

A day to celebrate

Several hundred people gathered on a warm June evening to celebrate the cultures, stories and resilience of the refugee community in and near Columbia.

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July 8, 2022 • Vol. 66 No. 1

The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Thanksgiving, renewed resolve in light of Roe's demise



People gather outside the Missouri Supreme Court Building in Jefferson City in a Decision Day Rally on June 24, the day the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 1973 decision that legalized abortion-on-demand throughout the country. — Photo by Jay Nies

Bishop McKnight and other pro-life advocates say the key is to stay focused on helping pregnant mothers in need

By Jay Nies

Just as a thunderstorm soaked participants in the Midwest March for Life in Jefferson City this April, a light rain helped cool those who were gathered outside the Missouri Supreme Court Building for a rally the afternoon of June 24.

"Tears from heaven, once again," stated state Rep. Sara Walsh of Ashland. "But this time, tears of joy."

It was the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

It was also the day the U.S. Supreme Court, in handing down its *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, reversed the 1973 and 1992 rulings that legalized and solidified abortion-on-demand throughout the United States.

The Court's concurrent 6-3 and 5-4 decisions in *Dobbs* returned regulation of abortion to the states.

Missouri had already passed a law in 2019 that would immediately outlaw elective abortions if the Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision were ever overturned.

Missouri Gov. Michael Parson and Attorney General Eric Schmidt on June 24 instructed the state's reviser of statutes to act upon the "trigger ban," making Missouri the first abortion-free state in the country.

The quick turn of events brought occasion to pause, remember, give thanks and celebrate before looking to the future and diving back into the work of creating a culture where abortion is not only illegal but unthinkable.

See LIFE, page 11

Diocesan Mission Collection helping to stir the faith in missionary priests' home dioceses

To be taken up in all parishes weekend of July 16-17

By Jay Nies

Within 20 years of Belgian Jesuits bringing Christianity to the Oraon Tribal people in what is now Father Alex Ekka's home diocese of Jashpur, India, boys in that area began wondering if they were being called to Priesthood.

"The missionaries originally said these Tribals can never become priests until there have been at least 100 years of Christianity in this place," Fr. Ekka said of the period that began in the early 1900s.

That first generation of Oraon Catholics and their immediate descendants proved the missionaries wrong.

"Many Tribal girls and boys did become nuns and priests," said Fr. Ekka. "And now, Bishop (Emmanuel) Kerketta (of Jashpur) ordains at least 15 boys to the Priesthood each year."

Some of those priests also become missionaries, in-

cluding Fr. Ekka.

"My bishop is very mission-minded," stated Fr. Ekka, who has been serving in this diocese since 2010 and is now pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Eldon and Our Lady of Snows Parish in Mary's Home.

He is one of 18 missionary priests from 11 overseas dioceses who are now working with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and the local priests to meet the needs of the people in this diocese.

"As a young diocese founded in 1956, we have always been dependent upon missionary priests serving us from the very beginning," Bishop McKnight noted. "And we continue to be dependent upon them today. So we are very grateful."

He pointed out that much of the money from this year's Diocesan Mission Collection, which will be taken in parishes

See MISSIONS, page 17

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

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07/08/22

Pray for deceased priests

July 12 — Fr. Henry J. Figge, Immaculate Conception, Owensville (1978)

July 14 — Fr. John P. Walsh, St. Joseph, Westphalia (1992);
Msgr. Raphael P. Keyes, St. Anthony, Camdenton; Our Lady of the Snows, Climax Springs; and St. Bernadette, Hermitage (2010)

New online form for submitting names for the People Page

The Catholic Missouriian is making changes to how it accepts information for its People Page, beginning Aug. 1, 2022.

From that time forward, all names for the People Page will need to be submitted electronically, using a special interactive form.

The user-friendly form can be found at: <https://diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence/>.

Parishes or individuals will use the form to submit:

- milestone wedding anniversaries (increments of 5 years from 10 through 60, and increments of 1 year from 60 years forward);

- Birthdays of 90 years or more;

- Baptisms;

- Sacraments of initiation;
- Church-sanctioned weddings;

- Elections or appointments of parishioners to offices for parish- or Church-related organizations; and

- special honors bestowed on parishioners.

It is important to note that wedding anniversaries will be published only in increments of 5 years until 60 years of marriage, at which time wedding anniversaries can be published each year.

People who need assistance submitting their information should contact their parish secretary.

The changes were approved by Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

Men's and women's Cursillo weekends coming up

Socrates said that an unexamined life is not worth living. Yet, in order to do this, one has to deliberately carve out a block of time to study oneself and the world with a goal of becoming a more balanced, better human being.

Making a Cursillo Weekend is a once in a lifetime opportunity to examine one's life and figure out what is truly important.

Cursillo is a short course for all adult Catholics that originated in Spain and quickly spread through most of the world. It involves spending an extended weekend in a quiet and reflective environment with other Catholics guided

by a priest, a deacon and other laity.

This team provides for your spiritual and physical needs while you explore the question, "What is a life well lived?"

Cursillo Men's Weekend #70 will be held from 6:30

p.m. on Thursday, July 14, through 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 17.

Both will be held at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, 3351 E. Gans Road in Columbia.

Visit diojeffcity.org/cursillo for information.

Diocesan Mission Collection

Dear Friends in Christ,

Next weekend is our annual Diocesan Mission Collection. Currently we have 18 priests serving in our diocese, representing 11 dioceses outside the United States. The funds from the collection help aid the dioceses that make a sacrifice by sharing their priests with our diocese.

Alongside the financial assistance provided to each diocese, we also support many special projects throughout India and Africa. Last year in the Diocese of Jaspur, India, we finished a school and church, and built a water well. In Africa, we built a new school and water well. Many young children spend hours each day fetching water. Water wells built near rural villages allow children to spend more time in school each day. We are nourishing families with some of the basic necessities we take for granted.

Please pray for the mission dioceses and the people we serve. We can continue to empower people to work together to change the world in which they live. Consider your own call to be a missionary and disciple of Christ: You are the neighbor, the one who loves God by helping those in need. I ask that you be generous to the Diocesan Mission Collection. I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



W. Shawn McKnight

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

Sansone Schlappizzi to lead July 16 pilgrimage to Laurie shrine

DATE: July 16
TIME: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church invites all for a pilgrimage on Saturday, July 16, with the nationally acclaimed speaker, television contributor, radio host and life activist Deby Sansone Schlappizzi.

She will speak on "Our Lady, Queen of Splendor" and "Live Your Splendor, Acknowledge the Truth, Radiate Your Faith."

The pilgrimage day starts at 8:30 a.m. and includes the two speaker sessions, the sacrament of Reconciliation, eucharistic adoration, benediction, Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet culminating in Mass at 4:30 p.m. Lunch is provided.

The Shrine is located at the Lake of the Ozarks, 176 Marian Drive, Laurie, MO 65037. Call 573-374-6279 for more information.

Resurrection Cemetery

Monday, July 25, will be the SUMMER CEMETERY CLEAN-UP at Resurrection and St. Peter Cemeteries in Jefferson City. All floral arrangements and decorations must be removed before this date, and should be done by a person designated by the family. Unauthorized persons found removing flowers and decorations from graves will be prosecuted. NOTE: Saddles or flowers in permanent vases that are part of the monument will not be removed.



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"A diocesan paper serves as a bond of unity by publishing diocesan happenings and promulgating official regulations and decrees. It also plays a teaching role by reporting notable events of a religious and secular nature, and interpreting them in the light of Christian principles."

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

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Several processions for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ



LOOSE CREEK: Father Tony Rinaldo, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Loose Creek and St. Louis of France Parish in Bonnots Mill, leads a procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament around Immaculate Conception Church. — Photos by Janice Backes



JEFFERSON CITY: Father Jeremy Secrist, pastor of St. Peter Parish, leads a procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament outside St. Peter Church.

— Photos from the St Peter Church Facebook page



WESTPHALIA: Father Anthony Viviano, who recently became pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Tipton and Annunciation Parish in California, leads a procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament outside St. Joseph Church in Westphalia.

— Photo from the St. Joseph Catholic Church, Westphalia, MO Facebook Page



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

JULY

Appointments are not normally scheduled in the month of July.

July 24 Immaculate Conception 150th anniversary Mass, 10 a.m., St. James

July 28 Camp Tolton Visit, 11:30 a.m., Clarence

Bishop McKnight's July prayer intention for our Local Church

For our nation, for the integrity of our judicial system, and that all branches of government be dedicated to seeking the common good and protecting the dignity and rights of the human person, from conception to natural death.



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

Por nuestra nación, por la integridad de nuestro sistema judicial, y que todas las poderes de gobierno se dediquen a buscar el bien común y proteger la dignidad y los derechos de la persona humana, desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural.

I.C. School in J.C. gets Gold-Level Recognition for Positive Behavior Support

First non-public school in Missouri to receive organization's highest honor

By Jay Nies

Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City has set a new gold standard for reinforcing positive behavior among all of its students.

It recently became the first non-public school in Missouri to achieve Gold-Level Recognition from Missouri Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support (MO SW-PBS).

"School-wide Positive Behavior Support is a framework for creating safe and orderly learning environments in schools while improving the social-emotional outcomes for students," according to the organization's website (pbismissouri.org).

Rooted in research and best practices, it focuses on developing clear expectations for behavior, consistently reinforcing those expectations at all grade levels, and compiling systematic data to help address problems.

"I'm not gonna' lie: we're pretty excited about it!" said Heather Schrimpf, principal of Immaculate Conception School.

The school will enter its 11th year of implementing the program this fall.

"We have seen a large decline in our discipline issues," Mrs. Schrimpf noted. "Our office referrals have decreased immensely and it really has created a positive learning environment in the school and a positive work environment, too."

The program offers a framework that schools tailor to their own needs.

Each participating school begins by identifying between three and five behavior objectives for their students.

I.C. School chose the acronym "H.A.L.O.," which stands for Having responsibility, Acting safely, Living Christ-like, and Offering respect.

All four of those behaviors, known as pillars, have their own set of expectations for every setting in the school.

"So we teach these expectations in the classroom, the hallways, the cafeteria, the playground and the church," said Mrs. Schrimpf.

"The Living Christ-like piece is part of how we make it uniquely Catholic," she noted. "Everything we do has a God aspect to it, and our matrix of behaviors that we teach has all of our expectations in it."

I.C. students in all grade levels receive a thorough introduction or review of the H.A.L.O pillars and associated expectations during the first week of each school year.

"We do this so everyone is on the same page of what we expect here at school," said Mrs. Schrimpf.

If any older students object to reviewing expectations they've already committed to memory, she tells them that everyone could use a reminder and that there are usually new students in their grade each year.

"So why don't you help the new students see what we mean when we teach these pillars?" she suggests to them.

The road to gold

Achieving Gold-Level Recognition means that a school has completed the requirements for all three tiers of implementing School-wide Positive Behavior Support.

"Tier 1 deals with the majority of your students," Mrs. Schrimpf noted. "It's the reward side of things."

It involves teaching the expectations, acknowledging good behavior and providing



Heather Schrimpf, principal of Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City; first-grade teacher Leah Pickering, a Tier 2 coach for Missouri Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support at I.C. School; and special education teacher Doris Lueckenhoff, a Tier 2 team member display the certificate and banner they received June 14 for the school achieving Gold-Level Recognition from Missouri Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support (MO SW-PBS).

— Photos by Dr. Erin Vader



consistent support for preventing unwanted behaviors.

"This is basically the foundation of the whole thing," she said.

Tier 2 involves a team of teachers and staff working together to provide additional support for students who are not as successful or are at risk of developing problem behaviors.

"On that team, we have a teacher from each department, the principal, our school counselor and our two special-education teachers," said Mrs. Schrimpf.

The team meets twice each month during the school year

to look at the data and to determine whether individual students need additional academic or behavioral support.

"That could be in the form of a simple check-in/check-out system with a teacher and a student," Mrs. Schrimpf noted. "We would monitor the student's progress and keep track of it."

It could also involve having groups of students who have difficulty working with each other, meet regularly in a group with a school counselor to help them develop better social skills.

After-school tutoring is also an option for some students.

"That's where our parish has gotten involved, and it's awesome," said Mrs. Schrimpf. "We've had parishioners volunteer to help students get their homework completed, review math facts and things like that."

Tier 2 also involves reviewing students' attendance, health-room visits, grades and behaviors.

I.C. School adopted the Tier 3 systems this past school year.

"Tier 3 accounts for roughly 1 to 3 percent of the student population," said Mrs. Schrimpf. "These are children for whom all of the interventions and accommodations in Tier 2 have not been successful."

It involves working with parents, teachers, possibly a student's pediatrician and maybe an outside professional counselor.

Big investment

This program gives teachers and staff straightforward directives for addressing unwanted behaviors and helping to keep them from escalating.

"It gives teachers a clear policy for what needs to be handled in the classroom and what needs to be handled by a member of the administration," said Mrs. Schrimpf.

It also includes a process for gathering and analyzing data for each grade level, such as where and when behavior problems tend to take place.

"We give a report to the teachers at each grade level, along with information about interventions that have been successful," said Mrs. Schrimpf.


Missouri School-wide Positive Behavior Support is a product of collaboration between the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the University of Missouri Center for School-wide Positive Behavior Support and the Missouri Regional Professional Development Centers.

Representatives of I.C. School and Dr. Erin Vader Ph.D., diocesan superintendent of Catholic Schools, accepted the recognition at a June 14 award ceremony in Columbia.

She said implementing School-wide Positive Behavior Support is a lot of work, especially in the first few years.

She said it's definitely worth the extra effort.

"A lot of it has to do with having conversations with the students and developing positive relationships," she stated.

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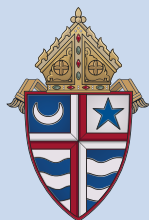
To the World

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by providing resources for projects such as
building a chapel in India, digging a water well
in Africa, or building schools in both countries.
Your contributions also support ongoing mission
projects in the Philippines.

Use the envelope provided in this week's issue of
The Catholic Missourian, or go to
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Diocesan Mission Collection

July 16-17



DIOCESE OF
Jefferson City

Filled with gratitude, Fr. Donald Antweiler settles into retirement

Will continue residing in Jefferson City and writing crossword puzzles

By Jay Nies

Father Donald Antweiler doesn't much care for the title "Reverend."

He prefers "Father," "Servant" or "Pastor," which is Latin for "Shepherd."

"As a priest, you're always a servant," he said. "You are ordained to serve. You're a servant of the people in the parish. You're a father who's devoted to his faith family, which is what I see the parish as being."

Fr. Antweiler, who grew up near Missouri's Capital City and most recently served as pastor of that city's Immaculate Conception Parish, retired from active ministry on June 30, his 75th birthday.

"A wise person once told me, 'Don't cling. You will know when it's time to leave,'" he said. "And I know it's time for me to leave parish ministry."

"I think the bishop would have been happy to have me stay on for another year," he noted, "but I just don't have the energy. To my regret, that's

just the truth."

The administrative responsibilities were wearing Fr. Antweiler down, as was COVID-19, which he helped navigate the parish and its school through, and which he also contracted during the pandemic.

"But you know, you take it as it comes — that's what I always tell people," he said. "With the Lord at your side and your roots in Him, very good things can happen."

Fr. Antweiler plans to remain in Jefferson City but to keep a low profile for a while as Immaculate Conception parishioners get to know and love their new pastor, Father Matthew Flatley.

Fr. Antweiler wants to continue producing his "Across the Diocese Crossword Puzzle," which has been a reader favorite in *The Catholic Missourian* since the puzzle's debut on Feb. 9, 2001.

"So many people have asked me if I still plan to do the puzzle," he said. "I do enjoy it, but if it were just for myself, I wouldn't keep doing it."

"It's a ministry," he said. "It's a way of reaching out, where you're making an impact with

people. So as long as people enjoy it, I want to keep doing it."

"Fun and fulfilling"

Fr. Antweiler grew up on a 200-acre farm just outside Jefferson City.

He studied at St. Peter Interparish School; St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Hannibal; and Cardinal Glennon College and Kenrick Seminary, both in St. Louis.

He served for six months as a deacon at Holy Family Parish in Hannibal.

Ordained to the Holy Priesthood in 1973, he served as an associate pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia and Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Boonville.

As a pastor, he served for five years at Our Lady of Snows Parish in Mary's Home; three years at Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Vienna; nine years at St. Patrick Parish in Rolla; eight years at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in St. Thomas; eight years at Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City and St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek; five years at Immaculate Conception Parish in Loose Creek and St. Louis of France Parish in Bonnots Mill; and for the past seven years at Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City.

"Most of the places I've been, it's been fun," he said. "Fun and fulfilling!"

He recalls being amazed at the scope of the diversity of parishioners at Sacred Heart in Columbia.

"We had people from all over the world," he said. "We'd have someone writing their dissertation in Latin, we'd have the head of the Physics Department, and we'd have people who never learned to read or write. We had farm people and city people. It was amazing."

As associate pastor in Boonville, he also served as the Catholic chaplain at the Boonville Correctional Center and occasionally offered Mass in St. Joseph Church in Fayette.

"St. Peter and Paul is a great



Father Donald Antweiler

parish," he said. "I had fun there. They even had me play the role of a famous Civil War raider in a play."

Our Lady of Snows Parish in Mary's Home was his first pastorate.

"As pastor of that unincorporated little town, I was the default recipient for mail addressed to the mayor or other 'city officials,'" he recalled.

The parish was famous for having consistently the largest grossing parish picnic in the diocese.

Fr. Antweiler described the parishioners there as "real salt-of-the-earth people."

"They were very country folks, even though a lot of them worked in Jefferson City," he said. "Their roots were in the soil, that's where their identity was, where their faith home was."

He enjoyed his time in Vienna, which lasted about three years.

"I got to celebrate my 10th anniversary as a priest with the good people of Visitation Parish and got to play Abe Lincoln in a town parade," he recalled.

With Rolla came the challenge of nearly doubling the size of the church building and of buying a new, on-campus location for the Rolla Newman Center.

It was also the first time Fr. Antweiler had associate pastors to work with, including Father James Finder and the later Fa-

ther Charles Pardee.

Again, he was amazed at the diversity of the city and its parish.

"Of course, you have the (Missouri University of Science and Technology) there and the U.S. Geological Survey," he said. "And it's right at the crossroads of so many cultures. That made it a very interesting and exciting time for me."

"Exciting challenge"

Life slowed down a bit for Fr. Antweiler during his time in St. Thomas in rural Cole County.

"St. Thomas the Apostle is a wonderful little parish," he said. "In some ways, it was a respite for me. I have many happy memories from there."

Monroe City and Indian Creek brought him into contact with some "extremely open and inviting people."

"That's how they were: very generous, very active, always inviting of other people," he said. "They were really glue for that community."

"When they had their high-school prom, the young people of the parish would come to Saturday night Mass first — and bring their Protestant boyfriends and girlfriends," he said. "It was a big thing, and we had prayers for them."

He called St. Stephen in Indian Creek "the oldest and one of the most active and alive parishes in the diocese."

He joyfully reminisced about celebrating with Monroe County parishioners the 150th anniversary of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton's birth and baptism in Brush Creek.

Born into a family of enslaved people, Fr. Tolton eventually came the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States. He is under serious consideration for being declared a saint.

"We had a big banner out over the main street into town," Fr. Antweiler said of the 2004 event. "People from all over came to the celebration."

As pastor in Loose Creek and Bonnots Mill, Fr. Antweiler marveled at how two

See FR. ANTWEILER, page 15

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Actor is 'transformed' by portraying Fr. Tolton in theater production

By George P. Matysek Jr.
Catholic News Service

Baltimore

Jim Coleman wasn't at all interested in portraying Venerable Father Augustus Tolton in a national traveling theater production.

While he found the story of America's first recognized Black Catholic priest inspirational, the veteran actor of more than two decades was more interested in television and film roles.

"Theater was something I did at the very beginning of my career," recalled Coleman, best known for playing Roger Parker in the Nickelodeon hit show "My Brother and Me."

At the insistence of a friend, Coleman auditioned for the part with St. Luke Productions. He was "greatly relieved," however, when he didn't get the role.

"A few months after that, I was offered the part," said Coleman, a former medic in the U.S. Army who lives in Orlando, Florida. "I prayed about it with my wife and decided to

give it a chance."

Nearly four years later and after nearly 300 performances of "Tolton: From Slave to Priest," Coleman said his life has been transformed.

People have approached him after performances with tears in their eyes, overwhelmed by Fr. Tolton's faith and courage. Seminarians have told him the production encouraged them to continue on their own journey to the priesthood.

And former seminarians who are now priests have arranged to have the production performed at their parishes.



Jim Coleman portrays Venerable Father Augustus Tolton in a national traveling theater production of "Tolton: From Slave to Priest." Father Tolton, born into slavery, was the first recognized Black American ordained to the priesthood and is a candidate for sainthood.

— CNS photo/courtesy St. Luke Productions via Catholic Review

"It's changed my heart in ways I couldn't even imagine," Coleman told The Josephite Harvest, magazine of the St. Joseph's Society of the Sacred Heart, or the Josephites.

"With each performance, I pray to Fr. Tolton and I ask that he speaks through me that I become a vessel for his story," the actor added.

Fr. Tolton was born into a family of enslaved people in 1854 in part of what is now the Jefferson City diocese.

His widowed mother, Martha Tolton, escaped Missouri to Illinois, rowing to freedom with Augustus and her two other children across the Mississippi River in a leaky boat as Confederate soldiers shot at her.

Augustus, a faith-filled young man, felt called to the priesthood, but could not find a seminary in the United States that would accept a Black man.

"All he wanted was to serve God," Coleman said. "To be denied that was just heart-breaking."

Fr. Tolton prepared for the priesthood in Rome, where he was ordained in 1886.

He was the first recognizable Black American ordained to the priesthood. (Josephite Father Charles Uncles would become the first Black American ordained on American soil when he was ordained at the Basilica of the National Shrine

of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore in 1891.)

Although he had expected to serve as a missionary in Africa, Fr. Tolton was sent back to the United States after his ordination. He was declared venerable by Pope Francis in 2019, and his sainthood cause is under consideration at the Vatican.

Coleman believes much of Fr. Tolton's courage came from his mother.

"His mother prayed for him," he said. "When he wanted to give up, she told him he couldn't give up. She told him that Jesus fell when he carried his cross and that he wasn't carrying a burden half as heavy."

Acting isn't Coleman's only

responsibility with the Tolton production. He also drives the truck carrying the stage set — building the onstage scenery and breaking it down, loading it into the truck and driving onto the next location. The only other person with him is a stage manager.

"It gives me energy to go around doing the show," he said. "I absolutely love it."

Coleman, the son of a Baptist minister, said the Tolton story isn't just for

Catholics. It carries a universal message.

"It's amazing how once you sit through this story, you understand that it's about how we are all one," he said. "We're all one in Christ. There's only one race, and that's the human race."

For more information about the traveling production of "Tolton: From Slave to Priest," visit the website of St. Luke Productions, <https://bit.ly/3nH5scA>.

Matysek is a contributor to The Josephite Harvest, magazine of the Josephites. He is managing editor of the Catholic Review, news outlet of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Stars and Stripes



Flags of the United States placed by the St. Brendan Cemetery Board for the weekend of Independence Day adorn the main thoroughfare of the St. Brendan Cemetery in Mexico on July 4. Previously, the parish Youth Group spent an evening cleaning the cemetery grounds.

— Photo from the St. Brendan Catholic Church Mexico, MO Facebook page

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QUESTION CORNER

Baptism and non-Catholic parents; forgetting the Eucharistic fast

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Q. A friend of mine asked me recently to find out if the parish I was raised in would baptize her new baby. My friend is not a Catholic, so I was surprised that she asked me this. The priest at my parish said that he could not baptize the baby because the parents were not Catholic. I was disappointed that the Catholic Church would turn away anyone seeking baptism. I think that the church should welcome people from all paths of life; that would open the way for them and eventually they might come to the church. I wondered what Jesus would do, and I think that he would baptize anyone who sought it, regardless of their faith. I am wondering what your take is on this. (New Albany, Indiana)

A. First off, let me clear up a misconception. There are some Catholics who believe that, if a child dies without ever having been baptized, that child cannot go to heaven. That is not true. At one time, it may have been the common belief of Catholics that an unbaptized child would go to “limbo,” a state of natural happiness but short of the glories of heaven.

But in 2007, the Vatican’s International Theological Commission, with the approval of Pope Benedict XVI, said that the concept of limbo reflected “an unduly restrictive view of salvation” and that the mercy of God offers good reason to hope that babies who die without being baptized can go to heaven.

As to your question about parents who are not Catholic wanting their child baptized, the relevant guideline is Canon 868 of the church’s Code of Canon Law, which states that “for an infant to be baptized licitly ... there must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion.”

Baptism involves the pledge of the parents to raise and educate their child in the beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith, and the baptismal ritual itself requires an affirmative response by the parents to that pledge.

Now I suppose that, theoretically, parents who were non-Catholics might have the firm intention of raising and educating their children as Catholics, though that does seem a bit unusual. But if that should be the case in this instance, I would suggest that you have the parents of the baby speak to the priest.

Q. Recently I graduated from high school, and I have a question about the eucharistic fast. This morning I went to the 7:30 Mass and had a cup of coffee with a protein shake in it before I left for church. The church was only a few minutes away, and I received Communion at the Mass, not thinking anything about the fast. Is this a mortal sin? It was a complete mistake, but I feel so horrible for accidentally disrespecting the Eucharist, and I would greatly appreciate your guidance. (City and state withheld)

A. Of course it’s not a mortal sin — or any sin at all. It was simply — as you said — a mistake, done without any thought at all. Sin requires a deliberate intention to do something wrong. And here is my question for you: What do you think God is really like?

For me, God is not some giant scorekeeper in the sky whose primary interest it is to keep track of rights and wrongs. God is the person who brought you into existence out of love, wants you to be happy here on earth and to be with him forever in heaven. So try to relax and know how much God loves you.

Women’s voices: Pope says he’ll add women to Dicastery for Bishops

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Francis said he plans to name two women to the committee that helps him choose bishops for the world’s Latin-rite dioceses.

In an interview July 2 with the Reuters news agency, the pope seemed to indicate the women would be members, not consultants or staff members, of the Dicastery for Bishops, which currently has only cardinals and bishops as members and five bishops and two priests as consultants.

“Two women will be appointed for the first time in the committee to elect bishops in the Congregation for Bishops,” Pope Francis told Philip Pullella, the Reuters’ Vatican correspondent.

“This way, things are opening up a bit,” the pope said when asked about expanding the role of women in church decision making.

Reuters published the pope’s remarks about women’s positions July 6.

Preparing nominations for the office of bishops is a long, multistep process. For most Latin-rite dioceses that are not in mission territories, the process begins with bishops submitting to their local archbishop the names of priests they think would be good bishops; once a year the bishops of the

province discuss the names submitted and forward recommendations to the nuncio.

The nuncio studies the lists, investigates further, solicits feedback from people who know the candidate and forwards his recommendations to the Dicastery for Bishops.

The prefect of the dicastery, currently Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet, can make recommendations directly to the pope about transferring a bishop from one diocese to another or to an archdiocese. But if the candidate is still a priest, the members of the dicastery — currently 17 cardinals and six bishops — must review the dossiers and vote on the names to recommend to the pope. Although many of the members do not live in Rome, they usually meet twice a month on Thursdays to deliberate.

The prefect presents the nominations to the pope, who makes the final decision.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, who has been a member of the dicastery since March 2021, told Catholic News Service, “The dicastery serves the church by assisting the discernment of the Holy Father regarding the appointment of bishops. I would welcome the presence of women and other laity who could enrich significantly that discernment.”

“As a member of the Coun-

cil for the Economy, a body of the Roman Curia that includes eight cardinals and seven non-ordained people — six of whom are women — I can testify that the faith, experience and expertise of the lay members are real gifts to the governance of the church,” Cardinal Tobin said.

Pope Francis did not give Reuters the names of the women he intends to name to the dicastery, nor did he say when they would be announced.

The pope’s new apostolic constitution on the Roman Curia said, “The dicastery deals with all matters concerning the appointment of diocesan and titular bishops, apostolic administrators and, in general, the provision of the particular churches. It does so by considering the proposals presented by the particular churches, the episcopal conferences and the papal representations, and after having consulted the executive officers of the respective episcopal conference and the metropolitan (archbishop).”

“In appropriate ways, it also engages in this process the members of the people of God of the dioceses in question,” the document added.

While the constitution opened almost all roles in the Roman Curia to lay men and women, it also reserved a special place for cardinals as the members of dicasteries.

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Aging and a season of fruitfulness

By Sr Constance Veit, ISP



With the Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v Wade*, June 24 will no doubt be remembered as a historic day by pro-life advocates the world over. I have to admit that my thoughts were elsewhere that day – focused on life's last stage – as my family bid farewell to a beloved uncle, our family patriarch.

As I tried to catch up on the news the day after his funeral, a column written by my good friend Kathryn Jean Lopez of the National Review Institute

caught my eye.

Opining on what she believes to be abortion's most detrimental effects on our society, Lopez wrote, "We are violent; we do not look at human beings as unique creations made with purpose and plan."

These sad words stood in stark contrast to my uncle's farewell celebration the day before. My uncle lived every stage of his life to the full for nearly 92 years. Though no one would have proposed him as a role model of healthy aging in terms of diet and exercise, his life was rich in relationships, purpose and faith until the very end.

An orthodontist for over 40 years, my uncle was remembered by former patients and their parents as kind, patient and

genuinely interested in the young people he served. He was involved in numerous professional organizations, local causes and educational institutions; volunteered as a Eucharistic minister at a local hospital well into his eighties and attended daily Mass until COVID-19 closed his parish doors in 2020.

Despite all of his accomplishments, what struck me most about my uncle was his generous spirit, upbeat demeanor and unselfish love for his family and friends. Nothing gave him greater pleasure than being surrounded by his children and grandchildren, yet his interest in others reached well beyond his family.

He was known to quietly assist people who could not afford dental care to obtain it from his friends, and he enjoyed mentoring young people in the pursuit of their dreams.

Although he never mastered the use

of a computer my uncle maintained ties with everyone he loved via telephone, especially during the pandemic.

He was also an avid reader and consumer of local and national news and tried his best to keep his wife grounded in reality despite her advancing dementia.

In his message for this year's celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, Pope Francis wrote that the ebbing of one's strength and the onset of illness in old age, together with the fast pace of the world, can lead seniors to implicitly accept the idea that they are useless. My uncle never succumbed to this temptation.

Pope Francis encourages seniors to remain active in their later years, especially from a spiritual standpoint. "We ought to cultivate our interior life through the as-

See SR. VEIT, page 18

How we live our lives online and offline

By Elise Italiano Ureneck
Catholic News Service



A few months back I had the opportunity to speak with a theologian who is doing some serious thinking about the ethics of technology and its broader effects on our understanding of ourselves and our neighbors.

Luis Vera, associate professor of theology at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland, writes and lectures on subjects including artificial intelligence and augmented reality. His research is focused on how the tools shape us, but also about how the Catholic tradition can orient our response to those pressures.

His observations were so thought-provoking, I wound up cutting my social media use cold turkey to evaluate my relationship to it.

Don't get me wrong. Vera did not say that these platforms were, by their nature, morally evil or that Catholics should flee from the "digital highways" that retired Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have said that we should evangelize.

Rather, he said something that pricked my conscience: "If more and more of our life is mediated by these social media platforms, the way we present ourselves before others has to play by their rules."

As he spoke, I did a superficial examination of conscience and concluded that I had a pretty good handle on things. But then he added one more thought. "The real question is, can you hack these platforms so that they do not affect the rest of your life? Can you use them in way that breaks the deeper rules of behavior that the platform presents to you?"

It was not so much what I was doing online as offline that stopped me in my tracks. The evidence presented itself fairly quickly against my initial assessment.

Perhaps the most glaring behavioral change I noticed was how often I pulled out my phone to photograph someone or something. Whether or not I was going to share a photo online, I was reflexively taking photos of scenery, meals and most worrisome -- my children.

That habit flew in the face of advice I had received from a former supervisor and mentor who advised me to take "mental pictures" of my children in their early years. Now that her children are grown, she likes to use her imagination and senses to recall special memories and moments from their youth.

I had hundreds of iPhone photos but was already struggling to re-create the moments she was referring to. Better to experience a moment than to photograph one I've missed, I thought.

I also had to acknowledge a pull toward materialism. Any Catholic woman who spends time on Instagram is served up accounts and ads for religious home goods, jewelry and mementos that promise to help you make your home a little sanctuary in a secular world.

But the more I scrolled, the more time I spent thinking about what I wanted to buy to create that home rather than, well, creating that home. The work of appointing a home is a worthy endeavor, and there's a lot to be said about the importance of a beautiful, ordered dwelling.

But the real dream of the "dream home" is the family life that takes place inside the walls, not what's hanging on them. It's the work and time put into creating moments of joy, strengthening bonds, modeling prayer and forgiveness.

See URENECK, page 15

REFLECTION

As I live and breathe

By Mark Saucier

When Moses was standing barefoot before the burning bush, getting his marching orders against Pharaoh, he asked, "Who shall I say sent me?"

The Voice then identifies itself as Yahweh: "This is My name forever, My title for all generations."

In the original Hebrew, Yahweh was written without vowels. YHWH was composed of aspirant consonants that mimicked breathing. The YH was pronounced while inhaling and the WH while exhaling.

It was no coincidence that the name for God was said in the act of breathing, for it was *ruach*, the breath of God, that swept across the Hebrew Scriptures.

It was God breathing life into Adam in Genesis, calling Elijah hiding in the cave, resurrecting the dry bones of Israel in Ezekiel.

There are other Hebrew names for God: Adonai, Elohim, El Shaddai. But YHWH is the one that appears over 6,800 times in the Hebrew Bible.

As the personal name of God, it is considered the holiest, and to this day, many devout Jews will not say it aloud.

But they can breathe it.

Our English word God seems more static, guttural, even harsher than Yahweh. It feels more distant, colder, more like a concept or a rank than something expressing the essence of life.

Perhaps that is why the word God has suffered an etymological degradation to common use as a reflexive curse, an exclamation of surprise, horror, and ironically even disbelief.

In our world today, probably the most common invocation of God is a text abbreviation.

But think of how it would be if we occasionally replaced our uttered God with the unspoken YHWH.

We may find it awkward to request eternal perdition for some annoying thing or person if our "dammit" was preceded only by a deep breath.

The exasperation of our "Oh God" might be lessened as we consciously breathe in and breathe out the same air that has sustained us at every difficult time in the past.

Even in the face of wonder, where "My God!" are the only words that would come to our lips, the breath of YHWH would remind us that this child or that sunset were nothing more than ordinary miracles we just happened to be aware of today.

YHWH, the breath of God.

It is a prayer that reminds us that each one of us began our life with a great gasp for air, and we will end it with one final expire.

YHWH is every breath between.

Dcn. McClay reflects on his time at Missouri Catholic Conference

By Jay Nies

For years, Deacon Tyler McClay has patiently listened to people say that the Church should “stay in your own lane” and avoid commenting on public-policy issues.

“This IS our lane!” he stated in a recent interview. “There are always legal, moral and philosophical factors in promoting the common good, and as people of faith and goodwill, we need to be right there at the center of these important debates.

“Sometimes, our arguments are simply practical in terms of how the law will impact families and the lives and the well-being of the community and society as a whole,” he stated. “But yeah, we ARE in our lane!”

Deacon McClay recently stepped down as executive director of the Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC), public policy agency of the state’s four Roman Catholic dioceses.

Although this has been his dream job, he and his wife recently decided to move to St. Louis to be closer to family, including two young grandchildren.

“It was a hard decision,” said Deacon McClay. “This is a special job. I like working with the bishops. For me, it was kind of a dream job — it really was. So it was hard to walk away.

“But my wife and I both

believe that family comes first, and that was really the motivating factor,” he said.

In a nutshell, according to Deacon McClay, the MCC’s executive director “provides guidance to the bishops on legislative matters and interactions with other state agencies, and tries to promote Catholic values in the public square, particularly at the Capitol.”

The bishops work collegially through the MCC as its executive board of directors. The agency’s Public Policy Committee (PPC), made up of knowledgeable and engaged people appointed by the bishops from each diocese, advises them on public-policy matters and legislative priorities.

“When crafting legislative policies or statements on any of these things, you have to draw a lot of perspectives into a consensus, because the bishops are speaking collegially through the Conference, not as individuals” said Deacon McClay.

“Our bishops are pretty good at that. They do work together to try to advance the cause at the end of the day,” he said.

He noted that the MCC could legitimately take a faith-informed position on nearly every state policy that gets proposed or piece of legislation that gets introduced.

“But we have to pick our battles and decide what issues we’re going to engage on so we can have the greatest impact,” he said, “particularly on the high-profile issues. Which is part of what makes the job so stressful, because we’re involved in some very weighty matters.”

Coming home

Deacon McClay grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was raised in a Christian faith

tradition.

He married Robin McClay, who had been Catholic her whole life. They now have two adult children.

Deacon McClay became Catholic through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in 2003.

Even before then, he had thought about leaving his busy law practice, going into the seminary and becoming a minister.

He remembers seeing the ad seeking a new chief counsel for the MCC in the *St. Louis Review*, newspaper of the St. Louis archdiocese.

He and Mrs. McClay were living in Arkansas and were looking for a chance to move back to their home state.

“I remember thinking, ‘I’m probably not Catholic enough,’ because I had only been a Catholic for like six years,” he stated. “But I guess it wasn’t a deal-breaker for them.”

The state’s bishops appointed him general counsel the MCC in 2010.

Not only would he get to practice law for the Church, he would also have time to pursue his call to ministry.

“I’m grateful that I am at a place in my life where I have been able to participate in formation and preparation for the diaconate,” he stated.

He enjoyed collaborating with Mike Hoey, who served as MCC executive director after spending decades as a legislative specialist and then as assistant director.

“Mike was very helpful, and we worked really well together,” said Deacon McClay. “We agreed on a lot, but we came at much of it from different perspectives. What we disagreed on was usually pretty minor — different philosophies about how to approach some things — but we were mostly on the same page.

“I’m convinced that the Catholic Church has an answer for everything that ails this country, in our teaching documents,” Deacon McClay

asserted. “The challenge is helping people see it and understand it and not to reject it out of hand because it’s Catholic.

“Because the Church’s his-



Deacon Tyler McClay

story of being 2,000 years alive means that it doesn’t just encompass Christian teaching, it also encompasses good governance,” he noted.

Wins and losses

He entered formal discernment and formation for the permanent diaconate and was ordained in 2016.

The state’s bishops appointed Deacon McClay executive director upon Mr. Hoey’s retirement in 2018.

The formation he received prior to ordination, along with the ontological grace of the sacrament, strengthened him for what could be extremely taxing work.

“The job is not for the faint of heart,” he asserted. “There is a spiritual toll that comes with it. It requires a lot of prayer and meditation and Confession.

“Let me just say that it’s a very good thing that there’s an adoration chapel in St. Peter Church, right across the street from the Capitol,” he said. “Sometimes, you go in there and you’re just beat and you have to have a way to vent it out. And you can sit there in front of Jesus and pour your heart out to Him and also say

to His mother, ‘Mom! Help me out!’”

Deacon McClay was quick to point that the MCC staff, with some members who have been there for decades, are incredibly dedicated, hardworking and helpful.

Together, they have witnessed countless “wins and losses” on the broad spectrum of issues the PPC and the bishops have identified as ongoing priorities.

Deacon McClay is particularly pleased that state lawmakers passed a law last year establishing the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program, which the MCC and members of the MCC Citizens Action Network helped get passed.

The program provides tax credits to individuals and organizations that contribute to state-approved organizations that help families

with low incomes or whose children need special assistance send their children to other schools if their local public schools can’t do enough for them.

“That’s something I never thought I’d see happen, given the strength of the lobby that’s opposed to school choice,” Deacon McClay stated.

He’s also very pleased with multitude of the pro-life laws that got passed in the state legislature with assistance from the MCC and its citizen network.

“The 72-hour waiting period before an abortion, the informed-consent provisions and the staggered part of HB 126, the heartbeat bill, that got passed in 2019 — they helped drastically reduce the number of abortions in this state,” he said.

He remembers staying up with lawmakers in the Capitol until 4 a.m. the day HB 126, also known as Right to Life of the Unborn Child Act, finally passed.

“Much of it wound up getting enjoined (by the courts), but it definitely set a tone for this state,” he said.

The law includes the trigger ban that declared elective

See DCN. McCLAY, page 23

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LIFE

From page 1

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight issued a statement applauding the Court's decision "to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, ending 50 years of our federal government defending the killing of the unborn."

"As I wrote recently, whenever we disregard the dignity of any class of human beings, we impoverish our own dignity, and the bonds that hold our nation together suffer," Bishop McKnight stated.

"Let us redouble our efforts in the important work of accompanying women with unexpected pregnancies and eliminating the societal causes for abortion," he said.

The Church stands ready

The *Dobbs* case challenged a Mississippi law that restricts abortions after 15 weeks.

The Supreme Court voted 6-3 to uphold the Mississippi law and also voted 5-4 to overturn the Court's longstanding *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decisions that declared a constitutional right to abortion.

The Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC), public-policy agency for the state's four Roman Catholic dioceses, welcomed the decision.

"The MCC has worked and prayed with other pro-life organizations for this day since the Court issued the *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973," the conference noted in a June 24 statement.

The MCC also emphasized that the work is far from completed.

"The Catholic Church stands ready to continue providing spiritual and material support to expectant mothers and their families through our parishes and ministries, and to advocate on their behalf and on behalf of their unborn children at the state and federal level," the MCC stated.

"We look forward to the day when every child, born and unborn, has the love and support needed to thrive and reach his or her full potential," the conference stated.



Deacon Sam Lee, director of Campaign Life Missouri, addresses participants in a Decision Day Rally outside the Missouri Supreme Court Building in Jefferson City on June 24, the day the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion-on-demand throughout the United States.

— Photo by Jay Nies

"Long enough"

About 100 people gathered in humble gratitude outside the stately Missouri Supreme Court Building, across the street from the Capitol, for a Decision Day Rally on June 24.

There, several young participants referred to themselves as the "Post-Roe Generation."

Some of their elders recalled the day *Roe* was handed down, and the nearly half-century of struggles that followed.

"I want to remember all of those who have gone before us,"

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

said Deacon Sam Lee, director of Campaign Life Missouri, who has been involved in pro-life advocacy for over 40 years.

"... The many who worked hard for this day, who passed on while waiting for this day," he continued. "And not just the legislators and the judges and those who have fought for life, but all the pro-lifers of this state."

He reminded participants

that Missouri enacted its first anti-abortion law in 1825.

"We were the second state after Connecticut to pass a pro-life law in the United States," Deacon Lee noted.

Versions of that law remained in effect, despite court challenges, until *Roe v. Wade* was handed down in 1973.

Deacon Lee asserted that like the good stewards in Jesus's Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25), Missourians did not squander their pro-life patrimony but wisely invested it.

He predicted more hard-fought legislative and judicial challenges.

"But today we celebrate and give thanks," he said. "And to all the lawmakers, past and present, living and deceased, who have worked to protect the unborn, and all the workers and volunteers at Missouri's pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes who have saved countless lives of moms and babies, and to all in the pro-life movement who have gone before us through the decades, I say: 'Well done, good and faithful servants. Now, share in your Master's joy.'"

Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe, a member of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, called the *Dobbs* decision an answer to prayer.

"The Supreme Court ren-

dered the decision, but it's the people from across the country who have been praying for this decision, who made this happen," he said.

Lt. Gov. Kehoe recalled the day his mother, now deceased, bought bracelets engraved with "Jan. 22, 1973" — the date the *Roe* decision was handed down — for herself and her six children.

"I very clearly remember her giving one to me, and I said, 'How long do I have to wear this?' and she said, 'Long

enough for it to be overturned,'" he said.

"It's the Good Lord Above, Who gave us the fortitude to keep going forward, which brought us to this day," he said.

"Pray every day"

Bridget VanMeans, president and CEO of St. Louis-based Thrive Nation outreach to pregnant mothers, began her talk at the rally by praying for abortion to become unimaginable.

"Father, we thank You so much for what You've done today," she prayed, "and yet the work is just beginning. We're asking You to change the hearts of the nation."

She said it's more important now than ever before for women who are pregnant and in crisis to understand that they're loved and cared for.

They must also be told about the numerous resources that are available through the state and private agencies.

"It's going to be important for you to stick with people who give a strong love message," she said, adding: "I want you to pray every day for mercy for those who oppose us."

"Because we care"

Deacon Thomas Whalen, a retired permanent deacon

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After shooting, cardinal urges unity to 'build path to safety, peace'

Catholic News Service

Chicago

Saying he watched "in horror" news reports in the aftermath of a mass shooting during a suburban Fourth of July parade, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago offered prayers for the victims.

Authorities said seven people died — five on the parade route and two later in the hospital — and 30 others were injured when a gunman opened fired on people lining the parade route.

"What should have been a peaceful celebration of our nation's founding ended in unspeakable tragedy," Cardinal Cupich said in a statement released hours after the tragedy by the archdiocese of Chicago.

Pointing to the victims, who authorities said ranged in age from 8 to 85, Cardinal Cupich said, "Weapons designed to rapidly destroy human bodies have no place in civil society."

Law enforcement authorities charged Robert E. Crimo III, 21, of suburban Chicago with seven counts of murder after the shooting in Highland Park in Chicago's affluent North Shore.

Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart said the suspect would receive a mandatory life sentence without the possibility of parole if con-

victed of the charges. He also said other charges were pending.

The man was apprehended without incident on a busy highway in a nearby suburb after briefly fleeing officers.

Highland Park police said witnesses reported seeing a man with a long gun indiscriminately firing dozens of rounds from a rooftop at parade spectators, sending marchers and viewers scurrying for cover.

Five adults were reported dead along the parade route. Highland Park Fire Chief Joe Schrage said emergency workers transported 23 people to hospitals, while others walked into emergency rooms.

"Please join me in praying for the victims and their loved ones, who never imagined a July 4 celebration could become a killing ground," Cardinal Cupich said.

"May the Lord of mercy embrace in love those who have died, bring healing to the wounded, comfort to their loved ones and courage to all of us, so that we may respond to the tragedy united as God's children to build a path to safety and peace," he added.

In a telegram to Cardinal Cupich, Cardinal Pietro



A person in the Chicago suburb of Highland Park, Illinois, lights a candle at a memorial site July 5, near the parade route the day after a mass shooting at a Fourth of July parade. Seven people were killed and dozens injured.

— CNS photo/Cheney Orr, Reuters

Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said that Pope Francis was "deeply saddened to learn of the senseless shooting that took place in Highland Park and he asks you to convey his spiritual closeness to all affected by this attack."

The diplomatic message also noted that the pope was praying for the dead and "healing and consolation to the injured and bereaved."

"With unwavering faith that the grace of God is able to convert even the hardest of hearts, making it possible to 'depart from evil and do good,' Pope Francis prays that every member of society will reject violence in all of its forms and respect life in all of

its stages," Cardinal Parolin's message said.

Reaction to the violent event included statements from the Philadelphia and San Antonio archbishops.

Philadelphia Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez called for steps to end violence in society following the Illinois incident and the shooting of two Philadelphia police officers during a concert and the city's annual Fourth of July fireworks display.

The officers were treated at a local hospital and released. Officials were investigating who fired the shots and why.

"Civic celebrations like the commemoration of our country's birth are meant to unify

our richly diverse populace. They prompt us to reflect on the lofty goal of preserving and protecting freedom, dignity, equality and opportunity for all of our brothers and sisters," Archbishop Pérez said in a statement early July 5.

Saying that the two incidents "draped a heavy pall over our already wounded and struggling nation," the archbishop explained that society's "collective mettle is being tested over and over again. Evil acts and senseless loss of life have become all too common features of our landscape."

He recalled his message for Independence Day in which he stressed that the "American spirit shines brightest when we treat our neighbors with dignity and respect."


"In the wake of further pain, confusion and sadness, we must act. Words alone are not enough. Acts of kindness and charity, no matter the size, are contagious. Let's work together and mend the tears in the fabric of our nation's soul," Archbishop Pérez said.

In a series of tweets, San Antonio Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller eschewed gun violence and prayed for a conversion of hearts and minds throughout the country.

"Guns should not be an America idol," he tweeted. "In this anniversary let us pray for civilization in our Country."

The parade shooting incident also prompted Cardinal Cupich to repeat his call "to enact serious, broadly popular gun safety measures." He credited Congress for passing "significant, yet modest" gun safety measures that President Joe Biden signed into law June 25.

"The right to bear arms does not eclipse the right to life or the right of all Americans to go about their lives free of the fear that they might be shredded by bullets at any moment," Cardinal Cupich said. "Gun violence is a life issue. We must continue to pray that all our officials, elected and unelected alike, will redouble their commitment to keeping safe the people they have sworn to serve."



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Hundreds gather as one community to enjoy World Refugee Day

By Jay Nies

The universal languages of relief, resolve and joy filled every pathway and pavilion of the Cosmopolitan Recreation Area in Columbia the evening of June 25.

It was a community-wide celebration of World Refugee Day, cosponsored by City of Refuge and Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri's (CCCNMO) Refugee Services program.

"This celebration is a significant event for our community because it raises awareness of refugees, who have been part of our community for decades, shifting the narrative and breaking down barriers to become a visual representation of a community interwoven," stated Lacy Stroessner, Community Sponsorship Coordinator for CCCNMO.

"We give thanks to the refugees that bring all of this to us, through the joy and hardship that they've experienced and simply who they are," said Valérie Berta, community engagement coordinator for Catholic Charities Refugee Services.

People from numerous nations, many dressed in clothing from their homeland, mingled in a line leading up to the largest pavilion, where volunteers served food that reflected many cultural favorites, catered by the Syrian Kitchen, Bridgit in the Kitchen and Tiger Café.

Local food trucks dropped anchor in nearby parking areas.

People of all ages played games, including several spirited matches of beanbag cornhole.

Young volunteers painted intricate, pastel-colored artwork onto the faces of children whose complexions spanned the visible spectrum.

One table contained musical instruments from numerous countries for the children to try out.

Youthful laughter filled the playgrounds, soccer field and giant inflatable slides and bounce houses.

"We have quite a lot of ac-



People take part in the activities and festivities of the World Refugee Day celebration June 25 in Columbia, sponsored by City of Refuge and Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri's (CCCNMO) Refugee Services program. — Photos by Jay Nies



tivities going on, because we wanted to make this a really welcoming and FUN event," said Ms. Berta, "because it's to honor refugees and all they've been through and their cultures and everything that they bring to the table. But it's also to have fun!"

Participants wrote "wel-

come" in a dozen languages in colored chalk along a sidewalk leading up to one of the pavilions, which decked with large banners welcoming refugees to the community.

Participants wrote "wel-

come" in a dozen languages in colored chalk along a sidewalk leading up to one of the pavilions, which decked with large banners welcoming refugees to the community.

More than 20 community-resource agencies that work in partnership with Catholic Charities Refugee Services,

City of Refuge, or both set up tables under tents along the walkways. Children from the KM Mother Group and from Jabberwocky Studios gave dance performances "to music that a lot of them would be dancing to if they were still back in their home country," according to Linda Schust Ph.D., executive director of Jabberwocky Studios.

Columbia Mayor Barbara Buffaloe gave a proclamation proclaiming June 25 to be "World Refugee Day 2022 in the City of Columbia" and calling upon neighborhoods, communities and workplaces within the city to join in the celebration.

"Refugees and immigrants contribute culturally, civically and economically, and by recognizing these contributions, along with the contributions of others, Columbia, Missouri, will become more prosperous and inclusive to all who call it home," Mayor Buffaloe stated.

faloe stated.

"The success of Columbia depends on ensuring that all refugees and immigrants feel welcome," she added.

A really beautiful relationship

More than 100 volunteers brought this year's event into being.

"They're really good volunteers," said Chelle Smith-Vandergriff, CCCNMO volunteer

coordinator. "They're just really good people who want to help and want to do good things."

"We give thanks for all the hard work of everybody involved on both of our teams," said Ms. Berta, who came on board as Catholic Charities Refugee Services' first community engagement coordinator last July.

See REFUGEE, page 15

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.

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Pope asks Catholics to study Vatican II before Holy Year 2025

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Before celebrating the Holy Year 2025, Pope Francis is asking Catholics around the world to dedicate time in 2023 to studying the documents of the Second Vatican Council.

Presenting the official logo for the Holy Year June 28, Archbishop Rino Fisichella also announced the pope's plan for helping Catholics prepare for the celebration: focusing on the four constitutions issued by Vatican II in 2023; and focusing on prayer in 2024.

The four Vatican II constitutions are: Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*); Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*); Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (*Dei Verbum*); and Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et Spes*).

Archbishop Fisichella, whom the pope appointed to coordinate planning the Holy Year, said, "A series of user-friendly resources, written in appealing language, are being produced to arouse curiosity in those who have no memory" of the council, which was held 1962-65.

Details about the 2024 year of prayer and spiritual preparation for the jubilee are still being worked out, the archbishop said.

The Vatican already had announced that Pope Francis chose "Pilgrims of Hope" as the theme for the Holy Year.

Held every 25 years since 1470, a holy year or jubilee is a time of pilgrimage, prayer, repentance and acts of mercy, based on the Old Testament tradition of a jubilee year of rest, forgiveness and renewal.

In February, the Vatican

announced a worldwide competition to design the logo for the Holy Year, and Archbishop Fisichella unveiled it June 28 during a conference in the Sala Regia of the Apostolic Palace.

"A total of 294 entries were received from 213 cities and 48 different countries," he said in prepared remarks.

"Participants ranged in age from 6 to 83. In fact, many hand-drawn designs were received from children from all over the world, and it was really moving to go through these drawings which were the fruit of imagination and simple faith."

A commission of "iconographers, graphic designers, art and brand experts, architects and some pastors" chose a design submitted by Giacomo Travisani, and Pope Francis approved it.

"The logo shows four stylized figures to indicate all of humanity from the four corners of the earth," Archbishop Fisichella said. "They are each embracing another, indicating the solidarity and brotherhood that must unite peoples. It should be noted that the first figure is clinging to the cross. The underlying waves are choppy to indicate that the pilgrimage of life is not always on calm waters."

Travisani, explaining the logo, said, "When I wanted to 'personify' hope I immediately had a clear image: the cross; hope, I told myself, is in the cross."

The four human figures are in different colors. Travisani said, "the red is love, action and sharing; the yellow-orange is the color of human warmth; green evokes peace and equilibrium; blue is the color of security and protection."



PRO-LIFE

From page 11

recalled the first statewide meeting of Team P.L.A.Y., an organization that has set about ending abortion in Missouri through prayer, legislation, action, and "you" — ordinary citizens.

The plans from that day required patience and vigilance, but then "it was like a bunch of dominos — they started falling and falling," said Deacon Whalen.

Abortions ceased at Planned Parenthood in Columbia in 2018, but out-of-state abortion referrals continue.

He also recalled wondering how much of a difference the 40 Days for Life prayer vigils outside the Columbia abortion clinic could actually make.

"Well, now we're seeing the results of it," he said.

Leticia Wong, vice president of the Frederick Douglass Foundation of Missouri, recounted how her immigrant mother's doctor advised her to abort her in 1975.

"*Roe v. Wade* opened the door for our society to say that women are not enough," Ms. Wong asserted, "that you have to have all the right ingredients in your life in order to have a child — you have to be smart enough, you have to be strong enough, you have to have the right finances, you have to have the right man, you have to have the right everything."

"The Supreme Court has closed that door on a federal level," she said, "but it remains wide open in many states, so the fight will continue."

Bonnie Lee is part of the legislative team for Team P.L.A.Y. and is a registered nurse and a sidewalk counselor for Columbia 40 Days for Life.

She talked about the importance of continuing the prayer vigils among the trained sidewalk counselors who help women are seeking abortions change their mind.

"Because we care about mothers and fathers and families and babies after they're born!" she said. "That's what this is about, and we will continue to be there on the sidewalks, offering help and assistance."

Levi Harts, senior gifts and investments officer for ThriVe Nation, said that when women



A mother and child take part in the Decision Day Rally outside the Missouri Supreme Court Building on June 24. — Photo by Jay Nies

who are considering abortion find out how many resources are available to help them, "almost 90 percent of women choose to parent."

"We empower them with resources and information," he stated. "That's what authentic choice looks like."

"Finish the mission"

Kathy Forck, co-coordinator for the Columbia 40 Days for Life campaign and servant leader for Team P.L.A.Y., was attending the Pro-Life Women's Conference in Indiana when the *Dobbs* decision was announced.

"It has happened, and we must be ready to be even more ready to help moms who find themselves in an unplanned pregnancy," Mrs. Forck, a member of St. Andrew Parish in Holts Summit, stated in a June 24 email.

"Through prayer, legislation, action and you, the people of Missouri, and most of all the grace of God, we are seeing the day we envisioned so long ago," she said.

However, the work will "never be finished until every woman knows that there is real help for her and that babies are recognized as the blessing from God that they are," she said.

"We are here to finish this mission that God has given us," she stated.

"A higher goal"

Numerous other organizations and individuals issued statements and guidance:

"Our work is not over, we need to prove more than ever

that we are here to support women during their unplanned pregnancy and beyond," Reagan Barklage, national field director for Students for Life of America, said in a statement read aloud at the Decision Day Rally.

•The Pregnancy Help Center of Central Missouri predicted that its staff is about to become busier, in part due to an anticipated increase in at-home chemical abortions with substances that can be ordered online.

Increased needs will include targeted marketing for pregnant women seeking help through online searches; post-abortion assessments; and Abortion Pill Reversal, for women who change their mind between the first and second pill.

•Father William Peckman, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Macon, St. Mary Parish in Shelbina, St. Patrick Parish in Clarence and the Mission of the Sacred Heart in Bevier, cautioned in a June 24 Facebook post against "spiking the football when we're nowhere near the end zone."

"If all of our goal is making abortion illegal, we are missing the mark," he stated. "Ours should be a higher goal: making abortion irrelevant."

"Our compassion for women who find themselves in crisis because of a pregnancy should exhibit itself in our care before and after birth ... both them and their children," he said.

"Our response should be so full of charity and mercy that no woman would feel trapped, isolated or scared."

REFUGEE

From page 13

Part of Ms. Berta's job has been to increase cooperation between Catholic Charities Refugee Services and other agencies and organizations throughout the area.

City of Refuge and Catholic Charities Refugee Services previously organized separate World Refugee Day celebrations.

The organizations have worked together on many

projects over the past year, including helping hundreds of displaced people from Afghanistan who were resettled in the area in record time.

"It's developed into a really beautiful relationship," said Ms. Berta. "So we reached out to them very early and said, 'Hey, can we do a World Refugee Day event together this year?' And they were up for it, so we started meeting together and organizing the whole thing."

"Here to facilitate"

CCCNMO Executive Director Dan Lester said World Refugee Day highlights how beautiful a community Columbia and Central Missouri are.

"Look at all these people



Children from the KM Mother Group give a dance performance during the World Refugee Day celebration in Columbia. — Photo by Jay Nies

here from all over the world!" he said.

He noted that agencies such as Catholic Charities Refugee Services and City of Refuge exist to help refugees through their transition to a new homeland.

"But ultimately, the community is here to support them, too," he said. "And that's really what allows this work to continue to happen."

He said this year's World Refugee Day celebration epitomized the nature of refugee-resettlement.

"The agencies are here to facilitate," he noted, "but at the end of the day, it's the resilience of the refugees themselves that allows them to be so successful in coming here."

"So, it's not about us," he said. "We create the space, but this is their celebration."

None seemed deterred by summer temperatures from fully participating.

"We're glad everybody is here," said Dan Szy, director of development for City of Refuge. "We're glad to be sharing this city together with all of our refugee neighbors. We honor you. We honor your stories and your journeys. Thank you for joining us."

"I hope everybody knows

that we are stronger when we're diverse and we can pull on skills, knowledge, backgrounds of a wide array of different cultures," Ms. Berta stated.

City of Refuge (cityofrefugecolumbia.org) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to help refugees recover and regain control of their lives. It helps refugees become productive, successful and contributing members of our community.

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO) (cccnmo.diojeffcity.org), an entity of the Diocese of Jefferson City and the local resettlement agency for mid-Missouri, responds to the needs of people in 38 counties regardless of faith, culture, or situation. This includes services for refugees and immigrants, those with food insecurity, mental health needs, health and nutrition education, basic household, and shelter needs.

URENECK

From page 9

And it's usually sticky, smelly and disorderly, at least until the kids are asleep.

Even though ours is a world focused on "living our truths" and "living our authentic selves," it has become a world of performance. Politics feels like performance. Journalism reads like performance. Most tweets from Catholic leaders and thinkers are performative if not provocative. Because we're always "on," we seem to be a bit "off."

I don't know if I can hack the platoms in a way that doesn't change my offline behavior. The jury's still out on whether or not I'll use them again. But I'd like to think that my children are playing more freely with my phone away, and I'm seeing them — really seeing them — for the first time.

Elise Italiano Ureneck is a communications consultant and a columnist for Catholic News Service.

FR. ANTWEILER

From page 6

parishes could be so different from one another. Members of both parishes were very proud of their individual history and identity.

While he was in Loose Creek, parishioners built onto Immaculate Conception School, increasing its space by about one-third.

He remembers receiving a call from Monsignor Gregory L. Higley, who was vicar general, asking if he'd consider leading one of the diocese's largest parishes.

"I said, 'Wow! I'm used to having several hundred families. I.C. (in Jefferson City) has 1,400!'" he recalled. "But it sounded like an exciting challenge, and it's been an exciting seven years."

Again, Fr. Antweiler was serving a parish in a diverse community with a strongly rooted base.

"We have parishioners from all over the place," he noted. "I always love having Mass. We have great singing, and it's very hospitable, very welcoming."

He ministered with seven associate pastors in his seven years at I.C., including priests from Nigeria, Peru, Tanzania, Uganda and the United States.

"I.C. to me is a parish family," he said. "Maybe because it's so big — there's a rootedness but also an openness to other people."

Perhaps the most difficult time for him in recent years was when he was sick with COVID and had to spend 10 days alone in his room in the rectory.

"I don't like saying Mass alone," he said. "Yes, the saints were there, the angels were there, but I couldn't hear them pray the responses."

"Gratitude zone"

Fr. Antweiler hasn't determined what this next phase of Priesthood will bring for him.

"There are all kinds of exciting things I could

do now," he stated. "I just need to sit back for a while and figure out what to do next."

He said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight "has been so gracious and generous and supportive of where I am and where I need to be."

Fr. Antweiler is grateful to be healthy and able to continue offering Mass and praying for the whole Church every day.

"I believe the 'secret' to the joy and depth of God is to get my mind into the game; to come with an attitude — a gratitude attitude; to get into the zone — a gratitude zone," he said.

He knows that he can retire from being a pastor, but he'll remain a priest forever.

"I'm a servant," he said. "That's in my heart."

So is puzzle-making.

"Hopefully, (the crossword puzzle is) building up the Body of Christ by helping the people get to know the geography and history of our diocese, the structure of the Church, the saints, Scripture ... that kind of thing," he said.

When asked what he would like people to pray for when they pray for him, he suggested a prayer that he offers up each day:

"Transform me, transform my life. I trust that You have an incredible plan for me. Everything is on the table. Take what You want to take. Give what You want to give. Transform me into the person You created me to be so that I can live the life You envision for me. I hold nothing back, and I'm 100-percent available. ..."

"And I love the last part!" he paused before concluding: "How can I help? This is all Your work! Amen."

The prayer is from evangelizer Matthew Kelly, founder of The Dynamic Catholic.

"I heard it once, and I said, 'I will make that my mantra. That prayer that I will say every day,'" said Fr. Antweiler.



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By Father Don Antweiler

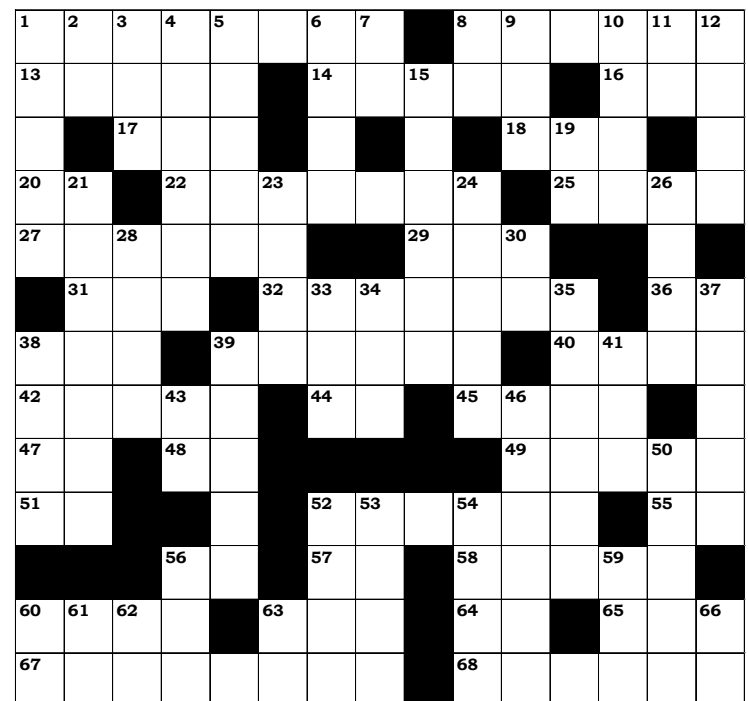
ACROSS

1. Memphis, Tenn., home of Elvis's Graceland, has its counterpart in Memphis, Mo. in ___ County.
8. ___ throw; track and field event.
13. "For where two or ___ are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them," (Matthew 18:20).
14. "...my children and I are already ___," —Luke 11:7 (2 wds.).
16. Mine product.
17. "Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the ___ fall," —2nd Eucharistic Prayer.
18. "There the hoot ___ shall nest and lay eggs..." (Isaiah 34:15).
20. ___-huh.
22. Quincy, Ill., site of the grave of Venerable Fr. Augustine Tolton, has its counterpart in Quincy, Mo. in ___ County.
25. Slippery fish.
27. Mother Mary ___ Bojxhiu; founder of the Missionaries of Charity; Nobel Peace Prize winner; dedicated her life to the poorest of the poor in Calcutta, India; canonized a saint in 2016.
29. Male turkey.
31. You will ___ the day I catch you cheating!
32. Beverly Hills, Calif., home of Rodeo Drive, Sunset Blvd. and supposedly the home of TV's Beverly Hillbillies, has its counterpart in Beverly Hills, Mo. in ___ County (2 wds.).
36. The Golden State (abbr.).
38. French friend.
39. Canonization steps are: 1) Venerable, with evidence of great virtue; 2) Blessed, with one miracle required; and 3) to be officially declared ___, with another miracle required (2 wds.).
40. The ___ is a DC comic book superhero who can alter his size to the molecular level without losing his strength.
42. Birth or ear.
44. Letters for Military Police.
45. Radiant circle around the head of a holy person.
47. Davy Crockett was elected from this State to the U.S. House of Representatives where he vehemently opposed Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act.
48. A college degree.
49. "When a ___ is shaken, the husks appear; so do a man's faults when he speaks," (Sirach 27:4).
51. Periodic table letters for tin (from the Latin word *stannum*).
52. Philadelphia, Penn., where both the Declaration of independence and the U.S. Constitution were written and signed, has its counterpart in Philadelphia, Mo. in ___ County.
55. ___-47; Soviet-developed assault rifle.
56. ___ and behold!
57. Letters for European

- Commission, the part of the European Union responsible for suggesting laws, making and supporting the EU's agreements.
58. Quite pushing and showing! I'll see you ___ a time! (2 wds.)
60. Bowling Green, Ky., home of the National Corvette Museum, has its counterpart in Bowling Green, Mo. in ___ County.
63. Abbr. for the country which is home to Florence, Naples and Venice.
64. ___-fi.
65. #13 ACROSS, in old Rome.
67. Jamestown, Virginia, the first permanent English settlement in North Am., has its counterpart in Jamestown, Mo. in ___ County.
68. One blue jay can bury 4,500 ___ during one season but only remember the location of 1 in 4 of them. Great seed spreading help for the oaks!

DOWN

1. "I'm a little teapot, short and ___; here is my handle, here is my spout;" Mother Goose nursery rhyme.
2. Abbr. for Church.
3. Short for ordinance.
4. A giggle.
5. Canton, Ohio, home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, has its counterpart in Canton, Mo. in ___ County.
6. We got her to the hospital just in the ___ of time!
7. Lion's den prophet; 34th book of the Bible.
8. Prefix for feat or form.
9. Wedding words, perhaps.
10. Taos, N.M., home to a World Heritage Site (5 story Indian Pueblo) and one of the most photographed and iconic Churches, St. Francisco de Asis, has its counterpart in Taos, Mo. in ___ County.
11. Home of Abraham's ancestors.
12. "The Lord ___ prisoners free," (Psalms 146:7).
15. Nashville, Tenn., home of the Grand ole Opry, has its counterpart in Nashville, Mo. in ___ County.
19. "___ must believe in no one but God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit," —*Catechism of the*

*Catholic Church, #178*

21. "The immediate surroundings of ___ are so hilly, stoney, and torn by ravines that there can be no question of cultivation of grain to export. The products of the soil from the northern bank of the river are shipped directly by steamboat. Conditions are not favorable to build factories. It is easy to conclude that the town will never become a metropolis but will always remain a friendly country town," — *Longer Than a Man's Lifetime in Missouri*, "A Chapter About Cities" (ch. 22); Gert Goebel.
23. Cleveland, Ohio, home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, has its counterpart in Cleveland, Mo. in ___ County.
24. Part of CYO.
26. That cowboy has gone plumb ___!
28. "...the mouth of a fool is imminent ___," (Proverbs 10:14).
30. 3rd musical note.
33. Scottish hat.
34. "Everybody knew you didn't give no ___ to Big John," —lyric from "Big Bad John"; Jimmy Dean, 1961.
35. Miami, Florida, known for its pristine beaches, non-stop nightlife, and fantastic warm weather, has its counterpart in Miami, Mo. in ___ County.
37. He has always been such ___ and humble man (2 wds.).
38. ___ of the Apostles;
21. Luke's follow-up to his gospel about how the early Church spread.
39. Remember the ___!
41. "Better to stumble with ___ than tongue," — Swahili proverb.
43. Stomach muscle.
46. I often take lunch at ___ Drive-In nearby (2 wds.).
50. Take the rest of the grapes to the wine ___ the back of the barn (2 wds.).
52. ___, Mo. in Osage County is the heritage home of Diamond Dog Food.
53. A very liberal legal advocacy group.
54. Herbert Hoover, an energetic reform-minded Republican, involved in great humanitarian causes, originally from ___, was unfortunate to be President when the looming Great Depression finally swept the country.
56. Hawaiian necklace.
59. "All you birds of the ___, bless the Lord," (Daniel 3:80).
60. Not A.M.
61. Moon of Jupiter.
62. Internet country code for the eastern Caribbean nation of Saint Kitts & Nevis.
63. Abbr. for "in other words."
66. "It ___ our place to treat ET as we would treat Christ," —*Would you Baptize an Extraterrestrial?*; Frs. Guy Consolmagno & Paul Mueller, astronomers at the Vatican Observatory.

ANSWERS on page 19

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MISSIONS

From page 1

the weekend of July 16-17, will be used to help support the work of the Church in dioceses that have missionary priests serving here.

The collection helps sustain various ministries, including the building of churches and chapels and helping prepare catechists to teach the faith, in addition to providing for material needs for the people in their local communities.

"So we're not only providing material assistance with our mission collection," said Bishop McKnight. "We are also helping the preaching of the Gospel in missionary territory.

"I can't think of a better way and a more efficient way for us to help those who are in need elsewhere than to support the local churches there that we know are doing a very good job of ministering to the poor," he said.

Big impact

Through the Mission Office, the Jefferson City diocese has helped carry out projects large and small in an array of overseas dioceses.

This included helping pay for the needed renovation of Holy Family Church in the village of Gothgaon in Father Alexander Gabriel's home diocese of Daltonganj, India.

The Mission Office previously helped purchase a tractor and farm machinery to help young people learn how to do different types of sustainable farming in the Daltonganj diocese.

Fr. Gabriel is pastor of Holy Family Parish in Hannibal and St. Joseph Parish in Palmyra.

In the Archdiocese of Kampala, Uganda, home diocese to Father Leonard Mukibi and Father Boniface Kasiita Nzabonimpa, the Mission Office helped build a school and dig a well for fresh water in the village of Sentema.

"This will provide children more time in school, rather than having to travel great lengths in the morning or evening to gather water for themselves and their families," stated Jake Seifert, diocesan director of development and of the Mission Office.

Fr. Mukibi is pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in St. Thomas and St. Cecilia Parish in Meta.

Fr. Nzabonimpa is pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Salisbury, St. Boniface Parish in Brunswick and St. Mary of the Angels Parish in Wien.

"There is such an abundance of grace, and God is allowing us to share it with each other in amazing ways," Mr. Seifert stated.

A bit of leaven

In the Diocese of Jashpur, the Mission Office helped pay to dig a well that provides clean drinking water in the village of Semartal.

The Mission Office helped purchase new televisions for the St. Ann Nuns in the Diocese of Jashpur. Many of the sisters are studying nursing or are nurses working in various hospitals, and the TVs help them with distance learning.

The Mission Office helped complete a second floor for the St. Joseph School building in the village of Sarodih in Fr. Ekka's home diocese.

Schools in the diocese help boys and girls prepare for well-paying jobs and escape a multigenerational cycle of poverty.

The school's new floor will be dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Patroness of the Jefferson City diocese.

Donors to the Mission Office also paid to build St. Ann Church in Masrighat, Fr. Ekka's ancestral village.

Before the church's completion and dedication last December, priests offered Mass in local homes.

Fr. Ekka noted that such projects are tremendously effective in improving people's spiritual and physical well-being and promoting trust among Christians and non-Christians in his home diocese.

"The majority of the Indian people living in the rural areas and the villages cannot send their children to schools in the big cities, which are very expensive," he said.

"They cannot take people who are sick to the hospitals in big cities, which are also very expensive," he added. "The Church operates schools and hospitals in rural areas to help the poor and does so for the bare-minimum expenses."

He noted that the St. Ann Nuns recently started a hospi-



LEFT: A new second floor rises atop the St. Joseph School building in at village Sarodih in the Diocese of Jashpur, India. The second floor will be completed this summer and dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Patroness of the Diocese of Jefferson City. **RIGHT:** The new St. Ann Church was completed and dedicated this past December in the village of Masrighat in the Diocese of Jashpur, India.



tal in a deeply rural village with no roads to the closest city.

"People often come to the hospital carrying a person on a cart, because they cannot afford to have a vehicle," he said.

By recognizing the Tribal peoples' inherent dignity and giving them access to health-care and a good education, the Church has helped thousands of people improve their lives.

"People who are poor and marginalized have been able to get good jobs and slowly, their life is getting better," he said.

Upon moving to work in large cities such as Delhi and Mumbai, they often invigorate

the Catholic parishes in their neighborhoods.

"Many city parishes are thriving on these newly arrived Catholics who have very strong faith," Fr. Ekka noted.

Agrarian roots

Fr. Ekka is confident that God will continue calling sufficient numbers of young men in his diocese to Priesthood "for a half-century, maybe longer — as long as the rural village system remains in place."

Like the founding bishop of this diocese observed some 60 years ago, rural areas tend to be fertile ground for raising

young Catholics in the faith.

"That is certainly true in India," said Fr. Ekka.

Bishop Kerketta has asked Fr. Ekka to continue serving in this diocese until he is old enough to retire in about five years.

Then, he will head back to India to assist at a parish or convent and minister to people who are elderly — a skill he's been honing since arriving in this diocese.

"These experiences I've been learning here will be very valuable, perhaps even to some of the younger priests I will be associating with," he said.

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Want your event listed?
Fill out the ONLINE FORM at diojeffcity.org/event-listing.

Fundraisers & Social Events

Jul. 8

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

Jul. 10

Bahner, St. John's Ice Cream Social, 5:30-10 pm; St. Martins, St. Martin Parish picnic, 11 am-9 pm

Jul. 16

Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School color guard car wash, 9:30 am-3:30 pm, Hy-Vee parking lot

Jul. 17

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

Aug. 6

Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School alumni softball game, 6:30-8 pm, Legion Field

Aug. 7

Osage Bend, St. Margaret of Antioch Parish picnic, 11 am-7 pm; Vienna, K of C breakfast, 7:30-11 am

Aug. 11

Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School athletic booster club barbecue, 4-7 pm, Crusader Commons

Aug. 12

Jefferson City, St. Peter Parish block party, 5-9 pm; Montgomery City, K of C Summer fish fry, drive-thru only, 4:30-6:30 pm

Aug. 14

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

Aug. 27

Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School and Interparish Band barbecue, 10:30 am-2 pm, K of C Hall

Meetings/ Workshops

Jul. 8

VIRTUAL, Commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the death of Venerable Augustus Tolton, 6:30 pm, to register visit bit.ly/tolton-7-31

Jul. 17-22

Milford, OH, CLEF Summer Pro-

gram for Ensemble Musicians, Jesuit Spiritual Center, for info or to register email info@clef.life or visit clef.life

Jul. 19, Aug. 16

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

Aug. 2

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

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

julio 9-10

Sedalia, Retiro: Sanando Nuestras Relaciones Fraternas, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

julio 16

Sedalia, Planificación Familiar Natural-Familia de las Américas, 9 am-12 pm, Parroquia San Patricio, para información sobre instructores y clases contacte a Enrique o Crithia Castro al 573-680-3650 / 501-454-8308 o por correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org / cmguzman10@gmail.com

julio 19

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

julio 23-24

Marshall, Retiro de Parejas, Parroquia San Pedro, para más información o para registrarse visite diojeffcity.org/eventos-diocesanos/

agosto 2

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

agosto 16

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

agosto 27

Jefferson City, Planificación Familiar Natural-Familia de las Américas, 9 am-12 pm, Parroquia San Pedro, para información sobre instructores y clases contacte a Enrique o Crithia Castro al 573-680-3650 / 501-454-8308 o por correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org / cmguzman10@gmail.com; Sedalia, Concierto de Música, 6:30-9:30 pm, Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Jul. 14-17

Columbia, Men's Cursillo Weekend #70, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, to register visit diojeffcity.org/cursillo

Aug. 2

Hermann, Women's event with faith speaker Shalini Blubaugh, 6:30-7:30 pm, St. George Church, for info call 573-645-7510 or email mary.e.molly@hotmail.com

SR. VEIT

From page 9

siduous reading of the Word of God, daily prayer, reception of the sacraments and participation in the liturgy," he wrote.

"In addition to our relationship with God, we should also cultivate our relationships with others: first of all by showing affectionate concern for our families, our children and grandchildren, but also for the poor and those who suffer, by drawing near to them with practical assistance and our prayers. These things will help us not to feel like mere bystanders, sitting on our porches or looking out from our windows, as life goes on all around us. Instead, we should learn to discern everywhere the presence of the Lord. Like "green olive trees in the house of God" (cf. Ps. 52:10), we can become a blessing for those who live next to us."

Pope Francis has called old age "a season of enduring fruitfulness."

He wrote, "The special sensibility that those of us who are elderly have for the concerns,

Aug. 4-7

Columbia, Women's Cursillo Weekend #78, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/cursillo

Aug. 5-7

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

Liturgical

Jul 16

Laurie, Pilgrimage with Deby Sansone Schlapprizzi, 8:30 am-5:30 pm, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, for info or to register call 573-374-6279 or email shrinemothers@gmail.com

Youth

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

youth-ministry/camp-maccabee

Jul. 20

Jefferson City, Rooted and Connected youth and young adult faith sharing group, 6:30-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish, for info visit ican-gels.com/youngadults

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

Aug. 3

Hermann, Evening for teens and college students with faith speaker Shalini Blubaugh, 6:30-7:30 pm, St. George Church, for info call 573-645-7510 or email mary.e.molly@hotmail.com; Jefferson City, Rooted and Connected youth and young adult faith sharing group, 6:30-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish, for info visit ican-gels.com/youngadults

Aug. 17

Jefferson City, Rooted and Connected youth and young adult faith sharing group, 6:30-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish, for info visit ican-gels.com/youngadults

Health & Wellness

Jul. 20

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

The People Page could not be published this issue due to a technical problem that occurred close to the print deadline. The names will be published in the July 24 edition. We apologize for the situation.

In interview, pope condemns abortion, says he's not resigning

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

In a wide-ranging interview with the Reuters news agency, Pope Francis condemned abortion, dismissed the idea that he's preparing to resign and said he still hopes to be able to visit Russia and Ukraine in the fall.

Pope Francis also told Philip Pullella, the Reuters' Vatican correspondent, that while the Vatican's 2018 deal with China on the nomination of bishops was not ideal, it was what was possible, and he hopes it will be renewed again in October.

The pope spoke to Pullella July 2, and portions of the interview were published July 4 and 5, including in the Vatican's own media outlets.

Asked about the Vatican's controversial, and still unpublished, agreement with China on the appointment of bishops, Pope Francis said, "The agreement is moving well, and I hope that in October it can be renewed."

Originally signed in 2018 and renewed in 2020, the agreement reportedly allows the pope to approve or veto bishops nominated by the Chinese Communist Party. So far, only six bishops have been appointed, ordained and installed under the agreement; the last was announced in September 2021.

The deal has been criticized by Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kiun, the retired bishop of Hong Kong, as well as by religious freedom advocates and the administration of former U.S. President Donald Trump.

But Pope Francis told Reuters the deal was the best the Church could hope for currently.

"Diplomacy is like that. When you face a blocked situation, you have to find the possible way, not the ideal way, out of it," the pope said. "Diplomacy is the art of the possible and of doing things to make the possible become a reality."

Asked about the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* June 24, a decision that stated there is no constitutional right to abortion in the United States, Pope Francis said he could not comment on the technicalities of the decision nor on *Roe v. Wade*, which it overturned.

"I don't really understand (the details of) the ruling 50 years ago, and now I can't say whether it did right or wrong from a judicial point of view. I respect the decisions," he said.

However, he said, abortion itself "is a problem."

"I ask: 'Is it licit, is it right, to eliminate a human life to resolve a problem?' It's a hu-

man life — that's science," the pope said. "The moral question is whether it is right to take a human life to solve a problem. Indeed, is it right to hire a hit man to solve a problem?"

"I ask: 'Is it licit, is it right, to eliminate a human life to resolve a problem?' It's a human life — that's science. The moral question is whether it is right to take a human life to solve a problem. Indeed, is it right to hire a hit man to solve a problem?"

— Pope Francis

Asked about bishops denying Communion to Catholic politicians who publicly support abortion, Pope Francis would not get into specifics.

Instead, he repeated what he has said in the past when asked. "When the Church loses its pastoral nature, when a bishop loses his pastoral nature, it causes a political problem. That's all I can say," he said.

Pullella also asked Pope Francis about rumors that he was about to announce his resignation, rumors that found extra fuel when the pope announced in he would create new cardinals in late August — a time when many Romans and Vatican officials take their summer break — and, especially, when he said he would travel Aug. 28 to the Italian city of L'Aquila, the burial place of St. Celestine V, a 13th-century

pope who abdicated just a few months after his election.

Before he resigned Pope Benedict had visited the tomb of St. Celestine.

"All of these coincidences

made some think that the same 'liturgy' would happen, but it didn't enter my head; it never entered my mind," Pope Francis told Reuters. "For the moment no, really. But when the time comes that I see that I can't do it (run the Church, because of bad health) I will do it (resign)."

"That was the great example of Pope Benedict. It was such a very good thing for the Church. He told popes to stop in time," the pope said. "He is one of the greats, Benedict."

Asked about rumors that doctors found cancer a year ago when the pope underwent colon surgery, Pope Francis laughed and said: "They didn't tell me about it. They didn't tell me."

But, really, he said, "they explained everything to me well — full stop."

The cancer rumor, he said, "is court gossip. The court spirit is still there in the Vatican. And if you think about it, the Vatican is the last European court of an absolute monarchy."

Pope Francis said it was a "painful" decision to postpone his trip to Congo and South Sudan, planned for July 2-7, "but the doctor told me not to do it because I am not able to do it yet. I will do the one to Canada

because the doctor told me, 'With 20 more days you will recover.'"

He said a ligament in his right knee became inflamed, "and because I walked badly and this walking badly moved a bone, (this caused) a fracture there, and that's the problem."

However, he said, "I am slowly improving and, technically, the calcification has already occurred, thanks to all the work done with the laser ...

and magnet therapy. And now I have to start moving because there's a danger of losing muscle tone if one doesn't move."

As for other trips, Pope Francis said he would like to go to Kyiv, Ukraine, and could go after his trip to Canada in late July, but he would like "to go to Moscow first. We exchanged messages about this because I thought that if the president of Russia gave me a tiny window, I would go there to serve the cause of peace."

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

S	N	R	O	C	A	V	U	V	E	L	I	N	O	M
I	I	I	I	I	M	T	L	J	E	R	E	I	I	I
L	V	E	N	O	C	O								
K	V	N	O	I	R	A	M	N	S					
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Police deflect rioters from Portland Catholic church, avert vandalism

Catholic News Service

Portland, Oregon

Police officers successfully drove dozens of anarchist rioters away from Holy Redeemer Church in Portland late July 1.

The Portland Activists online calendar had announced night rally at nearby Peninsula Park with the intent to "Abolish SCOTUS." Since the U.S. Supreme Court's June 24 decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* and letting the states decide abortion laws, Catholic buildings across the nation have been a target of vandals who have cited the Church's support for the unborn.

Holy Redeemer had been vandalized with graffiti in the spring and was being mentioned by name in anarchist chatter in late June.

After the Peninsula Park rally, more than one fringe group bent on vandalism marched toward Holy Redeemer. But police were ready, along with the media who had alerted the public earlier that day.

"When the anarchists approached our block, the police announced it was an illegal gathering and blocked them as they rushed the church building," said Holy Redeemer parish council member Tom Markgraf, whose family has been members of Holy Redeemer for more than a century.

"The police were superb. They blocked the anarchists. The lights shining on them and exposing them caused many to pull back. The church building was spared," he said.

Dreaming of a fun summer to come



"To the Altar of God ..."




ABOVE: Altar servers pause for a photo at the entrance to Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Boonville before an all-school Mass on May 20, their last day of school.

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

LEFT: Mrs. Elliott's second- and third-graders at Visitation Inter-Parish School in Vienna enjoy their last day of school before breaking for summer.

— Photo from the Visitation Parish bulletin

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St. George seventh-graders putting faith into action



Seventh-graders from Immaculate Conception School in Loose Creek visit the Catholic Charities Center in Jefferson City and take part in a service project during a field trip on May 3.

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

A Samaritan helps a man hurt by robbers

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

One day, a scholar of the law decided to test Jesus.

He stood up and asked Jesus a question, even though he already knew the answer.

“Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” he asked.

“What is written in the law? How do you read it?” Jesus replied.

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself,” the scholar of the law answered.

Jesus nodded approvingly. “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live,” he said.

The scholar of the law was



disappointed that he had failed in his attempt to test Jesus. So, wanting to justify himself, he asked another question.

“And who is my neighbor?” he wanted to know.

Jesus decided to reply by telling a parable.

He told the story of a man who was traveling the road from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was attacked by rob-

bers.

“They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead,” Jesus said.

Eventually, another person came down the same road.

“A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side,” Jesus said.

Then a Levite came by.

“And when he saw him,” Jesus said, “he passed by on the opposite side.”

A Samaritan man traveling the road saw the robbery victim. He was moved with compassion and stopped to help.

“He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them,” Jesus said. “Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him.”

The next day, the Samaritan took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with these instructions: “Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.”

Jesus looked at the scholar of the law. “Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers’ victim?” he asked.

“The one who treated him with mercy,” the scholar of the law replied.

Jesus nodded. “Go and do likewise,” he said.

**Read more about it...
Luke 10**

1. Who wanted to test Jesus?
2. Who helped the robbery victim?

Bible Accent

There are many places in the New Testament where Jesus talks to the people about mercy.

For example, in Matthew 9, we read that Jesus called a tax collector named Matthew to be one of his apostles. Jesus then went to Matthew’s house and ate with other tax collectors and sinners.

When the Pharisees saw this, they criticized Jesus for associating with such people.

“Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do,” Jesus responded. “Go and learn the meaning of the

words, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

In Luke 6, during a talk that we call the Sermon on the Plain, Jesus taught the people that they should love their enemies and do good to those who hate them.

“Be merciful, just as (also) your Father is merciful,” he said.

And in Matthew 5, during a talk that we call the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus shared the beatitudes with the people.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy,”

was one of the beatitudes he taught them.

Essay

When have you helped someone in need?

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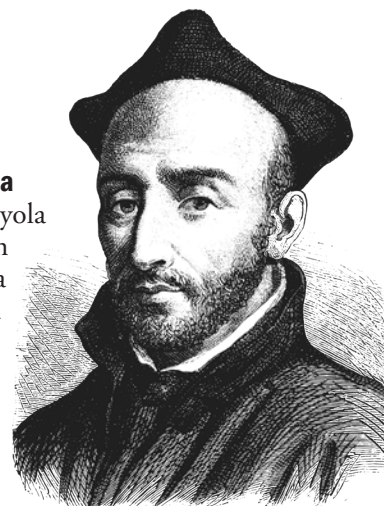
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Saint Spotlight



St. Ignatius of Loyola

Inigo Lopez de Loyola was born in Spain in 1491. He worked as a page and then became a soldier. He was wounded in battle, and while he was recovering, he read about Jesus and the saints. He experienced a personal conversion, and he wound up making a long retreat and traveling to Jerusalem. For 10 years, he studied in Barcelona and Paris, changing his name to Ignatius and associating with like-minded men. He and his friends founded the Society of Jesus, also known as the Jesuits, and Ignatius became the new order’s superior general. Ignatius also wrote the “Spiritual Exercises,” which is still a popular guide. He died in 1556, and we remember him on July 31.

Puzzle

Using the hints provided, put a T next to the sentences about Jesus’ parables that are true and an F next to the ones that are false.

1. ___ A wise man built his house on sand. (Matthew 7:24-29)
2. ___ A shepherd would leave 99 sheep to find one that was lost. (Matthew 18:12-14)
3. ___ The father did not give his younger son his inheritance. (Luke 15:11-12)
4. ___ The 10 virgins were all wise. (Matthew 25:2)



Answer: 1. F; 2. T; 3. F; 4. F.

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Francis scholar offers helpful advice on how saint would navigate today

Feed the Wolf: Befriending our Fears in the Way of St. Francis, by Jon M. Sweeney. Broadleaf Books (Minneapolis, 2021). 197 pp., \$26.99.

Reviewed by Kathleen Finley
Catholic News Service

In a time filled with many fears and spiritual “potholes,” Franciscan scholar Jon Sweeney gives us some helpful reflections on how to navigate these days in light of who St. Francis of Assisi was and how he lived.

Along the way, readers get to witness the Franciscan scholar musing about St. Francis as he encounters life today and almost eavesdrop on the process, especially since Sweeney often imagines dialogues that could have happened at the time of Francis’ life.

In the course of suggesting some spiritual practices for us today, we are treated to some succinct gems about who Francis was — then and now.

In Francis’ declaration of his vocation to renounce his family’s privilege by shedding even his clothes, Sweeney remarks, “Francis may have lacked courage wearing a knight’s armor, but he seemed valiant wearing nothing at all. He had found something else, something brighter and bolder that allowed him to be free.”

And for us to follow that

poverty and freedom is challenging indeed today. Sweeney observes:

“We are not satisfied with little, or with less than what we feel we deserve. Sometimes our spiritual teachers even encourage these feelings of entitlement, as if they come from holy places. They don’t. Francis knew better. Those of us who want to follow his wisdom might refocus our lives to avoid the issues and heartbreak that arise when we stray far from the simplicity for which we were made. Desires that lead to excess, misplaced concern and ownership too often harm our faith and harm others. A Franciscan in the 21st century holds possessions lightly and shares them easily.”

Sweeney goes on to explain that for Francis — and today for the pope named after him — this simplicity is a way for caring for others and for our planet.

Instead of Francis dying to his senses as some would see the spiritual life, Sweeney reminds us that he was more aware of the world around him, not less.



“We have many stories of Francis being close to birds, wolves, bugs, fish and rabbits. Beyond the sweet gentleness of these anecdotes, there is something more. He was paying attention to the rhythms and ways of the natural world —

ways of life that are both more elementary and more essential than our 21st-century ones.”

And he was not at all a grim presence. “Even once while standing before the pope in Rome, with cardinals of the Church all around him, Francis began to dance. (From his first biographer:) ‘He was speaking with such fire of spirit that he could not contain himself for joy. As he brought forth the word from his mouth, he moved his feet as if dancing, not playfully but burning with the fire of divine love.’” Yes, this is a saint for us today.

Sweeney says Francis lived lightly on the earth. He quotes Carl Jung when talking about the kind of knowledge that Francis embodied: “People speak of belief when they have lost knowledge,” he said. Much

Movie Ratings

	Minions: The Rise of Gru (PG)
Adults and Adolescents	
	The Bob’s Burgers Movie (PG-13) Elvis (PG-13) Firestarter (R) Jurassic World Dominion (PG-13) Lightyear (PG) Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13)
Adults	

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

better, he then added, “The (person willing to be simple) doesn’t believe, he knows, because the inner experience rightfully means as much to him as the outer.”

In many helpful ways Sweeney shows us how “Francis was a little person who did small things that changed his world.” And we are challenged

to do likewise.

Kathleen Finley is the author of several books on practical spirituality, including The Liturgy of Motherhood: Moments of Grace, and Savoring God: Praying With All Our Senses, and recently finished teaching in the religious studies department at Gonzaga University.

Two books offer catechesis on true meaning of Catholic marriage

Couples, Awaken Your Love! by Cardinal Robert Sarah. Ignatius Press (San Francisco, 2021). 138 pp., \$15.95.

The Catholic Wedding Planner, by Our Sunday Visitor. Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Indiana, 2021). 256 pp., \$29.95.

Reviewed by Allan Wright
Catholic News Service

The Catholic Wedding Planner is a step-by-step guide to what you should do after say-

ing, “Yes.”

However, it functions as a catechetical guide as it walks the couple through the meaning of marriage in the Catholic Church. It is practical and covers almost every topic you can think of while preparing for the wedding day such as flowers, reception, venue, budget, videographer and so on.

The Catholic Wedding Planner is evangelizing because the truth is, many couples who desire to get married in the Catholic Church have little idea of the sacramental nature of matrimony and the commitment they are making.

This book reveals God’s plan for marriage in language that is accessible to today’s young people. Before setting the budget and making a list of guests, this book encourages the couple to pray together, read Scripture together, journal and go to confession as a way of preparing themselves for this sacrament.

Throughout the book, there are meditations and reflections providing a Catholic perspective and vision of marriage that is often found lacking in similar resources. The book presents the Church’s teaching

on conjugal love, prohibition against contraception, and love that is reflective of God’s total, faithful, free and fruitful love.

Step-by-step planning guides, budget forms, guest lists and myriad other important information is found in this book. Highly recommended for those who are Catholics and engaged, and for marriage prep courses such as pre-Cana.

For those who are not Catholic or not practicing Catholics, it will enlighten them to what the Church teaches and may be a catalyst for them to reexamine the Catholic Church and experience the deeper meaning of nuptial love.

•Cardinal Robert Sarah, former prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, draws from his experience and knowledge of the liturgy to draw many analogies from the Mass and compares them to the sacredness of marriage in his book, *Couples, Awaken Your Love!*

He writes, “Let us recall also that the exchange of consent acquires its full signifi-

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DCN. McCLAY

From page 10

abortion illegal in Missouri if the U.S. Supreme Court ever strikes down the *Roe v. Wade* decision, which it wound up doing with the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* on June 24.

"These are amazing things that people have been working toward for years," he said. "I consider it a privilege to have played a role in helping get them passed."

He also weathered numerous occasions of frustration and disappointment, brought about in large part from gridlock and legislative paralysis.

He would like to have seen state lawmakers work more on effective gun-control and increased funding for social services.

"We were successful in fighting for Medicaid expansion but we had to walk a fine line getting there," he stated.

He also regrets what he and the MCC staff have never had time to pursue.

"One thing I always wish I could have done more of was getting deeper into the budget process," he said. "That's the kind long-term project that often succumbs to the 'tyranny of the urgent.'"

"It's time-consuming to get really involved in the budget process and work to slot in funding for something, such as helping organizations like Catholic Charities with their work in providing funding for the poor," he said.

"You almost have to have a dedicated person bird-dogging that," he noted. "But it's one area as executive director I would like

to have moved into more."

He's convinced that while the levers of sustainable government are designed to move slowly, they're not supposed to keep jamming.

"Yes, it's hard to pass legislation. That's not a bad thing," he said. "On the other hand, gridlock is not a good thing, either. There's got to be a balance. I think finding that balance is the challenge."

He believes much of the current culture of legislative stalemate comes from overall distrust of or even indifference to government at all levels.

"We still have checks and balances in this country, although some have been abused more recently, like presidential executive orders," he stated. "But I think fundamentally, despite the common perception, the system does work if it's operated appropriately."

"That's the hope we have, that we can get back to the system as it was designed to work," he said.

He's convinced that voting term limits for lawmakers into the state's Constitution has not been as helpful as its backers might have hoped.

"It means people in the Capitol are always looking for their next job," he said. "And that adds up to a lot of attention-grabbing legislation that's not necessarily the common good, but is good red meat for the constituents."

Carrying the light

Deacon McClay believes receiving the grace of Holy Orders and ministering in his par-

ish helped him in his role with the MCC.

"It was life giving to do deacon work and be part of work and participate in the Mass in that way," he said. "It helped me remember that there's so much more to life than pending legislation."

He enjoyed chanting the "Exsultet" at the Easter Vigil and the privilege of assisting the bishop at Mass in the Cathedral.

"I will definitely miss all of that," he said, along with helping provide music for XLT Adoration with young people of the parish.

He is eager to continue his diaconal ministry in a parish in the St. Louis archdiocese while serving as an attorney for the state attorney's office in St. Louis.

He will continue praying for all Catholics of this state.

"I hope we can all come together to continue to be the Church to the world and not let the divisions in our country divide us," he said. "It's easy for us to get caught up in that, but we've got to be different. We've still got to be the Church."

"I also hope that Catholics will put being Catholic first, ahead of their political party," he stated. "Because all too often, I see it see it being the other way around."

He asks for prayers for his successor, "that he or she has all the success in the world."

"And pray for the ongoing mission of the Catholic Conference, to carry the light of Christ to the public square," he requested.

MARRIAGE

From page 22

cance and enters into the divine will when the sacrament of matrimony is celebrated at the center of the eucharistic celebration. ... The unity of the spouses, who 'become one flesh' in the flesh of the Lord, is the image in this world of the unity of Christ the bridegroom and the church his bride."

In his chapter titled, "The Triptych of Marital Love," he writes poetically of the three stages of love encountered

in in this sacrament: delight, sacrifice and resurrection. He writes, "Love, by its essence, involves a leap into the unknown, a death to oneself, because genuine love is a love that loves to the end."

Throughout the book, Cardinal Sarah intertwines Scripture, teachings of the Church, quotes from the saints and his own experience as a priest to reveal the heart of marriage, which is the heart of Jesus, a heart that seeks

to serve the other.

He plainly writes of the ongoing battle over the Catholic ideal of marriage and that of the world, which knows not how to love as Christ loved. He faces the crises of secular marriage head-on and provides prescriptions for a stable Catholic marriage in today's unstable world.

The chapters are brief and direct, leading the reader or couples to further contemplation. The engaged couple will

Daily Readings

Sunday, Jul 10

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Dt. 30:10-14
Ps. 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37
Col. 1:15-20
Lk. 10:25-37

Monday, Jul 11

St. Benedict, abbot
Is. 1:10-17
Ps. 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23
Mt. 10:34-11:1

Tuesday, Jul 12

Is. 7:1-9
Ps. 48:2-8
Mt. 11:20-24

Wednesday, Jul 13

St. Henry
Is. 10:5-7, 13b-16
Ps. 94:5-10, 14-15
Mt. 11:25-27

Thursday, Jul 14

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, virgin (USA)
Is. 26:7-9, 12, 16-19
Ps. 102:13-14ab, 15-21
Mt. 11:28-30

Friday, Jul 15

St. Bonaventure, bishop and doctor of the Church
Is. 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8
(Ps.) Is. 38:10-12abcd, 16
Mt. 12:1-8

Saturday, Jul 16

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Mi. 2:1-5
Ps. 10:1-4, 7-8, 14
Mt. 12:14-21

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for July:

We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

Sunday, Jul 17

SUN SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Gn. 18:1-10a
Ps. 15:2-5
Col. 1:24-28
Lk. 10:38-42

Monday, Jul 18

St. Camillus de Lellis, priest (USA)
Mi. 6:1-4, 6-8
Ps. 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23
Mt. 12:38-42

Tuesday, Jul 19

Mi. 7:14-15, 18-20
Ps. 85:2-8
Mt. 12:46-50

Wednesday, Jul 20

St. Apollinaris, bishop and martyr
Jer. 1:1, 4-10
Ps. 71:1-4a, 5-6ab, 15, 17
Mt. 13:1-9

Thursday, Jul 21

St. Lawrence of Brindisi, priest and doctor of the Church
Jer. 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13
Ps. 36:6-7ab, 8-11
Mt. 13:10-17

Friday, Jul 22

St. Mary Magdalene
Sg. 3:1-4b or 2 Cor. 5:14-17
Ps. 63:2-6, 8-9
Jn. 20:1-2, 11-18

Saturday, Jul 23

St. Bridget, religious
Jer. 7:1-11
Ps. 84:3-6a, 8a, 11
Mt. 13:24-30

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be fully aware of the meaning and sacrifice marriage entails and those who are already married may find their nuptial commitment renewed through his writing.

Also of interest:

• *A Lifetime of Love: A Game Plan for Marriage and Family Life*, by Lou Holtz. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana,

2022). 128 pp., \$13.95.

• *Intercultural Marriage: A Pastoral Guide to the Sacrament*, by Simon C. Kim and Ricky Manalo. Paulist Press (Mahwah, New Jersey, 2022). 120 pp., \$19.95.

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

CATHOLIC FAITH WRITER AND SPEAKER
SHALINI BLUBAUGH

NEW DATE!

Women's Event

Tuesday, August 2nd

6:30 PM with reception afterward

A long-time writer and law school graduate, Shalini has happily left all things law behind to pursue her passion in bringing people closer to Christ. Come for an inspirational night in communion with other women who want to grow in their faith!

For High School & College Students

Wednesday, August 3rd

6:30 PM with reception afterward

Hear how Shalini, a long-time writer for "Blessed is She," had a re-version back to her Catholic faith in college. Come for an inspirational night that will transform your faith and ground you in spirit before school starts this Fall.

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For more information, contact Molly Cody at 573-645-7510 or mary.e.molly@hotmail.com

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People watch the Macy's Fourth of July fireworks in New York City July 4, 2022.

— CNS photo/Jeenah Moon, Reuters

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Fr. Schmitz, Jeff Cavins win Cdl. Foley Award

Catholic News Service

Portland, Oregon

Father Mike Schmitz and Jeff Cavins of Ascension Press are the recipients of the 2022 Cardinal John P. Foley Award from the Catholic Media Association.

The Foley award recognizes demonstrated excellence and innovation in Catholic storytelling in the preceding year, with work presented on various media platforms, including — but not limited to — video, podcasts, photo spreads, blogs, or a multimedia melding of platforms.

It's one of the highest honors given by the CMA. The announcement was made July 6 during the 2022 Catholic Media Conference in Portland.

Fr. Schmitz and Cavin won the award for their joint project, "The Bible in a Year" podcast, which boasted an audience of about 450,000 daily listeners in 2021.

Fr. Schmitz and Cavin were not in attendance to accept the award in person.