,” she said. “So you keep trying to do what pleases God. He will help you. And being quiet is important. You don’t always have to have the music on.”

“He only gives”

Speaking in his role as diocesan vocation director, Fr. Clark noted that everyone in the community is responsible for helping people develop a relationship with Christ and discern their vocation.

In order to help move this important work forward, Fr. Clark advised parents to work on making sure their families are an environment for healthy discernment.

“It’s going to be a joyful fulfillment of the heart,” said Fr. Clark. “Like Pope Benedict XVI said, ‘Don’t be afraid of God taking anything from you. He only gives.’”

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DIOCESE OF Jefferson City

LEGACY

From page 1

becoming one were close to zero," the preacher stated.

Continuing to listen to God and follow His promptings despite overt racism in the Church marked Fr. Tolton as a person of heroic virtue.

"God was always guiding him," said Fr. Ike, "always bringing people into his life along the way to help him."

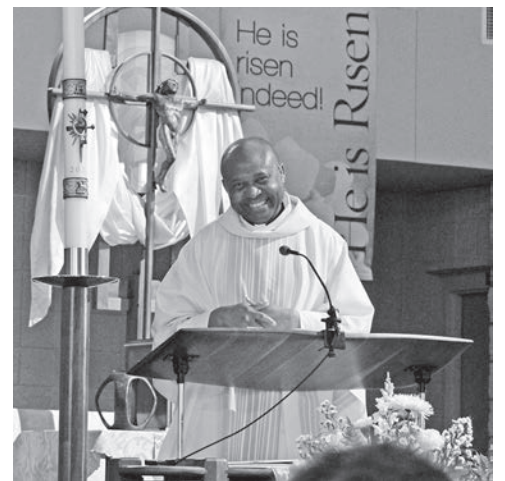
The overwhelming obstacles, including young Augustus's poverty and lack of education and the fact that no U.S. seminary would accept him because he was Black, wound up magnifying God's glory.

Because Fr. Tolton did become a priest, ministering with tremendous faith and devotion despite ongoing hardships that he endured to the very end.

"I have no words to explain this," said Fr. Ike. "So I have come here today simply to join in praising God, in thanking God for this man, for his life and for the example he gives to all of us."

Part of that example is to keep working, thriving and aspiring to do and become whatever God has in mind.

"The Lord will meet you where you are," said Fr. Ike. "That's where He will encounter you."



LEFT: Trumpeter and composer Carlot Dorvé plays a powerful rendition of "You Raise Me Up" during the Fr. Tolton Legacy Society's 2022 Celebration Mass in the St. Thomas More Newman Center Chapel in Columbia on May 1. **CENTER:** Deacon William Seibert proclaims the Gospel reading from John 21. **RIGHT:** Father Roberto Ike preaches the homily.

— Photos by Jay Nies

One of six

Fr. Tolton is one of six African American Catholics who are under formal consideration for being declared saints.

Fr. Ike spoke briefly of the other five:

- Venerable Pierre Toussaint, who after being freed from slavery achieved success as a hairdresser and used

his resources to serve the poor;

- Servant of God Mother Mary Elizabeth Langué, who as foundress of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, was the first African American superior of a religious order;

- Venerable Henriette Delille, who despite being barred from joining a religious order

because she was Black, founded the Sisters of the Holy Family;

- Servant of God Julia Greeley, who was born into an enslaved family near Hannibal, became Catholic after gaining her freedom, consecrated herself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and became "Denver's Angel of Charity"; and

- Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman, a 20th-century convert to Catholicism who became a nun and dedicated her life to singing, teaching and preaching in order to promote devotion to Jesus Christ.

"What each of these men and women had to go through is something I don't have words to explain," said Fr. Ike.

"But like every man and woman struggling in the world today, we thank the God Who makes it possible for human

beings to do what they have done," he said.

"May God bless all of you to have the faith to open your heart, to open your mind, to see the dignity of every human person you meet," he said.

Something to celebrate

At the end of Mass, the people prayed together the prayer for Fr. Tolton's sainthood cause, composed by Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry, co-postulator for the cause.

Before, during and after the Mass, gifted trumpeter and composer Carlot Dorvé rendered joyful anthems of the Baroque and Classical traditions on the trumpet.

The St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish choir and ensemble led and accompanied the singing.

After Mass, people gathered on the patio outside the chapel for cake and ice cream to celebrate the anniversaries of Fr. Tolton's birth (April 1, 1854) and priestly ordination (April 24, 1886).

The purpose of the Fr. Tolton Legacy Society (comonewman.org/dbd-ministries/fr-tolton-legacy-society) is to increase awareness of Fr. Tolton and the significance of his life.

More information about the six African American candidates for sainthood can be found at:

uscbb.org/committees/african-american-affairs/road-sainthood-leaders-african-descent

For information about Venerable Fr. Tolton's cause, visit: tolton.archchicago.org.

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

Religious orders launch initiative to care for sisters with dementia

Catholic News Service

Rome

Having a member over 100 years old is not unusual today for orders of Catholic women religious, but many orders do not have the specialized knowledge or resources to ensure an accurate diagnosis and the best possible plan of care for sisters experiencing dementia or other

forms of cognitive impairment, several sisters said.

Sister Jane Wakahiu, a member of the Little Sisters of St. Francis and head of the Catholic Sisters Initiative at the Hilton Foundation, announced May 9 that the foundation was providing \$5 million to help launch the Catholic Sisters Cognitive Impairment-Alzheimer's Global Initiative, a project of the International Union of Superiors General (IUSG) and the U.S. Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

"Our elderly and infirm sisters are a source of inspiration and wisdom, of living fidelity to religious life entirely. On their shoulders we stand," Sr. Jane

said at an afternoon conference at the IUSG headquarters and online.

Having aging sisters in the community is a blessing, not a problem, she said, so the sisters want to do everything possible to make sure their older members have a physically, spiritually and mentally healthy old age.

One of the greatest challenges, Sr. Jane said, is caring for sisters with Alzheimer's disease and "its gradual theft of our sisters' consciousness and capacity.

"This initiative will provide resources to congregations and conferences (of religious) for education, training, assessment and direct service," she said.

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MENTAL HEALTH

From page 3

“Mission Secret Saints” does the opposite.

“We focus on the pro-social behavior, the things we all need to be doing,” she said. “And when you’re doing more of these things, you’re naturally doing less of the anti-social things.”

Mrs. Hemeyer has also taught lessons at St. Francis Xavier School in Taos and St. Andrew School in Tipton on helping students interact positively with their peers.

She participated in this year’s annual Wellness Day at Immaculate Conception School in Loose Creek, where students learn about various aspects of staying healthy over the summer. She talked to the younger students about physical and online boundaries.

A listening heart

Mrs. Hemeyer grew up in central Missouri, where her potential for being a counselor became evident early on.

“As a kid, I was always that friend who people came to for advice,” she recalled. “I was the one who was willing to listen.”

She was in eighth grade when her grandmother, who lived across the street from her, was dying of pancreatic cancer.

“We visited often,” Mrs. Hemeyer fondly recalled. “It turned out to be a very formative experience for me. In fact, it influenced almost everything I did after that, as far as relationships go.”

She resolved to enter a profession that would allow her to support people emotionally.

“I initially thought that would be grief counseling — helping people who are going through the end of life, or families of such people,” she said.

But she wound up taking more of a generalist route, with counseling studies focused on behavioral health.

She spent 12 years counseling military veterans for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

“That was not the path I thought would take,” she said. “It was a God thing. It gave me some really good life lessons and insight and experience.”

“Where kindness comes in”

Upon coming to work for

Catholic Charities last fall, Mrs. Hemeyer set about putting together a mental health program for the community, as well as supporting any mental health needs identified by Catholic schools in the diocese.

“On the community side of things, that includes helping adults with various kinds of mental-health concerns, a diagnosable illness or any other various concerns that impact our mental wellness,” she said.

That includes such factors as stress, grief, worry or trouble at home with partners, other family members or friends.

“And then additionally, I am a Catholic myself, born and raised, so also when appropriate or when asked, I can bring in a Catholic perspective into the office when people are coming in for treatment,” she said.

Mrs. Hemeyer originally thought that with the schools, she would be working mostly with children who have acute mental health needs.

“And it’s not to say those are not there, but that has not been the path we have been led to,” she said. “We have been contacted by the schools more often than not to come in and talk to the kiddos about everyday things.”

She is often asked to help young people learn to manage stress better and interact with each other in ways that are more compassionate and empathetic.

“That’s where kindness comes in,” she said.

She noted that most adults see difficulties in life through the lens of broader experience.

“Just because something happens, I don’t feel hopeless,” she said. “But kids don’t have the same coping skills that adults have, because they haven’t lived long enough to learn them.”

Also, some children haven’t absorbed effective coping strategies because their parents never learned them.



Dala Hemeyer, Director of Counseling Services for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, teaches a lesson from the “Mission Secret Saints” curriculum at Our Lady of the Snows School in Mary’s Home in March.

— Photo from the Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School Facebook page

“So it becomes an intergenerational issue,” said Mrs. Hemeyer.

It takes a community

She said it’s important for parents and school personnel to work together to promote children’s mental and spiritual wellbeing.

“The schools do have those kids the majority of the time they spend awake each week,” she said. “I know parents are incredibly busy and are spread very thin, and so are the teachers.

“So it’s something that needs to be done, and if it can be done while the kids are already in school, why not take advantage of that?” she said. “Then they have their peers around them to help with practicing and reinforcing those things.”

Also essential is for parents to stay connected with their children, engaging frequently in shared activities and discussions.

“These don’t have to be heavy conversations,” she said. “Just make sure you’re talking to them and you know who they’re hanging out with and what they’re doing on their electronic devices and what kind of media they’re consuming.”

Parents need to be familiar with the messages their children are absorbing through social media, television, movies

and popular music.

“That’s not to say that those things are always bad influences,” she said. “But if we aren’t tempering the bad influences with the kind of messages we want our kids to be modeling, that’s where it becomes a problem.”

Parents needn’t shelter their children from all media exposure.

“In fact, that would cause all sorts of other problems,” she said. “We just need to be constantly mixing in the lessons and modeling the behavior we want them to be emulating while they’re processing those other things.”

Children also need to know that their concerns are valid and are being taken seriously by adults.

“It can be really easy to hear our kids’ concerns and be dismissive of them, like ‘Oh, it’s not that serious,’ or ‘I grew up with that and did just fine,’” said Mrs. Hemeyer.

“That can be damaging to the connection you might need to have with them at a later time,” she said. “So when your kids talk to you about their thoughts or experiences, give them the same value and concern you would for another adult.

“Make sure that the young people in your life know that you’re available,” she advised. “And listen more than you

speak!”

Parents must also make a point of attending to their own emotional needs.

“As parents, we tend to put other things before ourselves,” she said. “But if we’re not taking care of ourselves, it’s really hard to take care of anyone else’s needs.”

In this together

Mrs. Hemeyer said she has thoroughly enjoyed her work with children in schools.

“It has been a huge learning experience for me, and a humbling one at that,” she said. “These kids are funny and smart and have a lot of things to share that are really good for

adults to know about.”

She asks for prayers for endurance — “the mental and emotional energy to keep showing up and putting my best foot forward, day in and day out.”

“I carry all these things I see and hear in my heart,” she stated. “That’s both a strength and a weakness.”

She also asks for prayers for the children and parents she works with to have “discerning hearts that are open and moldable and yet protected.”

“Parents are facing big, hard topics with their kids these days, and it’s easy to be paralyzed by the anxiety and the worry and the seriousness of these conversations,” she said.

Mrs. Hemeyer writes a short, informational blog each month on general aspects of mental health for the Catholic Charities website.

Her May offering, which coincides with Mental Health Awareness Month, includes suggestions for breaching the subject of mental health with people who are showing signs of stress, depression or other concerns.

That blog, along with more information about Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri counseling services, can be found at:

ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/counseling-services



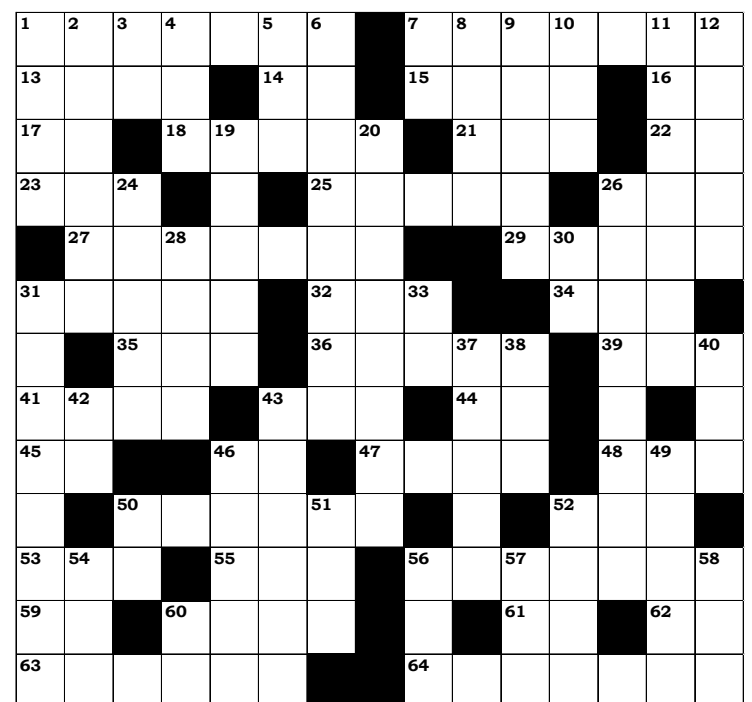
By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

1. On Nov. 17, 2021, a 4.0 earthquake near Poplar Bluff, the largest since 1991, rattled furniture and shook pictures ____ on the walls in thousands of homes. It was felt from St. Louis to Memphis, Tennessee.
7. The largest of the three major New Madrid earthquakes (1811-12) plus thousands of severe aftershocks inundated thousands of cultivable land that remained ____ for decades due to its inability to drain naturally.
13. ____ of the Apostles; St. Luke's follow up to his gospel; 5th book of the New Testament.
14. Ancestral home of Abraham.
15. "It was a quiet time for us on Baker Street, and Holmes began work on his proposed monograph on human ____," —Sherlock Holmes story: *The Return of the Speckled Band*, by Edward D. Hoch.

16. State nicknamed The Mother of Presidents (abbr.).
17. Abbr. for Lieutenant.
18. Li'l ____; Daisy Mae's boyfriend.
21. Abbr. for an Army NCO.
22. The patient was hooked up to an ____.
23. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed under the ____ trees.
25. Main artery carrying blood from the heart to the rest of the body.
26. Former Ugandan dictator, ____ Amin.
27. Flowers named for their purple petals.
29. Pres. Harry Truman's first presidential plane was called Sacred Cow, inherited from FDR. In 1947, he got a new plane and ____ it "Independence" after his Missouri hometown.
31. "Resist the ____ and he will flee from you," (James 4:7).
32. Brain wave test.
34. K-O.
35. Liberally has three of them.
36. The New Madrid Seismic Zone averages more than 200 earthquakes per year though most are too ____ to be felt.
39. ____ *missa est*.
41. "If your brother ____ against you..." (Matthew 18:15).
43. School/parent group.
44. Old Testament city; enemy of Israelites (Joshua 7:4).
45. 7th note.

46. Bone.
47. Tool to tackle leaves.
48. A very long time.
50. Our Lady of Lourdes appeared with a golden ____ hanging from her blue belt.
52. Wildebeest.
53. Anger.
55. ____ *Baba and the 40 Thieves*.
56. Among the mansions, manors and grand ____ in the U.S. is Monticello, home of George Washington; Bell Grove Plantation designed by Thomas Jefferson; Breakers by the Vanderbilts and Beechwood by the Astors in Newport, RI; and the lavish Hearst Castle in California.
59. The Hollywood Bowl in this State is the largest outdoor amphitheater in the U.S. (abbr.).
60. Ordnance for soldiers.
61. The Windy City is in this State (abbr.).
62. This original 12-step program was founded in 1935.
63. Comedian Danny or Supreme Court Justice Clarence.
64. "After the Civil War, work began on levees and drainage ditches in SE Mo. to ____ the land made worthless by the 1811-1812 New Madrid earthquakes," —*Longer than a Man's Lifetime in Missouri*, memoirs of a German Immigrant in Missouri, pg. 282, Gert Goebel.



9. Church music instrument.
10. Letters for Outer Space Treaty; negotiated by the U.N. in 1967; signed by U.S., U.K., Soviet Union and all major spacefaring nations, and 111 countries as of 2021; sets principles to prohibit militarization of space.
11. "We hold these truths to be self-____..." —Declaration of Independence.
12. Composer of #43 DOWN.
19. The New Madrid Zone has generated some of the most powerful earthquakes in U.S. history. In 1811-1812, a series of major earthquakes destroyed buildings, rang church ____ hundreds of miles away and briefly caused the Mississippi River to flow backwards.
20. "Parsley, Sage ____ and Thyme"; name of a 1966 record album by Simon and Garfunkle; also a verse from their song "Scarborough Fair."
24. "To the one who has, more will be ____..." (Mark 4:25).
26. About to happen.
28. The Holy ____ of the Church include Sacred Chrism, used in Baptism, Confirmation, and the ordination of a priest.
30. Musician Hirt or weatherman Roker.
31. In 1905, the Little River Drainage ____ was created, 900 miles of drainage ditches and 300 miles of levees, the longest designated drainage area in existence.
33. This is the largest State in area east of the Mississippi River (abbr.).
37. The New Madrid earthquakes wiped 5 towns off the map; destroyed thousands of acres of trees; new ____ were formed.
38. "Of course," I said. "Would I ____ to a woman with a gun in her hand?" —*Better Off Dead*; Lee Child.
40. Suffix for north or south.
42. "Pope John Paul ____ frequently emphasized the Church's Eucharistic-centered spirituality. In fact, he died during the Year of the Eucharist, a time he had set aside for the Church to focus its attention on this sacrament, the center of our faith," —*Walk Humbly With Your God*; Fr. Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R.
43. The Book of ____; 150 songs used as responses to the first reading at Mass; 23rd book of the Bible.
46. ____ Bin Laden.
49. The full-time vowels.
50. Prefix for cord or view.
51. "____ Lobo"; 1970 Western starring John Wayne, with his son Ethan.
52. ____ bladder; body sac that stores bile to breakdown fatty foods.
54. Mizzou-____! Tiger cheer.
56. To ____ is human.
57. A repeated sudden twitch.
58. Uncle ____; America's uncle.
60. From the burning bush, God told Moses to say to the Israelites: "I ____ sent me to you," (Exodus 3:14).

ANSWERS on page 19

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INITIATE

From page 11

This was also the first time Ms. Giger would not be hosting Thanksgiving dinner for anyone in her own family.

Together, they decided to share the traditional feast with Ms. Giger's foreign exchange students and with several recently resettled refugees.

"It was wonderful," Ms. Giger recalled. "I highly recommend that for anyone who has room in their house to have company, because it really was an amazing experience."

Never alone

This year's Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, which usually draws people involved in the initiation process in parishes throughout the diocese to the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City, was held at Our Lady of Lourdes, due to renovations taking place at the Cathedral.

"It was wonderful," Ms. Giger stated of the event, held on the First Sunday of Lent. "You realize you're coming into a family and getting all these new brothers and sisters."

She found the following weeks to be filled with excitement and anticipation.

"I had been hearing this expression, 'born again,' my entire life," she said. "I never really got it until now."

Being born again feels "like someone has lifted heavy weights off my shoulders," she stated.

"Life still has challenges, but I don't feel like I'm going through it by myself anymore," she said.

Letting go

Throughout the RCIA, Ms. Giger enjoyed learning about what the Church teaches on a broad range of interrelated topics.

Themes of mercy and forgiveness were both challenging and enticing to her, having grown up in a very painful relationship with her mother, who is now deceased.

Ms. Giger was listening to a song called "The Only Scars in Heaven" on the radio while driving to work on a day lead-



Judith Giger's godmother, Karolina, left, prepares to take part in the Offertory Procession during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Columbia. Karolina, an exchange student from Poland, invited Ms. Giger to start going to Mass with her. Ms. Giger decided to become Catholic through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

ing up to Easter.

Thoughts of her mother's mental illness and profound need for mercy suddenly filled Ms. Giger's mind and heart.

"It sounds so weird, but I was able to forgive her in the car that day," she said. "I was able to let it all go. I can think about her now

and smile and not be angry. It's pretty amazing."

A proper response

After careful examination of a website filled with saints' stories, Ms. Giger chose St. Flora of Beaulieu to be her patron saint for Confirmation.

"She is the patron saint of converts," Ms. Giger noted. "She's also the patron saint of the betrayed. And who hasn't been or felt betrayed at some point in their life?"

Most people Ms. Giger has told about getting baptized at Easter have been supportive.

One person responded, "I don't know what to say to that."

Ms. Giger suggested, "How about 'Congratulations!'"

Recognizing Ms. Giger's joy and peace, a friend who left the Catholic Church long ago now sees the need to reconnect with God in some way.

Ms. Giger said she looks forward to gathering regularly with her fellow neophytes into June and to becoming an active member of her parish.

She asks for prayers for her and for all the newly initiated to remain grateful and joyful for the salvation they are being given, and for the grace to surrender their individual struggles into God's hands.

Cross section



Students of St. Stanislaus School in Wardsville gather for a group photo in St. Stanislaus Church on May 6.

— Photo from the St. Stanislaus School Facebook page

THREATS

From page 8

late May 2 from a leaked draft opinion signaling that the majority of Supreme Court justices seem set to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the decision legalizing abortion, those opposed to having it overturned have taken to the streets to protest. But vandalism showing discontent with the potential ruling also seems to be on the rise.



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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

May 14

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows Parish drive-thru BBQ fundraiser, 11 am-4 pm

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

Jun. 4

Cuba, Holy Cross Parish Altar Society rummage sale, 8 am-2 pm; **Jefferson City**, Immaculate Conception Parish Pro-Life Committee rummage sale fundraiser, 7-11 am

Jun. 5

California, Annunciation Parish picnic, 11 am-6 pm; **Franckenstein**, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish picnic, 11 am-7 pm; **Vienna**, K of C breakfast, 7:30-11 am; **Wien**, St. Mary School all-school reunion, noon-3 pm, St. Mary Parish Hall

Jun. 12

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

Jun. 13

Jefferson City, Louis H. Rackers Memorial Pro-Life Golf Classic benefiting Vitae Foundation, 8 am-6 pm, Jefferson City Country Club, for info or to register visit vitaefoundation.org

Meetings/ Workshops

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

Jun. 6

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

Jun. 7

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

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

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 e Enrique o Cristhina Castro al 573-680-3650 / 501-454-8308 o por correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org / cmguzman10@gmail.com

28 mayo

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

6-12 junio

Sedalia, Cursillo de Mujeres, La Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información y registrarse llame Oswaldo Diaz 660-829-5213

7 junio

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

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

May 13-15

St. Louis, 23rd Annual St. Louis Marian Conference, featuring Mass, Adoration, Confession, talks, music, vendors and fel-

lowship, 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 17

Jefferson City, "Metanoia: A Journey with Christ to Conversion," video series hosted by Fr. Dave Pivonka, 6:30-8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info email jimkemna@gmail.com

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

May 24

Jefferson City, "Metanoia: A Journey with Christ to Conversion," video series hosted by Fr. Dave Pivonka, 6:30-8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info email jimkemna@gmail.com

May 31

Jefferson City, "Metanoia: A Journey with Christ to Conversion," video series hosted by Fr. Dave Pivonka, 6:30-8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info email jimkemna@gmail.com

Jun. 3-5

Belleville, IL, REFLECT Catholic Retreat for mid-life singles, King's House Retreat Center, for info or to register visit reflectretreat.com

Jun. 7

Jefferson City, "Metanoia: A Journey with Christ to Conversion," video series hosted by Fr. Dave Pivonka, 6:30-8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info email jimkemna@gmail.com

Jun. 11

Jefferson City, Pre-Cana Program for engaged couples, 8:45 am-4:30 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, for info or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/pre-cana-registration

Jun. 14

Jefferson City, "Metanoia: A Journey with Christ to Conversion," video series hosted by Fr. Dave Pivonka, 6:30-8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info email jimkemna@gmail.com

Liturgical

May 14

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

May 22

Westphalia, Healing Prayer Service, with Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Confessions, Rosary, talk by Fr. Mark Bozada, and opportunity for individual healing prayers, 2-4:30 pm, St. Joseph Church

May 30

Jefferson City, Memorial Day Mass, 9 am, Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum

Youth

Jun. 19-24

Camdenton, Camp Macabee (session 1) summer adventure camp for high school-aged young men, for info or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-macabee

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 Macabee (session 2) summer adventure camp for high school-aged young men, for info or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-macabee

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

CALDAROLA

From page 9

Jesuit Joseph Whelan wrote in a famous prayer, love "decides what will get you out of bed in the mornings."

Think of how Peter must have felt in the presence of the Risen Lord, a friend he had denied just days before. And yet, how Jesus loved him and saw beyond his failures. If we can just feel Jesus loving us and our woundedness in the same way, think of the power of hope and good we can unleash.

So, we continue to fight for legislation that limits fossil fuels and counters climate change. We offer life-giving hope to women caught in challenging pregnancies. We write to death row inmates and lobby for an end to the death penalty.

We express our hopes for the Church by par-

ticipating honestly in synod discussions. We volunteer at the food pantry. We wake up each morning, not hiding our wounds, but sharing them with a wounded world. We wake up ready to love.

Mother Teresa's famous quote reminds us, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

Teresa of Avila understood that to be human is to carry wounds, and that Christ has suffered with us in His humanity. It is human to hurt and hurt can lead to growth.

So, we get busy. Not navel-gazing at our own and the world's failures, but asking each morning, How can I love more and be part of the miracle of hope?

Anniversaries

Argyle, St. Aloysius

Donnie & Ann Tappel, 57 years
Sylvester & JoAnn Schwartze, 47 years
Harold & Joan Deeken, 46 years
Mike & Becky Wieberg, 46 years
Marvin & Barb Wieberg, 38 years
Philip & Mary Wieberg, 29 years
Chad & BJ Schwartze, 21 years
Joe & Jessica Hoeller, 20 years
Matt & Stacey Schaben, 19 years
Lucas & Jennifer Bax, 11 years

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul

Leo & Rosemary Kraus, 62 years
Larry & Sherri Kempf, 56 years
Bill & Peggy Weber, 54 years
Larry & Joyce Schuster, 51 years
Randy & Jean Reynolds, 48 years
Randy & Pam Oswald, 47 years
Louis & Shirley Imhoff, 46 years
Ed & Becky Thomas, 46 years
Mike & Mary Beth Conway, 42 years
Danny & Sharlene Kammerich, 42 years
Tony & Jeanette Babbitt, 40 years
Mike & Kathy Lang, 38 years
Wes & Kathy Davis, 36 years
James & Pam Lenz, 36 years
Chris & Roylene Kempf, 35 years
Kelly & Lynn Vest, 34 years
Mark & Jane Tribsch, 33 years
Jim & Francine Edwards, 28 years
Russell & Selena Weaver, 28 years
Darrell & Nancy Harris, 27 years
Dewayne & Julie Murray, 27 years
Bill & Pam Rapp, 27 years
Brian & Trish Lutz, 25 years

Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels

Ron & Sylvia Johnson, 44 years

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception

Donald & Martha Couch, 46 years
John & Jolene Christy, 44 years
Randy & Doris Holloway, 43 years
John & Carol Robison, 36 years
Chuck & Cheri York, 34 years
Bret & Kathy Seckington, 28 years
David & Janice Moore, 22 years
Josh & Megan Shoemaker, 15 years

Edina, St. Joseph

Bill & Margaret Delaney, 65 years

Fayette, St. Joseph

David & Elaine Smith, 41 years
David & Sheila Wallace, 33 years
Adam & Tammy Allphin, 11 years

Hermann, St. George

Louis & Evelyn Winkelmann, 60 years

Jonesburg, St. Patrick

Rich & Vivian Grelle, 57 years
Gale & Michele Johnson, 45 years
Keith & Lori Farrar, 15 years

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate

Ronald & Cartalene Ruddell, 64 years
Don & Carol McCoy, 58 years
David & Brenda Moore, 53 years
Dale & Kocoa Vandike, 51 years
Kenneth & Teresa Ziegler, 46 years
Lavern & Joyce Schmitz, 45 years
Damian & Bebe Schulte, 42 years
Russell & Arletta Nelson, 40 years
Bob & Marie Delaney, 38 years
Dale & Sharon Schenewerk, 38 years
Lance & Krista Llewellyn, 32 years
Bill & Lorna Begley, 18 years

Koeltztown, St. Boniface

Leon & Elaine Deeken, 19 years

Loose Creek, Immaculate Conception

Hubert & Pauline Bescheinen, 75 years

Marshall, St. Peter

Paul & Ann Collier, 73 years

Martinsburg, St. Joseph

Kent & Angela Buckman, 46 years

Meta, St. Cecilia

Roger & Emilie Borgmeyer, 60 years
Harold & Norma Jean Libbert, 55 years

Milan, St. Mary

Leodegario & Irma Garcia, 43 years

Montgomery City, Immaculate Conception

John & Ruth Schneider, 54 years
Michael & Lori Scott, 31 years
Aaron & Brenda Knapp, 20 years

Palmyra, St. Joseph

Joe & Terry Barnes, 53 years
David & Regina Hastings, 48 years
James & Connie Browning, 40 years
John & Jacque Hess, 40 years
Ross & Karen Dames, 37 years
Russell & Teresa Hettinger, 37 years
Peter & Denise Dames, 36 years
Michael & Tammy Wolfmeyer, 36 years
Jeff & Amy Massman, 32 years
Greg & Kathy Tierney, 31 years
John & Cathy Fohey, 30 years
Duane & Judith Martin, 18 years

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle

Ron & Theresa Veit, 25 years

Taos, St. Francis Xavier

Roger & Dinah Hagner, 52 years

Vandalia, Sacred Heart

Robert & Karolyn Green, 55 years
Carl & Karen Daffron, 49 years
Joe & Debbie Salois, 42 years
Daryl & Debbie Hopke, 41 years
Stephen & LuAnn Nilges, 37 years
Mike & Leila Cole, 29 years

Vienna, Visitation

Bruce & Mechele Struempfler, 33 years

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus

Donald & Peggy Luebbert, 48 years

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels

Chuck & Ilah Brehm, 65 years
Bob & Veronica Marek, 61 years
John & Patsy Bussman, 45 years
Jim & Gina Schneider, 40 years
David & Lynn Bertsch, 25 years
Roby & Cheri Vanderpool, 21 years
Quintin & Michelle Yallaly, 18 years
Eric & Jen Allen, 10 years

Baptisms

Fulton, St. Peter — **Jacelyn Janiece Owens**, daughter of Joseph & Brandi Mintle

Hermann, St. George — **Harmony Rose Hoelmer** and **Tyler Joseph Edmund Hoelmer Jr.**, children of Tyler & Natasha Hoelmer

Holts Summit, St. Andrew — **Saylor James Berhorst**, son of Cole & Samantha Berhorst

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Malakai Ceron Moffat**, son of Ceron & Danielle Moffat

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Charles Roman Schmitz**, son of Joseph & Christin Schmitz

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Edwin Phillip Schaper**, son of Andrew & Chiara Schaper

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Anniston Rae Kempker**, daughter of Jeremy & Megan Kempker; **Maverick Brooks Kirkweg**, child of Lucas & Sarah Kirkweg; **Emilia Rose Lepper**, daughter of Bradley & Tara Lepper; **Nora Marie, Jolie Ann** and **Molly Jean Lepper**, children of Jared & Brandy Lepper; **Layla Marie Wiser**, daughter of Reed & Raegan Wiser

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart — **Kenna Jo Collins**, daughter of Drew & Lori Collins; **Zeke Timothy Troesser**, son of Peter Troesser & Katie Neuner

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Brayden Joseph** and **Parker Adam Lee Marsch**, sons of Eric & Danielle Marsch; **Hayes Raithel**, son of Justin & Ashley Raithel

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Hank Joseph Weimer**, son of Joseph & Hillary Weimer

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Taylor Marie Hofmann**, daughter of Michael & Krysten Hofmann

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels — **Annie May** and **Eva Jo Bixenman**, children of Paul & Maygan Bixenman

Birthdays

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Carmelita McVay**, her 100th on May 17

Loose Creek, Immaculate Conception — **Pauline Bescheinen**, her 101st on May 15

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Viola Lepper-Ihler**, her 91st on May 28

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Margie Rackers**, her 91st on May 27



Deaths

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Edward Fashing**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Charlie Schuster**

Frankenstein, Our Lady Help of Christians — **Dale A. Dudenhoeffer**

Hannibal, Holy Family — **John Kroeger**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Stephanie M. Dallmeyer, Joseph Scherr**

Meta, St. Cecilia — **Daniel L. Libbert**

Moberly, St. Pius X — **Daniel T. Dunlop**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Dennis R. Brondel**

Vienna, Visitation — **Patricia Finn**

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels — **Marcella Canning**

Marriages

Holts Summit, St. Andrew — **Kaleena Logan & Ethan Veit**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Maria Donovan & Jack Claseman; Lauren Brune & Brennan Horn**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Alyssa Bax & Logan Moore**

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart — **Maddie Mebruer & Seth Deeken**

Sacraments of Initiation

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Alexandra Boucher, Emma Boucher, Lucas Boucher, Warren Boucher**

Bowling Green — **Timothy J. Sidders Jr.**, who was received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Chapel of the Northeast Correctional Center on April 21

Honors

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Larry Hoelscher**, as Knights of Columbus Insurance Agent of the Year at the Spinelli Agency for Southeast & Central Missouri

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.

Crossword puzzle answers

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

Legacy gift for Ukraine



Eighth-graders at Ss. Peter and Paul School in Boonville present Father Mark Smith, pastor, a \$1,000 donation on April 13 to be included with the parish’s contribution to the Ukraine relief program. The class raised the funds over the past year. This donation is their legacy gift. The Diocese of Jefferson City is sending all funds collected through this effort to the U.S. Catholic Bishops’ program for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This fund is now focused on the Ukraine.

— Photo from the SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church - Boonville, MO Facebook page

“Bring flowers the fairest”



Children from Sacred Heart Parish in Eldon take part in a traditional May Crowning of the Blessed Mother on May 1. Parishioners also prayed a Living Rosary and had cupcakes to celebrate the month dedicated to Mary.

— Photo from the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Facebook page



Junior/Senior Retreat



Father Paul Clark addresses Juniors and seniors from Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, as part of their annual retreat on April 6 in Holy Spirit Church in Centralia.

— Photo from the Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Facebook page

“Inflamed with heavenly desires”



Scouts representing Troop 17, Troop 3017 and Pack 17 of Linn, participate in building and lighting the fire for the Holy Saturday night Easter Vigil Mass at St. George Church on Saturday evening, April 16. They also served at the Mass. **TOP:** (left to right):



Leo Massman, Stuart Massman, Izabella Backes, Joe Oliveras, Father Colin Franklin, Deacon Tony Valdes and Deacon Bob Schowengerdt. **BOT-TOM:** (front row) Arthur Massman; (middle row) Brayden Backes, Leo Massman, Izabella Backes and Debbie Backes; (back row) Joe Massman and Stuart Massman.

— Photo by Photo by Debbie Backes

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.



Jesus calls Himself a good shepherd

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

One day, when Jesus and the apostles were in Jerusalem, they walked by a man who was born blind.

Jesus used His saliva to moisten some dirt to make a clay that He spread on the man's eyes. He told him to wash in the Pool of Siloam. The man did so, and when he came back, he was able to see.

The man's neighbors, who knew he was blind and now could see, brought him before the Pharisees.

Some of the Pharisees said Jesus was sinful and not from God because He had healed the man on the Sabbath when no work was to be done. Other Pharisees said that a sinful man could not do such signs.

The Pharisees questioned



the man. They did not believe that he had been blind. They only believed once the man's parents came and confirmed it.

"If he is a sinner, I do not

know," the man said of Jesus. "One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see. ... If this man were not from God, He would not be able to do anything."

Bible Accent

Why did Jesus sometimes refer to shepherds and sheep when talking to the people?

Since tending sheep was common in biblical times, He knew people would understand if He used images of shepherds and sheep when He wanted to tell them something important.

For example, in Luke 15, Jesus told the parable of the lost sheep to explain that He came to call sinners to repentance but not the righteous.

"What man among you having a hundred sheep and

losing one of them would not leave the 99 in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy," Jesus said. "In just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous people who have no need of repentance."

And in John 21, we read that the resurrected Jesus appeared to some of His followers. One of those times, He appeared to Peter and some other followers, who were fishing.

Jesus wanted Peter to do something for Him after He returned to heaven.

"Feed My lambs. ... Tend My sheep," Jesus said in referring to His followers.

Essay

Have you ever had a hard time getting someone to believe you?

Saint Spotlight



Julia Maria Ledochowska was born into a distinguished Polish family in Austria in 1865. She entered an Ursuline convent in Poland at age 21, taking the name Maria Ursula of Jesus. She taught in a girls' school for 20 years and in 1907 went to St. Petersburg, Russia, to supervise a new school. She was expelled from Russia at the beginning of World War I, spent the war in Sweden and returned to Poland in 1920. In 1923, she founded the Ursulines of the Agonizing Heart of Jesus. As the order expanded, the Vatican asked her to live in Rome, where she died in 1939. We remember her on May 29.



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Puzzle

Using the hints provided, put a T next to the sentences that are true and an F next to the ones that are false. Put the correct answer at the end of the false sentences.

1. ___ The blind man thought Jesus was a rabbi. _____ (John 9:17)
2. ___ Some people at the Temple wanted to stone Jesus. _____ (John 10:33)
3. ___ The apostles asked if the man was born blind because of sin. _____ (John 9:2)
4. ___ The blind man's parents were afraid to answer the Pharisees' questions. _____ (John 9:21-23)



Answers: 1. F/propheth. 2. T. 3. T. 4. T.

Mission of the angels revealed in new book for children

Anthony DeStefano celebrates the mystery and history of the angels, and their role in our lives

A new children's book that unveils the majestic creation and mission of the angels has just been released by Sophia Press.

With vivid imagery and rhyme, *New York Times* best-selling author Anthony DeStefano reflects on the mystery of *How Angels Got Their Wings*.

Other DeStefano books from Sophia Press include: *Joseph's Donkey*, *The Beggar and the Bluebird*, *The Seed Who Was Afraid to be Planted*, *The Grumpy Old Ox*, *Our Lady's Wardrobe* and *Our Lady's Picture Book*.

In his latest, DeStefano describes the awe-inspiring sight of myriads of angels in heaven.

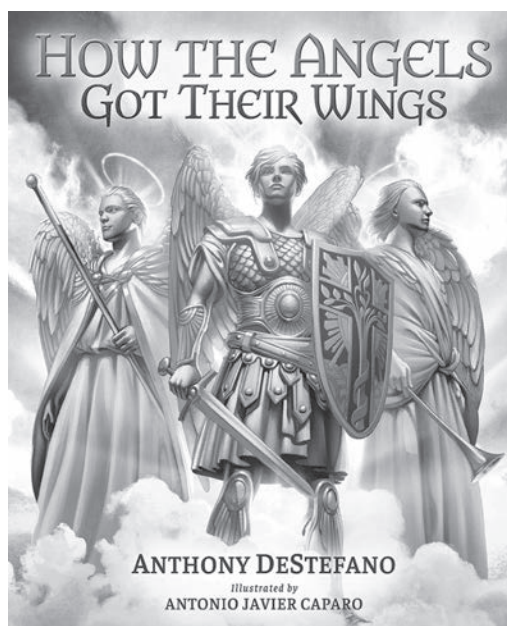
Children will learn thrilling biblical stories about the Archangels — Michael, who protects us from evil, Raphael, who brings God's healing, and Gabriel, the messenger of the Annunciation. They will come to realize that they are never alone because their Guardian Angel is always watching over them.

With child-like simplic-

ity and wonder, DeStefano also relates the story of the good angels who are faithful to God and the rebellious angels that St. Michael drove out of heaven.

Readers will happily discover the role of angels in their lives as protectors, who aid them in fighting temptation and intercede for them on their journeys to salvation. In this richly illustrated book, children will also encounter the blessing, hope, and consolation that angels impart to us in times of joy and times of sorrow.

A valuable tool for teaching children about our faith, this story also reveals how hosts of angels gather at Church during the Consecration and in the presence of the Holy Eucharist. Additionally, children will learn how angels help us to spread the good news, and teach us love and sacrifice.



The story concludes with "A Prayer to All Angels," invoking the Archangels, Guardian Angels, and Our Lady Queen of the Angels with the innocence of a child.

Movie Ratings



Adults and Adolescents

The Bad Guys (PG)
Sonic the Hedgehog 2 (PG)



Adults

Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore (PG-13)
Father Stu (R)
Morbius (PG-13)
Turning Red (PG)
Windfall (R)



Limited Adult Audience

All the Old Knives (R)
Ambulance (R)



Morally Offensive

The Northman (R)

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

Author delivers masterpiece of saints and martyrs of England

While those fighting for religious freedom today in the United States aren't (literally) losing their heads over their fidelity to the Catholic faith, readers may certainly draw a parallel — and incredible inspiration — from the those martyrs who did pay the ultimate price over the centuries in England.

Their stories are told in the new book, *Faith of Our Fathers*:

A History of True England (Ignatius Press), by Joseph Pearce, who is no stranger to the tales of the faithful in England, having authored biographies of Oscar Wilde, J.R.R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, G. K. Chesterton and Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

The Catholic Church has been a part of English history since the arrival of Christian missionaries to Roman Britain in the first century AD through many people, including Joseph of Arimathea, according to some legends.

England was evangelized in these early centuries to such an extent that, by the time the Romans withdrew in the fifth century, the Celtic population was largely Catholic. The Marian apparition of Our Lady of Walsingham solidified the country's tie to the faith and the early Church grew under

holy kings.

Faith of Our Fathers tells the tale of how the Catholic heart was ripped from the people of England against their will and in spite of their heroic resistance to the reign of the tyrannical Tudors. England was once again a land of saints, though it was now a land of martyrs, Catholic priests and laity being put to death for practicing the faith.

Pearce, author of numerous literary works and editor of the Ignatius Critical Editions series, weaves exciting, faith-filled stories, those that make up the history of England, of Catholics fighting relentlessly against tyranny in *Faith of Our Fathers*.

"Highest praise to Joseph Pearce for giving all the English-speaking people a true understanding of who they are by showing them from whence they came," said Christopher Check, president of Catholic Answers. "If there is another book that makes so clear and with so much eloquence the Catholic heart and soul of Shakespeare's 'sceptered isle,' I don't know it."

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FR. ELSKAMP

From page 10

M.) Marling was scouting recruits for the diocese, because he didn't have enough priests," said Fr. Elskamp. "So during my second year of theology, I petitioned to become a seminarian for Jefferson City."

Bishop Marling, founding bishop of the diocese, was pleased to accept him.

Bishop Clarence G. Isenmann, now deceased, of Columbus, ordained Fr. Elskamp a transitional deacon in 1961.

Bishop Egidio Vagnozzi, now deceased, who was apostolic delegate to the United States, ordained him to the Holy Priesthood on May 26, 1962.

"My whole family came from all over the place — from east and west," Fr. Elskamp noted.

He traveled back to Minnesota for about three weeks of resting and visiting with family and friends before reporting to St. Mary (now Holy Family) Parish in Hannibal.

Having avoided teaching high school in his home diocese, Fr. Elskamp found himself teaching at the former McCooey High School in Hannibal, the former Holy Rosary High School in Monroe City, and the former St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary high school in Hannibal.

He also served for many years as chairman of the diocesan Liturgical Commission, then as director of the diocesan Diaconate Program, overseeing the discernment and formation of men who were preparing to be ordained permanent deacons for the diocese.

"That involved a lot of time and a lot of driving and a lot of teaching," he said.

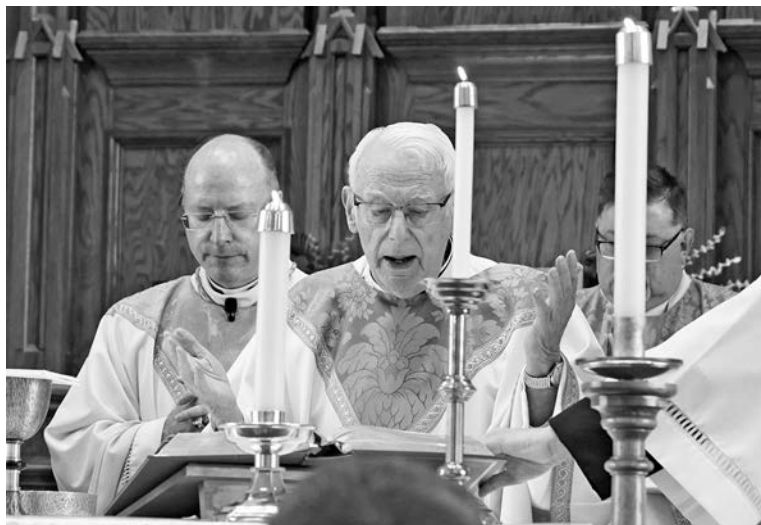
All the while, he retained his love for parish ministry.

Anybody home?

Monsignor Donald Lammers, P.A. and several other friends from Fr. Elskamp's priest support group arrived at his rectory one day for a visit.

They rang the doorbell several times and waited for an answer. Nothing.

"What if he's dead?" said Msgr. Lammers, who started looking for another way into



Father Frederick Elskamp prays part of the Eucharistic Prayer during this year's Chrism Mass, celebrated on April 12 in St. Andrew Church in Holts Summit.

— Photo by Jay Nies

the locked home.

Panicking, he eventually heaved himself through an open window and in over the kitchen sink.

"Fr. Fred was simply taking a nap and didn't hear the doorbell," recalled another member of that priest group, Father Michael Coleman.

The group, which gradually grew, has been a tremendous source of strength and affirmation for its members.

"We pray together all the time," said Fr. Elskamp. "We support each other, and yes, we sometimes complain about things together. That's important, too."

"You'll do okay"

Fr. Elskamp remains amazed and grateful for the generosity and dedication of so many people he got to work with in parishes, including music directors and accompanists.

One of his favorite songs is "Father, We Thank Thee," a first-century Eucharistic hymn from the *Didache*, the Church's oldest catechism.

"I hope to have 'Give thanks always' inscribed on my tombstone," he said, echoing 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Although retired from being a pastor, he is still very much a priest. He offers Mass daily and still fills-in from time to time in nearby parishes.

"I pray for the Holy Spirit to continue coming up with His surprises," he stated.

He's grateful for any prayers people are willing to offer on his behalf.

"I sure hope people pray for

me as I get older," he said. "I want to continue serving as long as I can."

He's convinced that God is still calling young men to the Priesthood.

"I think maybe we're coming into a new phase," he stated. "Maybe as the Church becomes more and more — I dare say, persecuted, quite frankly — people might respond as they have in places like Poland and instinctively look toward true values and away from secularism."

Fr. Elskamp held onto the multivolume *Summa Theologica* set he got from his college professor until a few years ago, when he placed it on a pick-up table at the Priests' Day of Recollection.

"They're in Latin, so they have limited appeal," he noted.

He doesn't know which of his fellow priests picked up the books, but he's happy that they've found a good new home.

"I'm getting rid of many things, especially books, because I'm getting old," he said. "Every priest has books that he really loved. He wonders what is going to happen to the wonderful books. I've given some away. I'll probably give more away."

If Fr. Elskamp could go back 60 years and say just one thing to his newly ordained self, it would be: "Be prepared for lots of joy, a lot of trials and your quota of suffering. And being prepared, you'll do okay."

"That's what happened," he said. "I've been happy. And what I mostly feel now is gratitude."

Daily Readings

Sunday, May 15

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 14:21-27
Ps. 145:8-13
Rv. 21:1-5a
Jn. 13:31-33a, 34-35

Sunday, May 22

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Ps. Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
Rv. 21:10-14, 22-23
Jn. 14:23-29

Monday, May 16

Acts 14:5-18
Ps. 115:1-4, 15-16
Jn. 14:21-26

Monday, May 23

Acts 16:11-15
Ps. 149:1b-6a, 9b
Jn. 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday, May 17

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

Tuesday, May 24

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

Wednesday, May 18

St. John I, Pope and martyr
Acts 15:1-6
Ps. 122:1-5
Jn. 15:1-8

Wednesday, May 25

St. Bede the Venerable, priest and doctor of the Church; St. Gregory VII, Pope; St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, virgin
Acts 17:15, 22-18:1
Ps. 148:1-2, 11-14
Jn. 16:12-15

Thursday, May 19

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

Thursday, May 26

St. Philip Neri, priest
Acts 18:1-8
Ps. 98:1-4
Jn. 16:16-20

Friday, May 20

St. Bernardine of Siena, priest
Acts 15:22-31
Ps. 57:8-10, 12
Jn. 15:12-17

Friday, May 27

St. Augustine of Canterbury, bishop
Acts 18:9-18
Ps. 47:2-7
Jn. 16:20-23

Saturday, May 21

St. Christopher Magallanes, priest, and companions, martyrs
Acts 16:1-10
Ps. 100:1b-3, 5
Jn. 15:18-21

Saturday, May 28

Acts 18:23-28
Ps. 47:2-3, 8-10
Jn. 16:23b-28

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.

FR. DOYLE

From page 8

readings, and about 10 of us attend. We also had ashes on Ash Wednesday. (Wausau, Wisconsin)

A. Your question indicates a great desire to participate in the Mass, and I am edified by the effort you are making to do so.

The Sunday obligation is explained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 2181, as follows: "The faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor."

It seems to me, from a distance, that your age and the difficulty of transportation would qualify as "serious reasons." But I think that you will feel better if you speak to your pastor and have him tell you that himself. (It might also be that he knows of volunteer drivers in your parish who could bring you to Mass on days when you would like to go and feel that your health allows.)

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

Pope tells Russian patriarch they are not 'clerics of the state'

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Vatican City
Warning that the Russian Orthodox patriarch should not "turn himself into Putin's altar boy," Pope Francis also said he would like to go to Moscow to meet Vladimir Putin in an attempt to end the conflict in Ukraine.

The pope reiterated that he

would not be going to Kyiv "for now," but "I first must go to Moscow, I must first meet Putin," he said in an interview with the Italian newspaper, *Corriere della Sera*, published May 3. Vatican News also published most of the interview.

Pope Francis said he sent a message through Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, "20 days after the war"

started, to be delivered to Putin telling him, "I was ready to go to Moscow."

"We still have not had a response, and we are still being persistent, even though I am afraid Putin may not be able to and may not want to have this meeting right now," the pope said. "I am doing what I can. If Putin were to open the door..."

"But so much brutality, how do you not try to stop it? We saw the same thing with Rwanda," he said, referring to the genocide against members of the Tutsi minority ethnic group in 1994, when at least 500,000 people were killed in about 100 days.

Pope Francis also provided more details about a video call he had with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow in mid-March. "I spoke with Kirill for 40 minutes via Zoom. He spent the first 20 minutes holding a piece of paper reading all the reasons for

the war."

"I listened to him, and I told him, 'I don't know anything about this. Brother, we are not clerics of the state, we cannot use the language of politics, but of Jesus. We are shepherds of the same holy people of God. That is why we must seek the path of peace, to cease the blast of weapons,'" he said.

"The patriarch cannot turn himself into Putin's altar boy," he said.

The meeting that had been planned between the pope and patriarch in Jerusalem June 14, and has since been canceled, had nothing to do with the conflict in Ukraine, the pope said. But even the patriarch now sees that any kind of meeting of theirs could send "an ambiguous sign."

Patriarch Kirill has been an outspoken supporter of Putin's

war on Ukraine, and the Vatican's diplomatic team believed such a meeting could lead to "much confusion," Pope Francis had told *La Nación*, the Argentine newspaper, in an April 21 interview.

When Russia invaded Ukraine Feb. 24, the pope called Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, he told *Corriere della Sera*.

"Instead, I didn't call Putin. I had heard from him in December for my birthday, but this time, no, I didn't call him," he said. He explained that he preferred to make a more "clear gesture that the whole world could see and that is why I went to the Russian ambassador" to the Holy See, Aleksandr Avdeyev, Feb. 25.

He said he asked the ambassador "that they explain, (and) I told him, 'Please, stop this.'"



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