

**Creating sacred art  
for Cathedral baptistery**

A St. Louis artist is using natural light and oil paint to create stirring images for the new baptistery in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

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# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

July 22, 2022 • Vol. 66 No. 2

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## Fr. Tolton's 125th anniversary a call to 'courageous patience'



**Procession, Mass in neighboring diocese highlight heroic virtues of nation's first recognizably Black priest, born and baptized in Brush Creek, Missouri**

See related article on Page 11

By Jay Nies

"It's one of those signs that holiness doesn't know color."

Father Peter Chineke commented on the panoply of people who had processed from St. Peter Church in Quincy, Illinois, to Venerable Father Augustus Tolton's burial place in St. Peter Cemetery.

"His story is very inspiring," said Fr. Chineke, a priest of the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois, who grew up in Nigeria and like Fr. Tolton, is Black. "It inspires us to live a life of courage, a life of love, a life of faith."

It was the 125th anniversary of Fr. Tolton's death of heatstroke in Chicago at age 43.

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield, Illinois, processed with a crowd of several hundred people to the cemetery and offered Mass where Fr. Tolton's earthly remains await the resurrection.

"It is our love for good 'Fr. Gus' that brings us together today, to make this pilgrimage to the grave of this holy priest," the bishop stated in his homily. "As we do so, we ask the Lord to allow us to imitate the virtue we see exemplified throughout the life of Fr. Tolton."

Born in 1854 into a family of enslaved people in what is now part of the Diocese of Jefferson City, and baptized in old St. Peter Church in Brush Creek, Fr. Tolton exhibited exceptional

See FR. TOLTON, page 15

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield, Illinois, offers Mass at the burial place of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton in St. Peter Cemetery in Quincy, Illinois, on July 9, the 125th anniversary of Fr. Tolton's death. Fr. Tolton, the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest, was born into a family of enslaved people and baptized in St. Peter Church in Brush Creek in what is now part of the Jefferson City diocese. He escaped with his family to Illinois during the Civil War. He is under serious consideration for being declared a Saint.

— Photo by Jay Nies

## Yearlong, weekly Mass counts to start in August, will help guide pastoral planning

By Jay Nies

Counting isn't just for October anymore.

For an entire year, parishes throughout the Jefferson City diocese will keep close track of the number of people attending Mass each Sunday and holyday of obligation, beginning Aug. 6-7.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and his advisors will use the collected data for ongoing pastoral planning and the appropriate allocation of resources throughout the diocese.

Each parish's weekly count will include in-person and on-line attendance of weekend Masses and authorized Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest.

"What we're looking for is a more exact snapshot of where we are and where we're going in relation to the seating capacity of each church, so we can better serve the whole diocese with an increasingly limited number of priests," said Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki, vicar general of the diocese, who is

overseeing the Mass counts.

Bishop McKnight called for this year-round process with the unanimous approval of the diocesan Presbyteral Council, made of priests of the diocese, and the deans of each geographic region, known as a deanery.

This yearlong count period is an extension of the annual October Count, which parishes throughout the diocese have been taking since 2001.

"For many years, the October Count has been a very useful tool for pastoral planning," said Msgr. Kurwicki. "But as we enter into a new phase of planning for the future, we need to have a more detailed count in order to provide even better pastoral care throughout the diocese.

"It will give us a clearer picture of trends and will take into account various statistical anomalies that come with doing

See MASS COUNT, page 23

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**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](mailto:dbarnes@diojeffcity.org). Allow two weeks.

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## Pray for deceased priests

July 24 — **Msgr. John F. Kenny**, St. Anthony of Padua, Folk (1981);  
**Fr. Joseph B. Boland**, Holy Guardian Angels, Brinktown (1998); **Fr. Arthur J. Mersinger**, St. Cecilia, Meta (2003)  
 July 25 — **Fr. Francis L. Kennedy**, St. Patrick, Jonesburg (1984)  
 July 27 — **Fr. Noel F. Brennan**, St. Joseph, Edina (1968)  
 Aug. 1 — **Fr. Aloysius G. Hilke**, St. Margaret of Antioch, Osage Bend (1979); **Fr. Ralph H. Siebert**, St. Francis Caracciola, Bourbon; and Sacred Heart, Leasburg (1986)  
 Aug. 3 — **Msgr. Gerard L. Poelker**, St. Lawrence, St. Elizabeth (2009)  
 Aug. 4 — **Fr. Fred J. Yehle**, Shrine of St. Patrick, St. Patrick (1989)  
 Aug. 5 — **Fr. Donald J. Kemper**, St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbia (1984)

## New Sunday Mass times for Cathedral Parish

The new Sunday Mass times for Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City have been changed to 7:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Confessions will remain on Saturday afternoon from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel.

Saturday evening Masses remain at 5:30 p.m.

### Science/Literature Teacher

St. Andrew Catholic School in Tipton, Mo., has an opening for a Jr. High Science and Literature Teacher. Part-time Science and/or Literature would be acceptable. All interested persons can contact the Principal, Kara Higgins, at [khiggins@saintandrewpirates.com](mailto:khiggins@saintandrewpirates.com).

### Custodial & Maintenance Coordinator



The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking a full-time (30-40 hrs./wk.) individual to clean and coordinate maintenance services at the Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center. Hours of work can be flexible.

General duties include: cleaning all areas of the building; emptying trash; minor maintenance, such as changing light bulbs, painting, minor drywall repair, hanging pictures, moving furniture, unstopping toilets; hard surface floor cleaning and spot cleaning carpet; changing HVAC filters; ordering cleaning supplies; maintaining sidewalks, stairways and walkways in inclement weather; coordinating maintenance for other types of repairs, such as plumbing, lawn care, parking lot maintenance, pest control, etc.

This position is eligible for all group insurance benefits and matching 403(b) retirement plan. Qualified individuals should call Cheryl Hertfelder, Director of Human Resources, 573-635-9127 ext. 206 or email [HRdir@diojeffcity.org](mailto:HRdir@diojeffcity.org).

## New online form for submitting names for the People Page

### Mandatory use of new form, changes for anniversaries, effective Aug. 1

*The Catholic Missourian* 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 the form at: [diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence](http://diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence).

Parishes or individuals will use the form to submit:

- 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;
- marriages;
- 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 information should contact their parish secretary.

The changes were approved by Bishop W. Shawn McKnight under the advice of his cabinet and the staff of *The*

*Catholic Missourian* and the diocesan Communication Department.

The change is part of an effort to streamline the process of gathering and verifying of names for the "People Page."

The process has grown unwieldy in recent years, especially during the summer months, which are popular for weddings.

"The People Page will remain an important part of each print edition of *The Catholic Missourian* as source of information and as a litany of prayer," stated Jay Nies, editor. "We appreciate people's cooperation in using this new form to help ensure the timeliness and accuracy of the names we publish."

## Shalini Blubagh to speak in Hermann

**DATE: Aug. 2 and 3**  
**TIME: 6:30 pm**

St. George Parish in Hermann will host two presentations by Catholic faith writer and speaker Shalini Blubagh, on Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 2 and 3.

Mrs. Blubagh will give a presentation for women on Aug. 2 and for high school and college students on Aug. 3.

Both will be at 6:30 p.m. in St. George Church, 128 W. Fourth St. in Hermann.

A reception will follow both events. Free-will offerings will be accepted.

Mrs. Blubagh, a long-time

writer for "Blessed is She," had a re-version back to her Catholic faith in college.

A long-time writer and law school graduate, she 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 others who want to grow in their faith!

She is featured on "The Un-

raveled," "Catholic Conversation" and "Parenting Smarts" podcasts; is a contributor and speaker at Unraveled Imago Dei Retreats; and has written several devotionals and faith studies for Catholic ministry.

For more information, contact Molly Cody at 573-645-7510 or [mary.e.molly@hotmail.com](mailto:mary.e.molly@hotmail.com).

[herfitlife7.com](http://herfitlife7.com)

## Bishop Perry to visit "Camp Tolton" in Clarence

**DATE: July 25**  
**TIME: 2 - 4:30 pm**

Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry, postulator for the sainthood cause of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, will be in Clarence on Monday, July 25 to help kick off the sixth annual Catholic Summer Camp, which has been renamed Camp Tolton.

Visitors to the camp, lo-

cated at Camp Jo-Ota, 1272 Hwy MM, will check in at 2:30 p.m. and leave by 4 p.m.

Bishop Perry will share the story of Fr. Tolton, a Missouri native and former slave who became the Roman Catholic Church's first noticeably Black priest.

For information, contact Amanda Durbin, Camp Tolton Director, at 660-415-7362.

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

**Bishop W. Shawn McKnight**  
 Publisher

**Helen Osman**, Dir. of Diocesan Communications  
[hosman@diojeffcity.org](mailto:hosman@diojeffcity.org)

**Jay Nies**, Editor  
[editor@diojeffcity.org](mailto:editor@diojeffcity.org)

**Kelly Martin**, Advertising  
[advertize@diojeffcity.org](mailto:advertize@diojeffcity.org)



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Diocese of  
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# Bishop calls for parishes to be cradles of credible witness

By Jay Nies

The parish community is the presence of the Church in a given territory — the network of relationships through which Christ's followers are saved and by which they draw others toward His saving grace.

"This is why we believe in the necessity of the Church for salvation," Bishop W. Shawn McKnight explained at a recent Mass in St. Mary Church in Glasgow.

As such, he said, the parish should be like "a good mother comforting and taking care of her children."

"Being part of a vibrant parish is so important for our identity as Christians," Bishop McKnight stated. "The parish should be a place where every believer finds the resources and opportunities to grow both as disciples and apostles. The parish should be a house of prayer, a school of formation, and a refuge in times of need."

The bishop presided at the July 3 Sunday Mass in Glasgow.

He installed Father Joshua Duncan, who had been serving as canonical administrator of St. Mary Parish and of St. Joseph Parish in Fayette, as pastor.

"You have been called to be a priest, prophet and shepherd for the people of St. Mary's," the bishop told Fr. Duncan. "This parish is a community of faith, whose members struggle together to live out the faith of the Apostles and

strive to be credible witnesses of our Catholic faith."

The bishop invited the people of the parish to contemplate how they can witness more credibly to the beauty and goodness of the faith.

"The answer is charity," he asserted. "Sacrificial love is what catches everyone's attention. Suffering for someone in need — caring for them, not just in words but in deeds — is something everyone understands."

## "Let your light shine"

Bishop McKnight pointed out that a disciple is a baptized follower of the Lord, while an apostle is a disciple who is sent to evangelize.

"Discipleship is about being a student or follower of the Lord, one who practices the faith through active stewardship," he stated. "Disciples live the Christian discipline of life; they embrace the Gospel for themselves, knowing its challenges and joys, and they are intentional about living out its mandates daily."

Apostles are made with the special gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

"As such, all of us who are baptized and consecrated with the gifts of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation are called not only to live the faith ourselves, but to draw others to the reality of the presence of God in our midst," the bishop noted.

He reminded Fr. Duncan

to always remember that the people of the parish are not perfect, "but they are here because they believe."

a way that they will willingly receive it."

He pointed to Jesus's admonition to "let your light

that we use the right method to present the Gospel so that people will be converted — that they will see the light in us and say, 'I want what you've got!'" the bishop stated.

Rather than trying to prove people wrong, it calls for persuading and attracting them to the beauty of the Catholic Faith.

"This is the work of missionaries, which we are," Bishop McKnight stated.

"As we give thanks to the Lord for our new pastor of St. Mary's in Glasgow, let us recommit ourselves to witnessing the beauty and Joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ," he said.

**"The parish should be a place where every believer finds the resources and opportunities to grow both as disciples and apostles. The parish should be a house of prayer, a school of formation, and a refuge in times of need."**

— Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

He said a pastor's vocation is to foster, encourage and animate the faithful of the parish to take up their role as disciples and apostles in the world.

He acknowledged that giving prophetic witness is often a tall order in a world that is largely indifferent or even hostile to the message.

"There are many teachings of the Church that are not accepted by some in our own community," Bishop McKnight noted, "teachings that may cause them to insult you and persecute you for adhering to God's Word."

Among these are the sanctity and the dignity of all human life; the sinfulness of racism; the preferential option for the poor in public policy; and the Church's countercultural understanding of sexual morality, the vocation of marriage and the meaning and purpose of the human body.

"We Christians have the medicine that is able to save a person's soul and put that person's life back together," the bishop asserted. "But sometimes we can use the wrong method to get the message across. We may try to force it down people's throats instead of presenting it in such

shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father Who is in heaven," (Matthew 5:16).

"In such a way" means


## 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.

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



## Bishop McKnight's Calendar

**JULY**

Appointments are not normally scheduled in the month of July.

Jul 24 Immaculate Conception 150th Anniversary Mass, 10 am, St. James

Jul 28 Camp Tolton Visit, 11:30 am, Clarence

**AUGUST**

Aug 6 Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, 10 am, Chancery; Mass of Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders for Mr. Jacob Hartman, seminarian; St. Andrew Parish, 5:30 pm, Holts Summit


Aug 9 Council of Deans Meeting, 10 am, Chancery

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# Former MCC executive director: Supreme Court decision casts Missouri's Blaine Amendment 'into dustbin of history'

By Jay Nies

The U.S. Supreme Court's *Carson v. Makin* ruling could eventually expand educational options for Catholic families and close out a longstanding relic of 19th-century anti-Catholic bias in Missouri and other states.

The 6-3 decision, handed down June 21, declared that a Maine tuition aid program that excluded religious schools was unconstitutional.

"I would say that this decision puts Missouri's 'Blaine Amendment' in the dustbin of history," stated Mike Hoey, retired executive director and longtime legislative specialist with the Missouri Catholic Conference.

Mr. Hoey, a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, has extensively studied the history of anti-Catholic bias in the Missouri Constitution and is the author of "Missouri Education at the Crossroads: The Phelan Miscalculation and the Education Amendment of 1870," published in the *Missouri Historical Review* in July 2001.

"A number of states passed so-called 'Blaine Amendments' in the 19th century and were motivated in large part by anti-Catholic bias, which was very prevalent in America at that time," he said.

People have defended such century-and-a-half amend-

ments to state constitutions "as if they were an extension of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment."

"That's a clear misreading of the First Amendment," Mr. Hoey stated.

He noted that there are two parts of the First Amendment's first phrase, which deals with religion:

- "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion" and

- "... or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Mr. Hoey said the "no establishment" portion was a response to several of the former colonies that became the United States of America having their own established, state religions.

"For instance, in colonial Virginia, before there was a 'United States,' when the states were still just colonies, the Church of England was the established religion, and Virginia's colonial government subsidized the Anglican clergy," said Mr. Hoey.

That did not sit well with Virginia's Baptists and the smaller Protestant denominations.

"That's partly the reason they put 'no establishment of religion' in the Bill of Rights," said Mr. Hoey. "They didn't want a particular religion to be the official religion. They wanted people to have freedom to express their religious beliefs in whatever way they wished."

With that understanding, *Carson v. Makin* makes perfect sense, he said.

"The Court's decision is simply saying that if a public



The Supreme Court building is seen in Washington in this June 15, 2022 photo.

—CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn

school system is going provide grants or vouchers to schools in the private sector, it cannot exclude private religious schools simply because they're religious," he said.

That, he stated, would amount to inhibiting the free expression of religion, in violation of the second part of the First Amendment's religious clause dealing with religion.

Mr. Hoey was quick to point out that the *Carson* ruling does not require states to give funding to private schools or to parents wishing to send their children to private schools.

"If the public school system chooses to only fund public schools, they can do that, they're free to do that and that's their prerogative as a public body, as a government agency," he said.

"But if they're going to provide funding in the private sector, you can't single out religious schools as being not eligible simply because they're religiously affiliated," he added.

Mr. Hoey called the decision "a big step forward."

Missouri has passed several laws in the past 10 to 15 years, expanding public education into the private sector, including charter schools and a rather limited voucher program.

"This ruling should open up some of those programs to religious schools," he said.

He noted that states could still set requirements for participating in such programs, as long as those requirements

apply to all people who want to compete for those vouchers or grants, and are not intrinsically biased against faith-based schools simply because they're faith-based.

"Catholic schools would have to look at those requirements and decide whether they want to participate or not," he said.

## Will take time

Mr. Hoey believes it might take a while for the Court's intent in the *Carson* ruling to filter down to every state.

"There will probably be some pushback," he said. "It's going to take a little while for the import of this decision to sort of sink in. It may still be debated for a while."

"But if you're going to have any kind of voucher program," he stated, "especially one that goes to parents, the Supreme Court is saying you're not establishing religion by opening it up to religious schools; you're allowing the free expression of religion."

He believes Missouri's current, fairly limited voucher program for parents who want to send their children to charter schools or to public schools in neighboring districts, would provide the best opportunity for parents seeking tax relief for sending their children to religious schools.

"As it is now with the ruling, if someone brings out legislation to start up a voucher or tax-credit program that in-

cludes public and private schools, no one will be able to argue that it's unconstitutional," he said.

"As long as the choice is in parents' hands, it's certainly an opportunity for the advocates of school choice, especially in the Catholic sector, to make sure Catholic schools are included in such a program," he stated.

Mr. Hoey is convinced that the ruling will point Missouri in a new, better direction — "a non-discriminatory approach that honors and respects freedom of

religion."

Nonetheless, when programs for funding non-public education become available to families who send their children to Catholic schools, the requirements might wind up being too much to bear, he said.

In the meantime, he believes the Court's decision should not lead to more religious divisiveness, "particularly when you put the money in the parents' hands."

"Ultimately," he stated, "the parents should have the choice to educate in the home or in the school, or what kind of school, so they should have a choice."

## Fear of "the other"

Mr. Hoey pointed out that what are known as "Blaine Amendments" were part of an attempt in the 1870s by U.S. Rep. James Blaine from Maine to stop any kind of aid to religious schools.

The prohibition in Missouri's Constitution, adopted in the tumultuous years following the Civil War, actually preceded the national movement by a few years.

"You can look back and you can see when attempts were made to provide some kind of assistance that would include private schools and religious schools, and you'll see that some very harsh anti-Catholic backlash occurred," he said.


See EDUCATION, page 23

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# Murals being created for Cathedral illustrate the spiritual reality of Baptism

**Artist sees her work as part of Church's mission to evangelize**

By Jay Nies

Northern sunlight illuminates a panorama of Missouri wildlife, flowers and fauna.

A bishop, a priest and a deacon lead a procession through a glorified version of the Missouri River.

People of all ages, backgrounds and skin tones are taken up in the gathering, which close examination reveals to be expedited by a fishing net, being dragged by the clergymen.

"And caught up in the net, in addition to all the beautiful native species, are the newly baptized, who are carrying their Baptism candles and representing individuals from all walks of life who are crossing the spiritual Jordan into the Promised Land of new life in Christ," stated Gwyneth Thompson-Briggs ([gwyneththompsonbriggs.com](http://gwyneththompsonbriggs.com)), a painter of sacred art.

This vivid illustration will adorn the walls and octagonal ceiling of the new baptistery in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

The work is part of a substantial, yearlong renovation, expansion and renewal of the 53-year-old Cathedral, focused

on enhancing its beauty, functionality, capacity for hospitality and uniquely Catholic identity.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight directed Mrs. Thompson-Briggs to include images of distinctly Missouri wildlife and hints of the bluffs of the Missouri River in the distance.

She incorporated native trout and catfish in the water, flowering dogwood trees on the banks, and cardinals and bluebirds in the air.

"The idea is to visually enculturate the universal call to Baptism within the Diocese of Jefferson City," Mrs. Thomp-



**Gwyneth Thompson-Briggs, a Catholic painter in St. Louis, mixes oil paint for the murals she is creating for the new baptistery in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City, which is undergoing an extensive renovation.**

— Photo by Max Bouvatte Photography

son-Briggs explained "to show how Christ's call to baptize all nations (Matthew 28:19) is also a call to Baptism for the people of this particular place."

The entire work is made up of three large panels, each about 9 by 9 feet, and eight smaller panels to adorn the octagonal cupola in the ceiling.

All are being rendered in oil-based paint on thick canvas, which will be secured to the baptistery walls.

The cupola will be situated above the marble baptismal font, which will also have eight sides — representing the six days of Creation, the Sabbath, and the day on which Jesus rose from the dead.

The final panel includes two souls — one receiving Baptism by blood, the other receiving Baptism by desire.

"Bishop McKnight wanted to be sure that all three forms of Baptism — by water, by blood and by desire — were represented," Mrs. Thompson-Briggs noted, referring to the *Catechism of the Catholic*

*Church*, #1257-1261.

Each of the smaller panels for the cupola includes a fruit-laden garland known as a festoon.

"All the fruits are Missouri fruits," Mrs. Thompson-Briggs noted. "In the center of the cupola is a depiction of the Holy Spirit. So the festoons also symbolically represent the spiritual fruits that are transmitted through the grace of Baptism."

### "With them for life"

Mrs. Thompson-Briggs describes herself as "a contemporary sacred artist in the perennial Western tradition."

She often invokes the intercession of Blessed Fra Angelico, who was a 15th-century Dominican friar and artist in Florence.

"His works are so heavenly," she said. "If I were to be placed in a monastic cell with one painting for the rest of my days, I would want it to be one of his."

Seeing his works adorning the monks' cells in the Friary of San Marco in Florence, Italy, helped her understand the intimacy that is possible between art and the person viewing it.

"Contemplating one single great work of art should be enough to bring you closer to

mire," she stated.

Mrs. Thompson-Briggs grew up Catholic in Denver and got married in the majestic St. Francis de Sales Church in St. Louis.

She holds a life-long appreciation for traditional Catholic worship and everything that comes with it.

"I've always had a good idea of how blessed I am to be raised Catholic," she said. "But I think it's not until you become a parent that you really realize how much responsibility we have to pass the faith on to others and what kind of a challenge that is."

Nothing in her childhood animated her soul like the sights, sounds and aromas of authentic Catholic worship.

"I've always been profoundly affected with all the visuals and images connected with the Mass," she stated. "I remember the image of Christ in the cry room, and things like incense and the candles — even images from my religion textbooks, from when I was 5 or 6 years

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# Catholic Ministry Insists Poverty Relief Must Include An Encounter with Christ

If you are like most people, you've probably never heard of Suchitepéquez, Guatemala. It isn't home to the country's capital city. It's not a tourist hot spot, and it doesn't have an abundance of the natural resources the world craves. Almost nothing about this remote part of Guatemala stands out as noteworthy or would draw your attention — except for its people and the miraculous material and spiritual work God has begun to accomplish there.

"Suchitepéquez, Guatemala, has become an area of great interest to Cross Catholic Outreach, and we expect many in the Catholic Church will eventually celebrate its significance in the years ahead. We believe that people and communities are being transformed there, and the way that change is being achieved will soon be a model for ministries working to end poverty elsewhere in the world," said Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. "Great changes have already taken place there, and I'm confident even greater advancements will be made in the year ahead."

Cavnar is also encouraged by how so many American Catholics have stepped forward to help with the mission work underway in Guatemala. His ministry — well known for its relief and development work around the globe — needs this support in order to undertake new initiatives and expand the diocese's current outreaches to help the poor. (See related story on opposite page.)

Contributions from U.S. donors have already helped Cross Catholic Outreach and the bishop of the Diocese of Suchitepéquez-Retalhuleu begin several community transformation programs that provide both material and spiritual

blessings to families living in the area.

"We believe there are two key factors that produce real, lasting change in poor communities. Part of the process involves addressing the serious material needs of the people by ending extreme

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**"...it takes an encounter with Christ to change lives and communities profoundly and forever."**

Jim Cavnar, President  
Cross Catholic Outreach

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hunger, providing safer water sources, seeing that families have basic medical care, improving housing, educating children and doing other outreaches of that kind. Because poverty touches on many areas, you can only produce long-term prosperity in an area by having a relief plan that considers all of a community's needs," Cavnar said. "The other part of the process focuses on the spiritual condition of the people, and we consider it a critical reason for our success. Some try to attack poverty with only material solutions. While that may help for a time, it rarely creates a healthy community or makes improvements that will last. Real transformation and progress are only possible when Christ is part of the solution. As people, we can offer temporary fixes to a momentary need, but it takes an encounter with Christ to change lives and communities profoundly and forever."

The work Cross Catholic Outreach has underway in Guatemala clearly reflects the development strategies Cavnar outlined, and many American Catholics have already shown their enthusiasm for



the mission by supporting it financially. These contributions will continue to be important, especially in new communities that are still waiting to be helped.

"Suchitepéquez is a rural area and most of the families living there are very poor, typically relying on subsistence farming to survive," Cavnar explained. "The diocese is a reflection of the community and works with a very meager budget. It will continue to need our help to accomplish the social and spiritual outreaches local families desperately need. With our support, the diocese can feed the hungry, dig wells to supply fresh water, build houses for the homeless, set up medical clinics, provide educational scholarships, support spiritual outreaches and do the other things community transformation requires."

As these improvements take place and prove successful, donors to the cause often want to become even more involved, Cavnar added.

"In my experience, most American

Catholics want to support meaningful outreaches to help the poor. But they are looking for something specific and they want to know their gifts will have a significant impact," he said. "When they see what they can accomplish through Cross Catholic Outreach by empowering a diocese like this one, they often ask us, 'What can I do next?' They feel such fulfillment from the experience that they want to do more."

**Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach's outreaches to the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02142, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner or write "Monthly Mission Partner" on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.**

## Cross Catholic Outreach's "Day of Prayer" Blesses Catholics Spiritually

Each year, one of the nation's leading international relief and development ministries sets aside a special day to offer prayer as a gift to those in need — particularly to Catholics in America who have been supporting its work overseas. It is yet another sign of the organization's deeply spiritual approach to charity.

"Since our inception, we have always set aside a day of the week to pray for those who have shared their intentions, and those requests have typically come to us through the many priests who

visit U.S. parishes to share about our mission during the homily of the Mass," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. "The Day of Prayer we celebrate in August is a full day dedicated to prayer for others, and it also includes a wonderful additional blessing. The prayer petitions we gather during that time are sent to His Eminence Cardinal Konrad Krajewski at the Vatican, who intercedes for the many prayer intentions during a special Mass celebrated on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary."

Individuals interested in participating in the Day of Prayer are encouraged to use the ministry's special internet page to submit their prayer intentions. It is found at [CrossCatholic.org/dayofprayer](http://CrossCatholic.org/dayofprayer).

"While Cross Catholic Outreach is best known for the many things it does to support Church missions serving the poor — delivering shipments of food and medicines, funding educational and house-building initiatives, and developing self-help projects that allow people to escape poverty — we are

very intentional about serving the poor spiritually as well," Cavnar said. "That is not always the case with charities, even religious ones, but we believe communicating the Gospel of Christ and promoting the means of grace — including prayer — must be part of our relief and development mission."

"This approach is also in keeping with the points made in the Papal Encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*," he added. "It very clearly states that those of us who become involved in works of mercy must also be people of prayer."



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# U.S. Catholics Help Poor Guatemalan Families Break the Bonds of Poverty

There is a terrible and destructive myth about the poverty in Central America. It suggests that the poor families living there are unwilling to work hard to succeed and are eager to leave their communities to find an easier life elsewhere.

“Nothing could be further from the truth, in my experience,” said Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, one of the leading Catholic ministries working to alleviate poverty in the developing world. “Yes, many rural families are mired in extreme poverty and desperately want to provide their children with a better way of life, but most men and women I’ve encountered want to find solutions at home, because they love their country, their communities and their families.” Cavnar has worked and traveled through South and Central America for nearly two decades, and his work with Catholic dioceses in countries such as Guatemala have proven out his sentiments. The poor are not looking for a handout but rather for “a hand up,” as he explained.

Working under this premise, Cross Catholic Outreach typically supports diocesan efforts to provide both urgent relief with supplies of food and long-term development with self-help initiatives that allow families to improve their lot in life through agricultural and animal husbandry programs and other small business ventures. When families are offered access to opportunities like these, he says, they put an incredible level of energy into the work it involves.

“When you improve a farmer’s crop yield so he can earn a higher income or you set up a pig-raising project so he can pay his bills and send his kids to school, you are triggering a major transformation in a family’s life. The economic chains that have bound the family in poverty for generations are broken, and a life of greater prosperity begins,” Cavnar said. “It’s an incredible experience to be part of that transformation — to see God restoring hope and opening a path to a brighter future for these precious people and their children.”

According to Cavnar, this idea of addressing both a family’s material and spiritual needs is what has been fueling his ministry’s current efforts in Guatemala. (See related story on the opposite page.)

“We believe this life-changing mission of mercy could sweep the globe and change millions of lives if we



continue to be supported by American Catholics,” he added.

For twenty years, donors to Cross Catholic Outreach have generously supported the ministry’s efforts to provide the poor with food and other urgent needs, and those objectives will remain an important part of the organization’s mission, but Cavnar hopes those same compassionate people will also want to support the long-term sustainable solutions the charity is undertaking.

“Together, we can partner with Caritas Suchitepéquez-Retalhuleu to help families grow their own food and increase their crop yields through improved tools and training,” Cavnar said. “These families are willing to

work hard, and they want to become self-sufficient and prosper in their home communities. The Church should be helping them achieve those noble goals.”

Many of the poor families in the Diocese of Suchitepéquez-Retalhuleu live in fragile homes constructed from scrap wood, plastic or canvas sheets, and discarded metal. Few can afford even the most basic furnishings and most rely on wood-burning stoves that fill their tiny houses with smoke. They long to provide their children with a better life, so the Church is working to transform their communities and help them escape the bondage of this extreme poverty.

work hard, and they want to become self-sufficient and prosper in their home communities. The Church should be helping them achieve those noble goals.”

With the help of American Catholic donors, Caritas Suchitepéquez-Retalhuleu could double its agriculture program in the year ahead, he said.

“In the past, Caritas successfully trained 200 families on proven techniques to grow healthy, sustainable home gardens, and the impact of that outreach was an incredible blessing.

More recently, Caritas trained 400 farming families to grow native herbs, vegetables and local citrus fruits. This

will help parents provide nutritious meals for their children, and those families would also be able to sell their surplus crops to increase their income,” Cavnar said. “Catholic donors in the U.S. will play an important role in continuing this outreach. Their gifts will fund the technical assistance, cover the cost of seeds and organic fertilizer, and purchase the fruit trees we will provide the next group of participating families. With these benefits and the spiritual support the diocese provides, these families can have hope again. Their dignity will be restored and their faith will be strengthened.”

## How to Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper, or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02142, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

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





## QUESTION CORNER

Wearing a veil in church /  
Destination weddings?

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service



*This column originally ran in 2016. Father Doyle is now retired.*

**Q. Recently, I have been “convicted” to wear a veil in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament — both when I am at Mass and during my adoration hours in our parish’s Chapel of Perpetual Adoration. Several other women in the parish have also felt led to do so. However, I am told that some of these women have been “counseled” by our pastor that he does not want this and feels the wearing of a veil to be prideful. As a child, of course, I wore a veil at my First Holy Communion and even for some years afterward and never thought it to be prideful. I would like your opinion. (South Carolina)**

A. The custom of women wearing a veil in church finds a basis in the earliest days of the Church, as reflected in the 11th chapter of Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians. That custom, though, may well have reflected the cultural bias of the times because the same chapter says: “For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; nor was man created for woman, but woman for man.”

The 1917 *Code of Canon Law* (in No. 1262) said that men in church should be bare-headed while women “shall have a covered head.” (That same Canon also said, “It is desirable that, consistent with ancient discipline, women be separated from men in Church.”)

But in 1976, an instruction issued by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) indicated that this 1917 directive was no longer in force. (The CDF said, “It must be noted that these ordinances, probably inspired by the customs of the period, concern scarcely more than disciplinary practices of minor importance, such as the obligation imposed upon women to wear a veil on their head. ... Such requirements no longer have a normative value.”)

In the current *Code of Canon Law* currently in force, published in 1983, the canon about head veils was not reissued. Clearly, then, women today are not required to cover their heads in church.

Does that mean that they are not permitted to? Of course not. Within the bounds of modesty, people are free to wear whatever they want — and the only one who is in a position to judge motivation is the wearer.

If you are using a mantilla, or chapel veil, out of vanity — to draw attention to yourself — then that is wrong. But if you wear it as a sign of reverence, out of respect for the dignity of the Eucharist and our unworthiness before it, then that is a laudable choice. It’s your call, left to your prayerful discretion.

**Q. What is the Church’s position about “destination weddings,” which may or may not be performed by a priest? If two previously unmarried Catholics in good standing are married in such a non-Church ceremony, will the Church accept that marriage? (Schenectady, New York)**

A. My take on “destination weddings” is that they are fraught with complication — both from the religious point of view as well as the civil.

To answer your question simply, two Catholics must be married by a Catholic priest or deacon. Sometimes an “exotic” wedding venue will assure a couple that the venue will find a mem-

See FR. DOYLE, page 15

Indigenous priest shares practices  
that will be part of pope’s Canada trip

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

When Pope Francis travels to Canada to apologize to Indigenous communities for the way the Catholic Church joined efforts to uproot them from their traditional culture and spirituality, their traditions will be on full display.

The First Nation, Métis and Inuit people will welcome Pope Francis to their lands July 24-29 wearing their traditional dress, speaking their languages, performing their songs and dances and sharing elements of their traditional styles of prayer.

Father Cristino Bouvette, a priest of the Diocese of Calgary, Alberta, has been working with the pope’s master of liturgical ceremonies, Msgr. Diego Giovanni Ravelli, to plan the Masses and prayer services for the trip.

Fr. Bouvette is Italian on his mother’s side and Cree and Métis on his father’s side.

“For Indigenous Catholics to see the Holy Father welcomed to some place like Sacred Heart Church by having smudged the space first, or facing the four directions to offer his blessing — as simple as those gestures may seem — clearly demonstrates a sensitivity on his part to their traditions which, though outside of any particular Catholic expression of faith, are certainly not contrary to it,” the priest said in an email response to questions.

One of the events Fr. Bouvette has helped plan is Pope Francis’ scheduled meeting July 25 with Indigenous people at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, which has been the official parish for First Nations and Métis people in Edmonton since 1993.

Before Pope Francis arrives, an elder will process into the church with a bowl of smolder-



Rita Means, tribal council representative with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, holds a smoking bowl during a smudge ceremony at the Church of Santa Maria in Traspontina in Rome in this Oct. 18, 2019, file photo. A Canadian priest helping prepare for Pope Francis’ visit to Canada said gestures such as the smudge ceremony or facing the four directions to pray show sensitivity to Indigenous culture and are not contrary to the Catholic faith. — CNS photo/Paul Haring

ing cedar, sage, sweetgrass and tobacco — the common aromatics used for the “smudge” ceremony by many native peoples of North America.

“The smudge that is being proposed at Sacred Heart holds a two-fold purpose: 1) to show recognition of the ritual in an observable/public way; and 2) as a ritual of purification in the space itself as a gesture of making the space ‘more hospitable’ to welcome the Holy Father as he arrives,” Fr. Bouvette wrote in an email.

Usually, the person doing the smudging would use a feather or branch to direct the smoke toward participants who use their hands to welcome it as a sign of their desire to cleanse their minds and hearts. However, Fr. Bouvette said, at Sacred Heart the elder will smudge the church itself but will not direct the smoke toward the pope.

Twenty years ago, Pope St. John Paul II celebrated a Mass and beatification of two Indigenous men in Mexico City.

At the beginning of the Mass in 2002, Catholic News Service reported, there was “a purification ritual carried out by a woman in traditional costume who gently waved medicinal herbs in front of the pope” while other women in native dress carried smoking pots of aromatics.

The liturgy featured dancing as well.

St. John Paul, in his homily, told the people, “The two blessed are an example of how, without regarding one’s ancestral customs as myths, one can reach God without renouncing one’s own culture but letting oneself be enlightened by the light of Christ, which renews the religious spirit of the best popular traditions.”

In the Church’s ongoing process of inculturation — making room for a group’s cultural expressions — Fr. Bouvette said there is “a very important distinction between something being ‘pagan,’ which means nothing more than practiced by the non-baptized, and something being blasphemous or sacrilegious.”

“Certain ‘pagan’ practices would be ‘sacrilegious’ because they either make a mockery of our faith or dangerously open one up to the spiritual order where one has no control over what enters or attaches,” he said. “There are a variety of Indigenous rituals such as this which I have intentionally left off the table from the beginning.”

“In a Catholic context, we could see the ritual of smudging as being akin to the use of certain of our sacramentals which are borne for personal, spiritual purposes, such as wearing the scapular or anointing with the oil of St. Joseph’s

See POPE CANADA, page 23

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## The bounty of ordinary times

By Lucia A. Silecchia



Do your summer plans include planting a garden? To my mind, gardening is one of most hopeful acts of joy, and joyful acts of hope that I have seen.

I lack the patience to be a gardener. But, my grandfather was a gardener — the most enthusiastic one I have ever known. Watching him taught me much.

Over a hundred years ago, he was a farm boy eking out a living in the sunny hills of southern Italy. A long journey later, he found himself eking out a liv-

ing shining shoes on the street corners of New York — the city that would become his hometown and mine.

But, once a farmer, always a farmer. When he grew up, became an auto mechanic and settled in Queens, he recreated a farm as best he could in the yard surrounding his home. I vividly remember how, in a small piece of land under the watchful supervision of his dog and my cat, he coaxed out a rich bounty of tomatoes, lettuce, Swiss chard, rhubarb, squash, eggplants, sweet peas, green beans, grapes, quince, figs, persimmons, mint, basil, hot peppers, sweet peppers, strawberries ... and ever more tomatoes! Every scrap of land grew something, and he preferred not to “waste” land on flowers when there

was food he could grow.

One of the highlights of my childhood was the day my parents bought a backyard swing set for my siblings and me. But, as it emerged from the Sears Roebuck shipping box in all its red and white gleaming glory, it must have broken Grandpa’s heart a bit. He knew that, until we outgrew swings, a prime piece of his garden became our turf. If ever there was tangible evidence of his deep love for us, it was his surrender of at least four rows of tomato plants for the joy of his grandchildren.

I think often of his simple, ordinary garden when summer rolls around. To plant a seed and tend it, to watch it grow and bear fruit (or vegetable or flower), and to cherish the bounty of a harvest, however small, is the simplest of human acts. It is one undertaken year in and year out since human life began.

Yet, in this ordinary activity is much profound and hopeful truth. Gardening

starts when someone looks at a humble seed and sees in it possibilities that are unseen but hoped for. So much in life begins this way.

It continues when that seed is planted and hidden away for a time when there is no outward sign of anything good to come. It advances when the first sign of a stem or a leaf or a blade timidly comes forth from the dirt with the promise of new life. So much in life offers that first glimmer of hope in just this way.

It involves some disappointment when seeds planted do not emerge or when they shrivel and die soon after they peek out from the soil. How often life’s plans seem to perish too quickly.

It requires a tenacious battle against weeds that somehow, inexplicably, always seem hardier and healthier. It takes the gentle care of watering and tending

See SILECCHIA, page 18

## What makes a family a family?

By Maureen Pratt

Catholic News Service



Like many other “clans” this summer, part of my extended family will gather for a biannual reunion. Unfortunately, I cannot attend, but I have in the past. The events are always fun

and impart a wonderful sense of belonging.

Learning about family history, discovering new members and connecting with people I already know, catching up and swapping stories perhaps no one except a family member will understand — there is no substitute for being there.

And yet ...

Anyone who has experienced compassionate help extended by someone not related to us by name or of being adopted into enveloping love by people unrelated, know that there is more to belonging to a family than existing as a leaf on the branches of a family tree.

Another, more complex “glue” really unites far-flung kin and extends and binds in fellowship people who are not genetically connected.

That glue is love.

There are many meanings to the word “love,” today. The one active here is that connection of compassion and care that transcends societal bonds and prompts us with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to extend light far and wide.

In the presence of love, distance evaporates, isolation vanishes. Duty to one’s kin is not a chore, but a joy. Arguments, squabbles, grudges — when love is the “glue” for relationships, these might spark, but no bonfire ensues that destroys. Rather, when love is active even during conflict, the ties between people only strengthen.

A true family, of the kind our faith in-

spires, is not limited to those people with whom we share a name or a parentage. The more we recognize this, nurture a broad-based love, the more we open ourselves to God’s graces we might otherwise not experience. Some of these are:

The grace of forging relationships with neighbors, co-workers and other members of our communities, with whom we can work more harmoniously and effectively.

The grace of being less fearful of isolation and more grateful for God’s unexpected supports, provided by people we might not expect to be supportive, but who give and receive love as an extension of their compassion and joy.

The grace of faith strengthened by our faith family, however near or distant, and the sense of belonging to a universal, wonderfully alive, Church.

Within our immediate families, where love is nurtured to grow boundlessly and bountifully, the grace of adopting or fostering a child, young or older, is one of the most awesome of God’s blessings, an act that reverberates far beyond the people involved.

The day my parents adopted my brother Casey was one of the happiest of my life. And although he went home to Jesus very young, my love for him still has an effect, fueling my enthusiasm about others’ adopting or fostering children so they, too, might experience that “glue,” that love.

As we age, we will “lose” family members through distance, lack of communication, and death. Each family reunion is also a time to remember those who are not with us and to carry on in memory the ones we have held dear. Yet our remembrance need not be limited to static snapshots.

Acting out of love, we can be mindful of the increased physical and emotional

See PRATT, page 18

### REFLECTION

## The heavens are telling

By Mark Saucier

An old Roman philosopher said, “There is no easy way from earth to the stars.”

Nearly 2,000 years after Seneca’s death, we still haven’t made it, but we are getting closer.

The product of two decades of work by thousands of scientists and technicians, the James Webb satellite was launched in December of 2021.

It has traveled a million miles, only a fraction of the distance to the sun, our nearest stellar neighbor. But out there in darkest space, it can detect light from 80 billion trillion miles away.

Now, the Webb satellite is sending back its first images, captivating the mind and waking the soul.

The telescope took some infrared snaps of Jupiter and its rings, which made it look like a cloud-crossed sepia moon in an old western. But this giant had moons of its own, including Europa, which may swaddle an underground ocean.

There is Stephan’s Quintet, an apt title for a picture that has the feel of some metagalactic music. Four galaxies gather in a gravitational dance while a shy fifth watches from a distance.

The Carina Nebula picture might be mistaken for a Christmas card with its craggy mountains and its bright starlit night.

But maybe that’s as it should be. A nebula is a mass of cosmic clouds of dust and minerals that acts as the birthing room of stars. In the Carina Nebula, you can see the arrival of baby stars, a labor that takes less than 100,000 years.

Perhaps the most compelling image is the Webb’s First Deep Field View, a picture of a galaxy cluster whose sheer size and stark beauty are worthy of a better name than SMACS 0723.

This mesmerizing image, the earliest record of the formation of our universe, reveals thousands of galaxies color-coded by their composition.

What is most amazing is all of this in a patch of sky the size of a grain of sand held at arm’s distance from the eye.

It’s also where science and faith play well together.

No creation myth can explain the cosmic journey from the first eruption of the universe to the stardust that turned into carbon that turned into life. Only faith, though, can contemplate a reason that it happened at all.

Science brought us to the question it cannot answer.

Is this boundless universe just for human delight and demystification, or do we have some servant role in a greater cosmic creation?

The answer may be in our stars.



# Columbia Sacred Heart parishioners discuss: “Was Jesus homeless?” “What does He want us to do?”

By Jay Nies

Tom Turner’s brother had been helping a man in need for years.

Mr. Turner once offered to step up and relieve him.

“He’s MY Lazarus! You go find your own!” the brother fired back, referring to Jesus’s parable of the rich man and the beggar (Luke 16:19-31).

Mr. Turner shared that story during two informal “Eat and Learn” gatherings in the Sacred Heart Parish Activity Center in Columbia.

“We’ve all got to find our own Lazarus,” he told the people at both events, which were sponsored by Sacred Heart Parish.

The topic — “Was Jesus homeless?” — was based on Jesus’s statement, “The Son of Man does not have a place where He may lay His head” (Matthew 8:20), and “I was homeless and you took Me in” (Matthew 25:35).

Forty-two people shared a Sunday evening dinner prepared by members of the parish’s Faith Formation Commission, their spouses and friends.

A smaller gathering shared breakfast, also prepared by parishioners, the following morning.

The people at each table then entered into small group discussions facilitated by Mr. Turner, retired executive director and administrator of the Bishop Sullivan Center ([bishopsullivan.org](http://bishopsullivan.org)) in Kansas City.

Named for the late Bishop John J. Sullivan of Kansas City-St. Joseph, the center offers various forms of help to people in need while facilitating personal relationships between people who are homeless and the rest of the community.

Mr. Turner is a former classmate of Monsignor Gregory L. Higley, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish.

He now works for Morning Glory Ministries, an outreach of Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Kansas City, serving breakfast to people who are homeless.

“When we encounter some big social issues — things like homelessness, poverty, immi-



**LEFT:** Forty-two people gather in the Sacred Heart Parish Activity Center in Columbia on June 27 for an “Eat and Learn” gathering on the topic, “Was Jesus Homeless?” The parish sponsored this event and one like it the following morning. **RIGHT:** Tom Turner, former executive director and administrator of the Bishop Sullivan Center in Kansas City, leads the discussion.



— Photos by Caroline Andriano

gration, racism — it can be easy to say, “This is too big. I can’t do anything about this, and back off,” said Mr. Turner.

Yet, Jesus was always challenging His Apostles to do whatever they could.

“Even if it’s just a couple of loaves and fishes, present that and He’ll do the rest,” said Mr. Turner.

#### Four-part discussion

Mr. Turner engaged the people in four rounds of discussions about homelessness in Columbia, based on the “Pastoral Circle” method articulated by Joe Holland and Peter Henriot in their book, *Social Analysis: Linking Faith and Justice*.

“It’s a process to help people of faith engage the bigger social issues,” said Mr. Turner.

He first asked people to talk about their personal experience of homelessness: “Have you seen someone up close? Do you know someone personally?”

He then asked them to talk about the causes they see for chronic homelessness in their community.

He then challenged them to think about what their faith has to say about the issue, and finally, to discuss what that means they’re supposed to do.

As an example, Mr. Turner recalled a fifth-grade teacher who was volunteering at Morning Glory Ministries one day, helping to feed about 125

people who had nowhere else to go.

She looked out over the crowd and remarked: “They were all fifth-graders once, just like my students. What happened to them? How did they get from there to here?”

“I thought that was a really empathetic question on her part,” said Mr. Turner. “We all come from someplace.”

#### Interlocking causes

In the small group discussions, people spoke with animated voices and gestures, sharing their own interactions with people who are homeless.

Several participants are current or previous members of the St. Francis Catholic Worker Community in Columbia.

One participant talked about an acquaintance who was so poor, he wound up having his children taken away from him.

Another spoke of an incredibly intelligent relative of a university professor who simply preferred to live outside.

One spoke of giving strangers rides where they need to go but not giving them money.

Causes and solutions were deemed complex and elusive.

“We came to the conclusion that when you’re born poor, it’s not easy to work your way out of that,” one participant stated. “You have to have help. And sometimes, even if you have that help, you still don’t make

it.

“You might have food or clothes if you have a job, but maybe not a place to live,” the participant added.

One person noted how some people fall victim to predatory lending or financing schemes and wind up losing everything they own.

Another mentioned how past generations tended to look out for their neighbors better than people do today.

Another talked about how newer approaches to mental health led to the abrupt closing or scaling-back of many mental hospitals throughout the country.

“We moved people back into the communities but didn’t develop resources to help them out there,” she said.

#### “What should I do?”

People talked about the clarity of Biblical teaching on helping people in need.

However, they noted, there are many ways to do that, and figuring out the best way can be difficult.

“The bottom line for me: it’s very complicated,” said one participant. “A lot of time, there’s so much more than meets the eye.”

Mr. Turner emphasized that the answer to “What should I do?” is personal and should be based on the responsibilities that come with each individual’s stage in life.

“Depending on your situation, your life, your time commitments, maybe for some, the most you can do is come to a presentation like this and listen,” he stated.

“Others can volunteer,” he said. “Others do personal things for a homeless person who has crossed their path. Others maybe get more engaged at a political level.

“It’s definitely not one-size-fits-all,” he stated. “You enter that issue in terms of what fits for you. And that could change over time.”

He emphasized, however, that everyone needs to be doing something to help people who are chronically in need.

“If you’re concerned about giving money directly to someone you meet on the street, you can still be a Good Samaritan by giving a donation to an organization — a ‘good innkeeper’ — that’s doing a good job helping the homeless population,” he said.

#### “Eye-opening”

Sacred Heart parishioner Mary Kay Head said the gathering was instructive and enjoyable.

She noted that the downtown Columbia churches do a lot to help people who are homeless, “and I am really proud of that.”

“But this meeting and these

See HOMELESS, page 14



# Anniversary webinar celebrates Fr. Tolton's faith, perseverance, reliance on the Holy Spirit

By Jay Nies

Father Michael Penn brought to mind a line from one of the praise anthems sung earlier in the evening by the Spellman College Choir of Atlanta.

"We can change the world."

"We most certainly can," said Fr. Penn, who is the Jefferson City diocese's liaison to Father Augustus Tolton's cause for canonization. "If we follow the example of Fr. Tolton, who always walked in the footsteps of Christ, we can change the world through God's grace and Fr. Tolton's intercession."

Fr. Penn, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark, spoke during a prayer- and information-filled national webinar the evening of July 8, one night before the 125th anniversary of Fr. Tolton's death in Chicago.

About 200 people nationwide participated in the webcast.

Fr. Tolton was born and baptized in 1854 northeastern Missouri in what is now part of the Diocese of Jefferson City. He surmounted overwhelming obstacles, becoming the Roman Catholic Church's first noticeably Black priest in 1886.

He died of heatstroke in 1897 at age 43, having given everything he could to God and the people untrusted to his care.

Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, opened in 2011, bears his name.

"His stay with us was short," Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry, postulator of Fr. Tolton's sainthood cause, observed. "But his life leaves us an example of Christian stature, with him having navigated the conundrums of rejection, becoming a pioneer of affirmative race relations, our first (recognizably Black) priest, a devoted pastor and reconciler of the races."

Bishop Perry, who is Black, pointed out that Fr. Tolton, as a child in slavery, through his growing up and into and inclusive of his Priesthood, "traveled the gauntlet of 19th-century race discrimination in America."

"And in the Christian perspective, despite everything, we find his faith, hope and his love to have remained intact," the bishop stated. "That is the ultimate summons of the Christian life."

Dr. C. Vanessa White PhD pointed out that Fr. Tolton was always open to the work of the Holy Spirit throughout his life, giving him the power to withstand many tribulations with great love and devotion.

"His encounter with that same Holy Spirit led him to say 'yes' to becoming a priest," said Dr. White, professor of spirituality and ministry at Catholic Theological union in Chicago and associate director of the master's degree program in theology at Xavier University of New Orleans's Institute for Black Catholic Studies.

"It gave him the power to withstand racism within the Church and remain steadfast to go to Rome to study and be ordained," she stated.

Fr. Tolton once recalled: "The day I was ordained a deacon, I felt so strong that I thought no hardship would ever be too great for me to accept. I was ready for everything."

That Spirit-led determination made him an adept unifier and reconciler.

Dr. White noted how when Fr. Tolton was told as a young priest to refrain from allowing the white parishioners in his area to attend his church, he stated, "The doors of the Catholic Church are open for all."

He did not shy away from inviting any and everyone to worship God.

"He showed by his example that the Catholic Church was and could be a spiritual home for all peoples," said Dr. White. "As diverse communities of faith, we can learn from him what it means to open the doors to all peoples who wish to worship in spirit and truth."

She said his witness is still compelling and relevant, a century and a quarter after his death.

"His dedication to daily prayer and the Eucharist during his formative years has shaped my own spiritual practices," she stated. "His



Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton

sense of hope in the midst of overwhelming challenges has guided me to 'keep on keeping on' when despair appears to be knocking at my door."

## Giving great thanks

Norbertine Father Claude Williams, who is missioned in Orange County, California, marveled at how adeptly Fr. Tolton could recognize the voice of God in his life, follow that voice and persevere in the face of many obstacles, "especially and notably racism, which he encountered repeatedly."

Fr. Williams shed a light on the spirituality of Fr. Tolton's parents, especially his mother's insistence on recognizing God's goodness and thanking Him in all circumstances.

"That's really one of the most important things in the spirituality of Fr. Tolton," said Fr. Williams. "He was able to give great thanks to God at every single moment, especially in the moments of challenge."

Also notable was Fr. Tolton's great love for the Church. He was always mind-

ful of the goodness of the people, especially the Franciscan friars and School Sisters of Notre Dame who helped him while he was growing up in Quincy, Illinois, and who had stood beside him as concrete expressions of God's unfailing fidelity.

"Thanks to God's grace, Fr. Tolton was always able to recognize the hand of God, leading him forward," said Fr. Williams. "The good witness and example given by these people always outweighed the negative things he witnessed and experienced."

All of this, said Fr. Williams, allowed Fr. Tolton to see the Church as the real extension of Christ, "the real mystical presence in the world, so that when so many other things were going wrong, the Church at her best was there for him, just as Christ, the head of the Church, was there for him."

## "If one is uplifted"

Bishop Perry noted that Fr. Tolton is one of six African American Catholics for whom formal causes for canonization

— declaration of being a Saint — have been opened.

Two of them — Fr. Tolton and Servant of God Julia Greeley — were born into enslaved families in Missouri.

Bishop Perry said that at this stage of Fr. Tolton's cause, the faithful need to pray for God to reveal through an authenticatable miracle that Fr. Tolton is in heaven with God.

Such a miracle must be "an occurrence or restoration of health that medicine cannot explain or has no role in the turnaround in the health for that individual," Bishop Perry stated.

People who have been seeking miracles attributable to God through Fr. Tolton's intercession should contact Bishop Perry if they believe the favor has been granted, he said.

"Rome looks for the connection between the faithful who honor the saints, as well as the Kingdom of Heaven," said Bishop Perry.

"That's why we have the miracle phase," he said. "It distinguishes the making of saints from the 'Golden Globe Awards' or the 'Oscars,'" he said. "We're talking about candidates for sainthood who lived heroically the Christian life. Most of them, if not all of them, suffered for it."

"So prayer is the most important thing," he said. "Also, spreading the story to children and young people and young adults."

Bishop Perry wrote the official prayer for Fr. Tolton's canonization. It can be found in English at [tolton.archchicago.org/prayer](http://tolton.archchicago.org/prayer). Prayer cards are available in English, German, Italian, Polish and Spanish.

Bishop Perry mentioned the Tolton Ambassadors, an organization that is active in many cities, including Atlanta; Chicago; Detroit; Los Angeles; New Orleans; Philadelphia; South Bend, Indiana; and Washington, D.C.

Much like the 72 disciples Jesus sent out ahead of Him in the Bible, the Tolton Ambassadors are an official association who spread the word about Fr. Tolton and what God is ac-



# BAPTISTERY

From page 5

old. Those are burned into my memory.

“As we know, images transcend the written language,” she said.

“We have to be very mindful of what images we feed to children, because they’re with them for life.”

## Art and science

Mrs. Thompson-Briggs’s lifetime passion for sacred art got sidetracked while she studied engineering in college.

“I always knew I wanted to be an artist but I didn’t think it was practical,” she said. “So I became an engineer first.”

She taught college-level math for eight years while taking up independent studies in drawing and painting.

“After I found that being an engineer was not making me happy and that I was ignoring my call to be a sacred artist, I went to art school and spent a

**Artist Gwyneth Thompson-Briggs works by sunlight to paint murals for the new baptistery in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.**

— Photo by Max Bouvatte Photography

lot of time trying to find the right training,” she said.

She moved to New Hampshire to study painting under Paul Ingbretson and dedicated herself full-time to art and design.

“He was the first living artist that I contacted to teach particular technique,” she recalled. “That’s when I realized that some of these profoundly important art forms are dying out.”

Among them are techniques that helped reveal God’s preeminent glory to generations of people during the 15th-, 16th- and 17th-century Renaissance and Baroque eras in Western Europe.

In many ways, she noted, those times were as tumultu-



ous for the Church and the world as today is.

After getting married in 2015, Mrs. Thompson-Briggs and her husband developed “a year-long core course in the perception, practice, and theory of sacred art,” which they taught at Thomas More College.

The couple moved to St. Louis in 2019 and started their sacred art business.

“We have family here,” Mrs. Thompson-Briggs noted. “It seemed perfect because it’s an affordable city but also with

such beautiful culture, and we already knew we loved the parish of St. Francis de Sales.”

The massive spire of that church, referred to by some as the Cathedral of the Southside, still anchors the neighborhood where Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos grew up.

The bells in the massive belfry continue to be perennially reliable companions.

## Northern exposure

Mrs. Thompson-Briggs works full-time designing

and producing art, while Mr. Thompson-Briggs attends to the business side: overseeing marketing, contracts, fulfillment and accounts.

They do this while raising their three children and preparing to welcome their fourth in November.

“It’s really extraordinary to be able to make sacred art for a living,” said Mrs. Thompson-Briggs. “I want to spread the message to young people that

See MURALS, page 17



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# Jesuit astronomer: Webb telescope images feed the mind, spirit

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

The Jesuits at the Vatican Observatory were wowed like most people by the beauty of the photos from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, but the director said they also are excited by the scientific information the telescope will reveal.

"Such images are a necessary food for the human spirit — we do not live by bread alone — especially in these times," said Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno, the observatory director, after NASA released a first batch of images from what the space agency describes as "the largest, most powerful space telescope ever built."

"The images are gorgeous, as anyone can see for themselves," Brother Consolmagno said. "It's a tantalizing glimpse of what we'll be able to learn about the universe with this telescope in the future."

NASA described Webb's mission as studying "every phase of 13.5 billion years of cosmic history — from within our solar system to the most distant observable galaxies in the early universe, and everything in between."

"The science behind this telescope is our attempt to use our God-given intelligence to understand the logic of the universe," Brother Consolmagno said.

"The universe wouldn't work if it weren't logical. But as these images show, the universe is not only logical, it is also beautiful."

"This is God's creation being revealed to us, and in it we can see both His astonishing power and His love of beauty," the Jesuit said.

The Vatican Observatory director also noted that "astronomy is a small field," so he knows many of the scientists who helped build the instruments on the telescope and



The "Cosmic Cliffs" of the Carina Nebula are seen in an image released by NASA released July 12, 2022. The "cliffs" are divided horizontally by an undulating line between a cloudscape forming a nebula along the bottom portion and a comparatively clear upper portion. The image is from data provided by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, a revolutionary apparatus designed to peer through the cosmos to the dawn of the universe. Speckled across both portions is a starfield, showing innumerable stars of many sizes.

— CNS photo/NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI, Webb ERO Production Team, Handout via Reuters

can do when we work together."

"And at the same time," he said, "I am amazed and grateful that God has given us humans, His creation, the ability to see and understand what He has done."

Pointing to the telescope's "first spectrum of water vapor in the atmosphere of an exoplanet," a planet that orbits a star outside the solar system, Brother Consolmagno reminded readers of one of his

Jesuit-scientist predecessors.

"It was about 150 years ago when Father Angelo Secchi, S.J., put a prism in front of his telescope lens on the roof of the St. Ignatius Church in Rome, and made the first spectral measurements of the atmospheres of the planets in our own solar system," he said. "I can only imagine how delighted he would be to see the science he pioneered applied to planets unknown to him orbiting distant stars."

plan its observations.

Their years of effort, he

said, "is a tribute to the power

of the human spirit, what we

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# Texas bishops call for immigration reform after migrant deaths

By Rhina Guidos  
Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

The Texas Catholic bishops urged immigration reform, saying it is necessary to prevent what happened to 53 migrants discovered dead and dying inside a trailer June 27 from happening again.

Reminding others to reflect on the incident, they focused on defending the sacredness of every life.

In a YouTube video posted July 15, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, Bishop Michael F. Olson of Fort Worth and Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio, on behalf of the Texas Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops, reminded Catholics “to never forget the sacredness of all human life in light of all this.”

Cardinal DiNardo recalled Pope Francis’ lament, the “throwaway culture” the pope warns against, which leads humanity to discard God’s creation, including people.

“This senseless loss of life should shock and sadden us as we are all brothers and sisters in Christ,” said Cardinal DiNardo in the video. “We cannot ignore those most vulnerable among us who at times become victims of this throw-

away culture and only seek a better life for themselves and their families.”

He commended the souls of the men and women who died near San Antonio after being smuggled into the U.S. in the part of a semitrailer reserved for cargo, not people. They were traveling without air conditioning or ventilation in temperatures that surpassed 100 degrees. It’s not clear how long they had been inside the trailer.

Authorities said the man identified as the truck driver, Homero Zamorano Jr., fled the scene, leaving the migrants, which included minors, dead and dying. He has been apprehended and charged with alien smuggling resulting in death. Three others also have been arrested in connection with the incident.

“The exploitation of the poor and in particular of migrants who flee dramatic situations in search of opportunities and hope is particularly grave,” said Archbishop García-Siller in the video.

Their abandonment inside the sweltering tractor-trailer “is one of those sins that cry to heaven,” he said, adding that it’s the kind of loss that could have been prevented with common sense immigration

laws, which the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops have supported for decades.

“They’re God’s children,” he said. “They are members of God’s family, human, like all of us, families with dreams.”

Bishop Olson said that “our

nation’s past unwillingness to address immigration ... has brought us to a grave moment of polarization and crisis that threatens the lives of the vulnerable.

“This polarization has hardened many hearts resulting in apathy and indifference for the suffering and exploitation

of the vulnerable women and children who are the victims of the trafficking of drugs and of human beings,” he said.

“The light of our faith should prompt us to care and to address the causes of these injustices as Christians, as Americans, and as men and women of goodwill,” he added.

## Archbishop calls Biden’s order on abortion ‘deeply disturbing, tragic’

Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

The U.S. bishops’ pro-life chairman said it is “deeply disturbing and tragic” that President Joe Biden has chosen to use his power as the nation’s chief executive “to promote and facilitate abortion in our country” than support resources for pregnant women in need.

President Biden is “seeking every possible avenue to deny unborn children their most basic human and civil right, the right to life,” said Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

“Rather than using the power of the executive branch to increase support and care to

mothers and babies, the President’s executive order seeks only to facilitate the destruction of defenseless, voiceless human beings,” Bishop Lori said in a July 9 statement.

A day earlier, President Biden signed an executive order to safeguard access to medication abortion and emergency contraception, protect patient privacy, launch public education efforts as well as strengthen “the security of and the legal options available to those seeking and providing abortion services.”

Before signing his executive order, President Biden condemned what he called the “extreme” Supreme Court majority for overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

The court’s June 24 ruling came in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, a challenge to a Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks.

In affirming the law 6-3, the high court also voted 5-4 to overturn 1973’s *Roe v. Wade* ruling, which legalized abortion nationwide, and 1992’s *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* ruling, which affirmed *Roe*.

## ANNIVERSARY

From page 11

complishing through him.

The Ambassadors also help cover the expenses of the necessary investigations that are a

part of Fr. Tolton’s sainthood cause.

Dr. White noted that the whole Church is uplifted when

one of its members is revealed to be with God in heaven, continuing to intercede in the God’s holy majesty on behalf of His people.

“The ‘I’ is defined in the ‘we,’ and that is part of how we pray,” she said. “If one of us suffers, we all suffer; if one of us is uplifted, we all share in the joy.”

Fr. Penn closed the celebration with a prayer:

“Almighty God, we give You thanks for the gift of Venerable Fr. Tolton. We ask You to send down Your Holy Spirit to guide us as it guided Fr. Tolton, and that always and everywhere, we will change the world by following Your word and the example of this great man. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.”

[tolton.archchicago.org](http://tolton.archchicago.org)

## HOMELESS

From page 10

discussions made me feel like I shouldn’t just sit back and think, ‘Okay, we’re doing our share,’” she said. “There’s so much more we can do, and this kind of opened my eyes to that.”

Mr. Turner said he was impressed by the number of people who attended the discussions, along with their level of engagement.

“It was good to see so many people who are interested in this issue and the general concern for people who are homeless,” he said.

He was also impressed to learn how well various churches in Columbia work together to help people who are homeless in ways that no single congregation could do alone.

Msgr. Higley said he believes the discussions were good for his parishioners, especially as Columbia weighs options for providing more help to people are homeless, such as opening a year-round shelter.

“We still have a lot more to learn and think and pray about,” he said.

## Hundreds comfort one another, grieve together at Mass after shooting

Catholic News Service

Highland Park, Illinois

Hundreds of people gathered the evening of July 5 at Immaculate Conception Church in Highland Park to offer one another comfort and grieve together in the wake of the mass shooting that killed seven people and injured dozens more at the community’s Independence Day parade.

Immaculate Conception-St. James Parish, which counts two of its members among the dead, is headquartered at the church less than a half-mile from the shooting site.

Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, who celebrated the Mass, said the Gospel reading from Matthew about Jesus healing the woman with the hemorrhage and raising a little girl from the dead highlights the healing power of grace.

It was the same Gospel reading that was proclaimed in churches on the morning of July 4, when the shooting shattered the peace of the suburban community.

“It is striking how the healings come in such simple, uncomplicated ways,” Cardinal Cupich said. “The touch of Jesus’ cloak and a comforting word to the woman; the taking of the little girl’s hand and lifting her up from her sick bed. These scenes remind us that God’s grace most often comes in simple and very natural human actions.”





## FR. TOLTON

From page 1

patience and persistence in becoming the Roman Catholic Church's first noticeably Black priest in the United States.

Pope Francis has acknowledged Fr. Tolton's heroic virtues as part of the formal process of determining whether he should be declared a saint of the Church.

"Mother Church holds him up as one worthy of our respect because of his heroic virtue in living the Christian life," Bishop Paprocki noted. "But because he has not yet been raised to the dignity of the altars, we have gathered at his grave to ask the Lord that Augustine Tolton, His servant and priest, may gaze on the Lord's beauty with the angels and the saints."

Bishop Paprocki urged the faithful to emulate Fr. Tolton's long-suffering patience, as well as the courageous, obedient and loving way he carried out his mission.

The bishop talked about the patience Fr. Tolton showed while living in slavery and later while being taunted by classmates for being Black; upon being rejected by every Catholic seminary in the United States while trying to answer his calling to the Priesthood; and even while enduring the racist and jealous persecution from some of his fellow priests.

"In all of these difficult and painful situations, his stout heart paved the way for compassionate love to prevail, just as it did in the life of our Master, Christ Jesus," said Bishop Paprocki.

Fr. Tolton suffered with Christ, "and because of his union with the Crucified Savior, we pray that he 'may also be glorified with Him,'" the bishop stated, echoing Romans 8:17.

Specifically, said Bishop Paprocki, that means fully sharing in Christ's Paschal Mystery — His passion, death, resurrection and ascension.

### "Wait for the Lord"

Young Augustus escaped with his family across the Mississippi River to Quincy during the Civil War. He overcame overwhelming obstacles along the road to Priesthood before being accepted into formation at the Urban College in Rome, run by the missionary Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith.

He was ordained in the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome in 1886 and offered his First Solemn Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

"If we are to imitate the virtue of Fr. Tolton, we, too, must seek to be united to the sufferings of Christ throughout our lives so that we might also be glorified with Him," said Bishop Paprocki. "A most important way for us to be united to sufferings of Christ is to imitate the courageous patience of Fr. Tolton, especially in a society that is so quick to rage."

The bishop said there are numerous occasions for people to practice the virtue of courageous patience today.

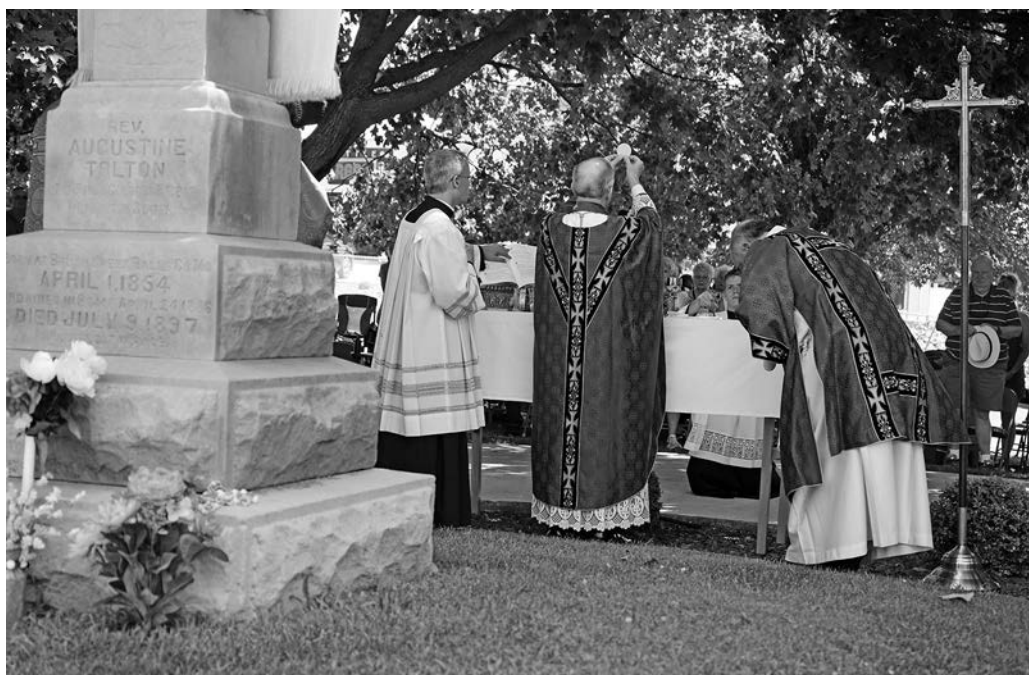
"Opportunities for long-suffering abound in our families, in our places of employment, in our schools, and in society generally," he said. "What is needed for us is to be stout-hearted and wait for the Lord, as Fr. Tolton did."

### "The way forward"

A steady breeze stirred the branches of the mature trees that formed a canopy over the people and the altar.

The aroma of the burning incense mixed with the sweet essence of honeysuckle and other flowers and blossoms in full bloom.

cy. He ministered with great courage and pastoral sensitivity there and later in Chicago until his death on July 9, 1897.



**Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield, Illinois, elevates the Most Blessed Sacrament during Mass at the burial place of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton in St. Peter Cemetery in Quincy, Illinois, on July 9, the 125th anniversary of Fr. Tolton's death.**

— Photos by Jay Nies



**A child waves at the end of Mass in St. Peter Cemetery in Quincy, Illinois.**

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

brothers and sisters in Christ.

"Fr. Tolton shows us the way forward, the way to advance the coming of the Kingdom of God: courageous patience marked by compassionate love in the manner of the only Redeemer of mankind," the bishop said.

Bishop Paprocki also asked everyone to pray for recognizable miracles that are attributable to God through Fr. Tolton's intercession in heaven,

in order for him to be declared Blessed and eventually, God willing, a Saint.

### "A holy man"

At the end of Mass, Bishop Paprocki led the people in offering prayers inspired by Fr. Tolton for an end to racism and for priestly vocations, followed by the official prayer for Fr. Tolton's canonization.

The recessional hymn was "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name," Fr. Tolton's favorite hymn.

Afterward, Fr. Chineke commented to a TV reporter that Fr. Tolton is a role model for all people.

"We are all called to live a life of virtue, a life of holiness," Fr. Chineke stated. "People are coming to the understanding that Fr. Tolton was a holy man."

## FR. DOYLE

From page 8

ber of the clergy to officiate, but whether that will turn out to be a Catholic priest or deacon in good standing is always uncertain. (More often than not, it will not be a Catholic at all.)

Further, there is the matter of securing the proper license from a foreign municipal authority and assuring that the marriage will be recognized in the United States. On more than one occasion in the recent past, I have persuaded Catholic couples bent on a destination wedding to be married beforehand in a quiet ceremony in our parish church with me as the celebrant and with a marriage license from our own city hall.

Following that, they can leave and party in the tropics with their friends and family, confident that their marriage is recognized as official by the Church and by the state.





By Father Don Antweiler

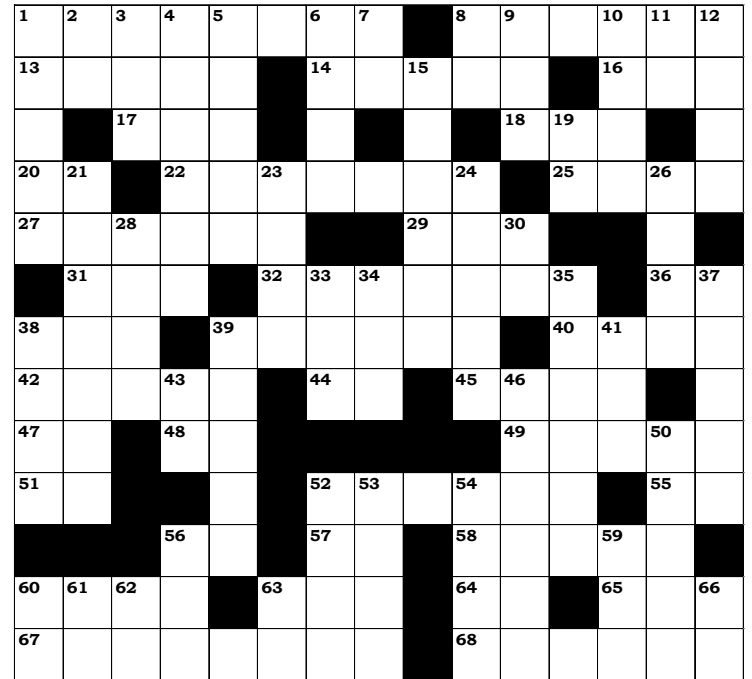
**ACROSS**

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, IL, site of the grave of Venerable Fr. Augustine Tolton, has its counterpart in Quincy, Mo. in \_\_\_\_ County.
25. Slippery fish.
27. Mother Mary \_\_\_\_ Bojx-hiu; 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, CA, 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: step 1) Venerable (evidence of great virtue); 2) Blessed (one miracle required); 3) to be officially declared \_\_\_\_ (another miracle required).
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 (abbr.).
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, PA, where both the Declaration of independence and the U.S. Constitution were written and signed, has its counter-

- part 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. Quit pushing and shoving! 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, VA, 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, OH, 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 (abbr.).
8. Prefix for feat or form.
9. Wedding words, perhaps (2 wds.).
10. Taos, NM, 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, TN, 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," —A Chapter About Cities (Ch. 22), *Longer Than a Man's Lifetime in Missouri*, Gert Goebel.
23. Cleveland, OH, 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, FL, 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; 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 Pet Foods.
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.

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## MURALS

From page 12

it's possible to be an artist today — even a sacred artist.”

Her works adorn churches, schools and private homes throughout the Americas and Europe.

Among them are a painting of St. Joseph she created for the Benedictines of Mary in Ava, Missouri, as well as a water-color image of St. Augustine that was presented to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

She is most pleased with her paintings of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica, which adorn the side altars in the chapel of a Benedictine monastery in Italy.

“Mass is said before them each day,” she said. “I can't think of a higher destiny for a work of art than to have it hang above an altar.”

Church architect William Heyer, architectural consultant for the renovation of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, recommended Mrs. Thompson-Briggs to Bishop McKnight to create the baptistery images.

“It's been really exciting,” she said. “A lot of young people have been helping me build the canvases and by serving as the models. I tell them, ‘In a few decades, you'll be able to come to Jefferson City and visit your younger self!’”

In her studio in the former St. Francis de Sales School in St. Louis, she renders images of her models in-person, bathed in natural, northern sunlight.

“That is the light source *par excellence* for a painter,” she said. “It might be hard to tell the difference, but it's definitely illuminated by the Missouri sun.”

She only works by natural light.

“The wonderful thing about that is that you really get to see the fullness of the color spectrum, all of the breadth of what is happening with the colors,” she said. “Nothing gets simplified from the original.”

Working next door to a



Artist Gwyneth Thompson-Briggs works by sunlight to paint murals for the new baptistery in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

— Photo by Max Bouvatte Photography

church allows her to attend Mass nearly every day.

“Just being on the same campus as a beautiful church helps me remember the correct, final end to what I'm trying to do,” she added.

### Seeing and believing

The materials for the new murals are of archival quality and are designed to last for generations.

“That does communicate a certain level of responsibility,” she acknowledged. “These panels are going to be seen and remembered by children who are pre-verbal, or maybe by people who are not English-speaking.

“For such people, and for others who are especially moved by the visual, the paintings have a particular duty to communicate the importance and the dignity of Baptism,” she said.

She has found unique challenges in the great size of the Cathedral murals and especially in the fact that the baptistery and the lights that will illuminate it are still being built.

“Until you're aware of what the scope and the lighting will be like, it's hard to visualize the finished painting,” she said.

She developed the color palette for the murals to match samples of the marble that will be used for the baptismal font.

“As soon as saw that, I could see the whole color scheme,” she said.

The miter and vestments depicted in the murals come from sacristies around St. Louis. Many were borrowed from the Institute of Christ the King, whose priests minister at St. Francis de Sales Church.

“Everyone was very generous in trusting me not to get paint on dalmatics and copes!” she said.

Mrs. Thompson-Briggs is grateful to Bishop McKnight for employing creators of original sacred artwork for the Cathedral.

“When patrons choose to commission living artists, they are not only bringing new artwork into the world, but they are also helping to bring new artists into the world,” she said.

“Large commissions especially require the help of studio assistants,” she noted. “Thanks to the support of Bishop McKnight and the Diocese of Jefferson City, I have been able to bring five young people with an interest in art into my studio, helping to perpetuate techniques for future generations.”

She spoke of the effect mass-production has had on the general public's appreciation for art.

“In the modern world, so many

children only see reproductions as opposed to original works of art,” she said. “But there's such a difference between a copy of a Michelangelo and seeing the Sistine Chapel in person. So when we do have the opportunity to produce original art, it should not be something we take for granted.”

She called to mind the world-famous Thomas Hart Benton murals and other priceless artworks that help make the Missouri State Capitol one of the finest in the country.

“There needs to be beautiful paintings in the Cathedral, as well,” she said. “If the Capitol is the people's house, the Cathedral is the house of God and of all the People of God in the diocese.

“Sacred artwork glorifies God and raises the hearts and minds of the people to God,” she stated. “In particular, I am thinking about people who are not Catholic or who are no longer practicing who will visit the Cathedral. Sacred art is an opportunity to bring Christ to people who might not be able or willing to listen to words.”

She is hopeful for a resurgence in demand for tradition-

al painting for churches and other sacred environments.

“This is a really exciting time for sacred art,” she said. “There is a growing number of independent Catholic artists who are dedicating their lives to reviving sacred art.

“And there are growing numbers of Catholics who recognize the importance of sacred art for evangelization and sanctification,” she said. “It's really up to pastors and those with the means to commission sacred art out of love for God and love for neighbor.

“The laborers are ready to be sent out into the harvest,” she added, echoing Matthew 9:38.

Mrs. Thompson-Briggs requested prayers for one simple intention:

“Pray that I do His will,” she said. “That's it.”

### For the many

Since the Cathedral serves everyone in the diocese, Bishop McKnight invites Catholics from all parishes to support the renovation by praying for all the artists, laborers, engineers and architects who are responsible for this holy work.

He also invites people throughout the diocese to contribute toward the cost of the renovation, as long as doing so does not reduce their regular, sacrificial support of their own parish.

Visit [diojeffcity.org/cathedral-renovation](http://diojeffcity.org/cathedral-renovation) for information.



Artist Gwyneth Thompson-Briggs stands next to the portion of her mural that depicts members of the clergy pulling a fishing net through a river.

— Photo by Max Bouvatte Photography



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

## Fundraisers & Social Events

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; Wien, St. Mary of the Angels 130th parish picnic, 11am-10 pm

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. 13

Columbia, Sacred Heart Ladies Auxiliary "Food, Fun and Feud Family Night," 5:30-8:30 pm, activity building

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

Aug. 2

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

Aug. 16

VIRTUAL, Marriage Prep Facilitators' evening refresher, 5:30-

6:30 pm, for info or to RSVP email [faithformation@diojeffcity.org](mailto:faithformation@diojeffcity.org)

## Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

julio 23-24

Marshall, Retiro de Parejas, Parroquia San Pedro, para más información o para registrarse visite [diojeffcity.org/eventos-diocesanos/](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Cristhia Castro al 573-680-3650 / 501-454-8308 o por correo electrónico a [ecastro@diojeffcity.org](mailto:ecastro@diojeffcity.org) / [cmguzman10@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com)

## Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

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](mailto:mary.e.molly@hotmail.com)

Aug. 4-7

Columbia, Women's Cursillo Weekend #78, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/cursillo](http://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](http://diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/engaged-encounter)

Aug. 6

Laurie, Morning of Retreat &

Self-Care for Music Ministers (in-person or virtual), 9 am-1 pm, St. Patrick Church, for info or to register email [JeffersonCityMO@npm.org](mailto:JeffersonCityMO@npm.org)

## Youth

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](mailto: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](mailto:mary.e.molly@hotmail.com)

Aug. 3 & 17

Jefferson City, Rooted and Connected youth and young adult faith sharing group, 6:30-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish, for info visit [icansgels.com/youngadults](http://icansgels.com/youngadults)

## Health & Wellness

Jul. 24

Columbia, Blood drive, 8 am-1 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center multipurpose room



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## SILECCHIA

From page 9

young plants as they tentatively mature. How often those hopes in life that are the most cherished seem the most fragile.

It generates frustration when birds and insects help themselves to the ripe new bounty and exasperation when wind or weather prematurely ends the growing season. So many times in life it can seem as though success stays just a little beyond reach.

Yet, gardeners keep gardening. In spite of all the obstacles along the way, there is still the hope of that first bite of a home-grown tomato. There is hope for the first sauce with fresh basil swirling around in it. There is hope for the first strawberry and the first sweet peas — that, inexplicably, even non-pea eaters relish when they come from seeds they planted. There is much beautiful hope in the ordinary planting of a garden. Much of life is this way too.

So many of the parables of Christ were parables of plants and gardens. I have always been told that this was because Christ dwelt among us in an agrarian time and place when the stories of the soil would best resonate with His listeners. Yet, they also touch our hearts today when so many in both city and county turn to the simple, hopeful joy of planting a garden even in summers of restless uncertainty.

The deep trust, the unspoken optimism, and the joyful hope of waiting for a harvest

all marked the summers of my grandfather's life — summers and hope he shared with me.

I hope that all who are discovering the joy of a summer garden this year will be blessed with a rich bounty to fill their ordinary times.

Lucia A. Silecchia is a Professor of Law at the Catholic University of America. "On Ordinary Times" is a biweekly column reflecting on the ways to find the sacred in the simple. Email her at [silecchia@cua.edu](mailto:silecchia@cua.edu).

## PRATT

From page 9

isolation of people who cannot travel or even move beyond where they live and for whom our modern ways of communication might be utterly out of reach. Older adults can benefit from "adoption," too, especially if their other family and friends have fallen away or passed on.

Deep within our own circle of relatives or beyond, where love abides, a family is truly a family.

Pratt's website is [www.maureenpratt.com](http://www.maureenpratt.com).



**Beginning August 1**, the following information for *The Catholic Missourian's* "People Page" must be submitted electronically, using the form at

[diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence](http://diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence)

- \* **Baptisms**
- \* **Birthdays** for ages 90 and older
- \* **Anniversaries** of 10+ years in increments of 5 ONLY (e.g., 15, 25, 45 years, etc.)
- \* **Elections, Honors and Appointments**

For marriages and deaths, please use the form at [diojeffcity.org/update-information/](http://diojeffcity.org/update-information/) so that we may update our mailing lists and records.

## Anniversaries

### Argyle, St. Aloysius

Richard & Anita Hagenhoff, 49 years  
Larry & Carol Jones, 29 years  
Derek & Abby Havens, 23 years  
Frank & Aggie Neutzler, 14 years

### Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul

Eugene & Emilie Herigon, 57 years  
Bill & Glenda Richey, 56 years  
Logan & Betty Pfeiffer, 52 years  
Bruce & Darlene Smith, 52 years  
Earl & Cindy Felten, 47 years  
Robert & Karen Gerke, 47 years  
ML & Carol Cauthon, 46 years  
Danny & June Taft, 46 years  
Kevin & Nancy Hyland, 44 years  
Jeff & Carla Brengarth, 43 years  
Terry & Joyce Davis, 41 years  
David & Sue Miller, 41 years  
Darrell & Rhonda Kusgen, 36 years  
Scott & Joyce Storzjohann, 36 years  
Kerry & Connie Shipman, 34 years  
Gary & Mary Leathers, 33 years  
Rich & Dawn Kuster, 32 years  
Don & Joann Schupp, 32 years  
Ardan & Stacie Eichelberger, 31 years  
Phillip & Lori Imhoff, 30 years  
Tim & Betty Edwards, 28 years  
Lynn & Robby Harvey, 27 years

### Brinktown, Guardian Angels

Steve & Bev Tesdall, 52 years  
John & Collen Barnhart, 46 years  
Ernie & Bev Otto, 46 years  
Bryan & Wilma Rowden, 38 years  
Donnie & Kathy Hale, 23 years  
Timothy & Crystal Wieberg, 14 years

### Camdenton, St. Anthony

Robert & Angie Holmes, 65 years  
Richard & Vicki Wallace, 61 years  
Dennis & Marie Crowley, 55 years  
Gerald & Jane Seifert, 51 years  
Chris & Jana Agniel, 44 years  
Don & Barbara Mans, 43 years  
Keith & Cheryl Schuster, 38 years  
Steve & Diane Brennaman, 35 years  
Mike & Tammy Wilde, 23 years  
Tyler & Jenna Bishop, 17 years  
Jack & Lois Wiley, 16 years  
Warren & Donna Moffatt, 15 years

### Columbia,

#### St. Thomas More Newman Center

Mark & Michele Schutte, 40 years

### Eldon, Sacred Heart

Bob & Celeste Fournier, 66 years

### Fayette, St. Joseph

Roger & Kathy Dorson, 47 years  
Allen & Connie Hackman, 43 years  
Benji & Sandy Dorson, 21 years  
Clinton & Carli Wies, 14 years

### Fulton, St. Peter

Gary & Deb Czeschin, 50 years

### Freeburg, Holy Family

John & Judy Wieberg, 46 years  
Marlon & Cindy Stuecken, 45 years  
Steve & Annette Poettgen, 36 years  
Randy & Rita Haller, 27 years

### Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception

Charlie & Millie Bernskoetter, 65 years

### Kirkville, Mary Immaculate

John & Mary Schleppehorst, 69 years  
John & Karen Konarski, 52 years  
John & Debbie Lechner, 49 years  
Bob & Beverly Compton, 47 years  
Glenn & Judy Neuweg, 46 years  
Daniel & LaDonna Williams, 42 years  
Charlie & Janet Cooper, 40 years  
Vincent Prostko & Kathleen Kelly, 36 years  
Eddie & Bonita Schmitz, 35 years  
Michael & Evonne Bird, 29 years  
John & Kimberly Moore, 29 years  
Deacon Chris & Katy Korte, 25 years  
Ken & Lori Shook, 25 years  
Jerod & Shelly Wood, 17 years

### Koeltztown, St. Boniface

Rick & Laure Falter, 44 years  
Brad & Rachel Heimericks, 12 years

### Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake

Alban "Duke" & Mary Dorge, 63 years  
Jerry & Kathy Russell, 62 years

### Martinsburg, St. Joseph

Cletus & Freda Deimeke, 64 years  
Charles & Doris Dubbert, 51 years  
Bob & Sharon Cope, 47 years  
Ron & Sheri Deimeke, 37 years  
Bob & Denise Becker, 35 years  
Jeff & Patty Fennwald, 35 years  
Jon & Dana Robnett, 25 years  
David & Kristan Kleinsorge, 23 years

### Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows

Fred & Margaret Evers, 70 years  
Kenneth J. & Norma Runge, 65 years

### Milan, St. Mary

Jose & Blanca Diaz, 18 years  
Luis & Lilian Sanchez, 11 years

### Montgomery City

#### Immaculate Conception

Charles & Judy Nelson, 59 years  
Richard & Carole Bainbridge, 57 years  
Donald & Sandra Oakes, 49 years  
Dennis & Jean Benney, 44 years  
Todd & Carol Oden, 33 years  
Jerry & Nancy Fischer, 29 years  
Jeffrey & Latricia Ferguson, 16 years  
Jeff & Julie Thielmeier, 10 years

### Palmyra, St. Joseph

Charles & Joyce Erwin, 55 years  
Carl & Debbie Bock, 50 years  
Jeff & Becky Kroeger, 40 years  
Edward & Peggy Meyers, 30 years

### Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart

Bill & Sylvia Frank, 54 years  
Mike & Mary Jane Perkins, 47 years  
Tim & Cindy Neuner, 42 years  
Tom & Karen Bax, 35 years

### Russellville, St. Michael

Lance & Lynn Stegeman, 44 years  
Kent & Debbie Malzner, 31 years  
Josh & Brandy Jurgle, 23 years  
Paul & Elaine Buschjost, 19 years  
Matt & Katie Strobel, 19 years  
Dan & Nichole Voegeli, 17 years

### St. James, Immaculate Conception

Bob & Sharon Wilson, 50 years

### St. Martins, St. Martin

Terry & Joyce Boeckman, 45 years

### St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle

Artie & Cindy Buschjost, 40 years

### Salisbury, St. Joseph

Carol & John Stundebek, 50 years

### Taos, St. Francis Xavier

Phil & Karen Heislen, 50 years  
Chris & Lisa Reinke, 15 years

### Unionville, St. Mary

Alan & Connie Mayer, 25 years

### Vienna, Visitation

Fred & Kay Ragan, 49 years  
Bob & Sheri Stormer, 54 years  
Randy & Brenda Swyers, 39 years  
Gary & Nancy Stratman, 35 years  
Kevin & Robin Wieberg, 23 years  
Don & Joyce Kilmer, 19 years

### Wardsville, St. Stanislaus

James & Agnes Rackers, 70 years  
Gene & Judy Sandbothe, 55 years

### Warsaw, St. Ann

Don & Sue Yates, 50 years

### Wien, St. Mary of the Angels

Alan & Paula Ablen, 49 years  
Dennis & Pam Bixenman, 44 years  
Donald & Ronda Stallo, 41 years  
Glen & Bridget Fessler, 33 years  
Eric & Kasie Stallo, 25 years  
Charles & Elena Long, 23 years  
Josh & Megan Burch, 19 years  
Jeff & Bretta Bixenman, 16 years  
Loren & Regina Niemeier, 14 years  
Stephen & Mary Helen Moser, 13 years

## Birthdays

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Margie Otto**, her 90th

Belle, St. Alexander — **Loretta Voyles**, her 90th on July 18

Freeburg, Holy Family — **Marie Kern**, her 91st on July 29

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Lawrence Moeller**, his 90th on July 12

## Sacraments of Initiation

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Erin Elly, Rodney Lingo, James Utt**, on June 18

## Marriages

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Rachel Smith & Connor Havrilla**

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Mallory Eitel & Brandon Curtis**

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Rose Kempker & Allan Lepper**

Moberly, St. Pius X — **Jennifer Hernandez & Jackson Wood**

Russellville, St. Michael — **Katelyn Shields & Seth Raithe**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Luci Francka & Zachary Rockers**

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul — **Maria Bahner & Lane Embry**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Hayley Strobe & Ashton Maasen**

## Honors

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Richard Wieberg**, who serves as the Knights of Columbus District 20 deputy in central Missouri, with the Missouri State Council's 2021-22 Outstanding District Deputy Award.

Mary's Home — **Rosalind Schwaller Beck**, a member of Our Lady of the Snows School's Class of 1980, with the National Catholic Educational Association Distinguished Graduate Award, for her 20 years of devoted service to the children and family of the school.

## Ordinations

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Deacon Dave Talken Jr.**, son of Dave & Sharon Talken, a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. He will serve at Our Lady of the Presentation Parish in Lee's Summit.

**DEATHS, BAPTISMS AND ELECTIONS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24!**

## Crossword puzzle answers

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





## ‘Swinkey Kids and we like it like that’

About 175 children from in and around Monroe County take part in this year’s Swinkey Days for Kids July 11-13 at St. Stephen Church in Indian Creek. The theme was: “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad” (Psalm 118:24). Throughout the three days, the children experienced God’s love and goodness in recreational, educational and worship activities. The event concluded with Mass offered in St. Stephen Church by Father Gregory Oligschlaeger, pastor of St. Stephen Parish and of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City, and a barbecue.

— Photos by Sally Lemongelli



## A taste of Steubenville in Springfield



Members of the Holy Family Parish youth group in Hannibal return from this year’s Steubenville STL Mid-America youth conference in Springfield, Missouri. The theme, based on John 16:33, was “FEARLESS!”

— Photo from the Holy Family Catholic Church - Hannibal Facebook page

## Be bold and courageous!



Members of the Ss. Peter & Paul Parish youth group in Boonville and their adult chaperones take part in the first session of the Steubenville STL Mid-America youth conference, held July 8-10 at the Missouri State University campus in Springfield. “We pray that the Holy Spirit continues to inspire these students each and every day!” said Theresa Krebs, parish director of religious education. “Remember to be bold, be courageous, and be fearless in your faith.”

— Photo by Theresa Krebs

## A visit to the Capitol



Participants in this year’s IC Summer Camp at Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City tour the Missouri State Capitol on July 14.

— Photos from the IC Summer Camp Facebook page





# God and Abraham discuss two sinful cities

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic News Service

One day, Abraham was sitting in the entrance of his tent at the oak of Mamre as the day was growing hot.

Suddenly, he looked up and saw three men standing near him. He ran to greet them, not realizing that his visitors were God and two angels.

Abraham bowed low and asked the men to rest under the tree and have something to eat before going on their way.

“Very well,” they replied, “do as you have said.”

Abraham hurried into the tent.

“Quick, three measures of bran flour! Knead it and make bread,” he told his wife, Sarah.

He then ran to his herd. He picked a choice calf and gave it



to a servant, who quickly prepared it.

Abraham took the prepared calf along with some curds and milk and offered the food to the men. He waited on them

under the tree while they ate.

After the men finished eating, Abraham walked with them to see them on their way.

Since God had promised to make a great nation from Abra-

ham, he decided to tell Abraham what he was about to do.

“The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin so grave, that I must go down and see whether or not their actions fully correspond to the cry against them that comes to Me,” God said as they walked along.

The two angels continued toward Sodom while God and Abraham stopped to talk.

“Will You sweep away the innocent with the guilty?” Abraham asked.

“Suppose there were 50 innocent people in the city; would You wipe out the place, rather than spare it for the sake of the 50 innocent people within it? Far be it from You to

do such a thing, to make the innocent die with the guilty so that the innocent and the guilty would be treated alike! Should not the Judge of all the World act with justice?”

“If I find 50 innocent people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake,” God said.

Abraham kept asking God whether He would spare the city if smaller and smaller numbers of innocent people were found.

God said He would not destroy the city even if only 10 innocent people were found.

### Read more about it... Genesis 18

1. Who visited Abraham?
2. What did God plan to do?

## Bible Accent

When God and his angels visited Abraham at the oak of Mamre, God gave Abraham some exciting news.

Abraham and Sarah were very old, and they were childless.

As a matter of fact, Sarah was so advanced in years that she was well past childbearing age.

Even so, God told Abraham that Sarah was going to have a child.

“I will return to you about this time next year, and Sarah will then have a son,” God told Abraham.

Sarah was listening at the

entrance of the tent. She heard what God said about her having a son.

She laughed to herself at the thought of becoming a mother at her age.

God knew what she was thinking.

“Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really bear a child, old as I am?’” God asked Abraham. “Is anything too marvelous for the Lord to do? At the appointed time, about this time next year, I will return to you, and Sarah will have a son.”

Sarah became afraid, so she lied and said she did not laugh.

But God knew the truth. “Yes, you did,” He said.

## Trivia

Who was sitting at the gate of Sodom when the angels came? (Hint: Genesis 19:1)

Answer: Lot, Abraham's nephew.



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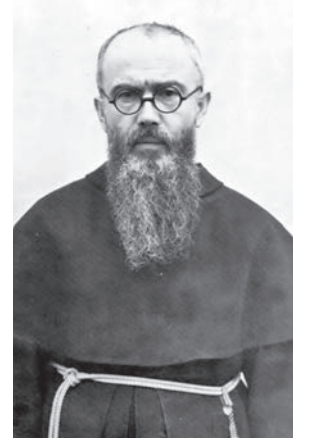
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## Saint Spotlight

### St. Maximilian Kolbe

Raimund Kolbe was born in Russian Poland in 1894. When he was ordained a Franciscan, he took the name Maximilian Mary. In the 1920s, Maximilian reopened a ruined Polish friary and started a Marian press. He also was diagnosed with tuberculosis. Despite his illness, he took part in successful Marian missions to Japan and India, and he returned to Poland in 1936. In 1939, Germany invaded Poland during World War II. Maximilian and four other Franciscans were arrested and sent to the Nazi death camp Auschwitz for criticizing the Germans. Maximilian volunteered for martyrdom at the camp, taking the place of a married man being executed by starvation. Maximilian died in 1941, and we honor him on Aug. 14.



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## Puzzle

Using the hints provided, fill in the blanks in the sentences about Abraham, Sarah and Lot.



1. Abraham's original name was \_\_\_\_\_. (Genesis 17:5)

2. Sarah's original name was \_\_\_\_\_. (Genesis 17:15)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ blessed Abraham after a battle. (Genesis 14:17-19)

4. Lot's \_\_\_\_\_ was turned into a pillar of salt. (Genesis 19:26)



Answers: 1. Abram; 2. Sarah; 3. Melchizedek; 4. wife.

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## Online exhibit shows links between Knights of Columbus and baseball

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service  
Washington, D.C.

It's not exactly the "church of baseball," as stated by Annie Savoy in the 1988 film comedy "Bull Durham," but the Church AND baseball.

An online exhibit sponsored by the Knights of Columbus shows some of the many connections between the Catholic fraternal organization and the national pastime.

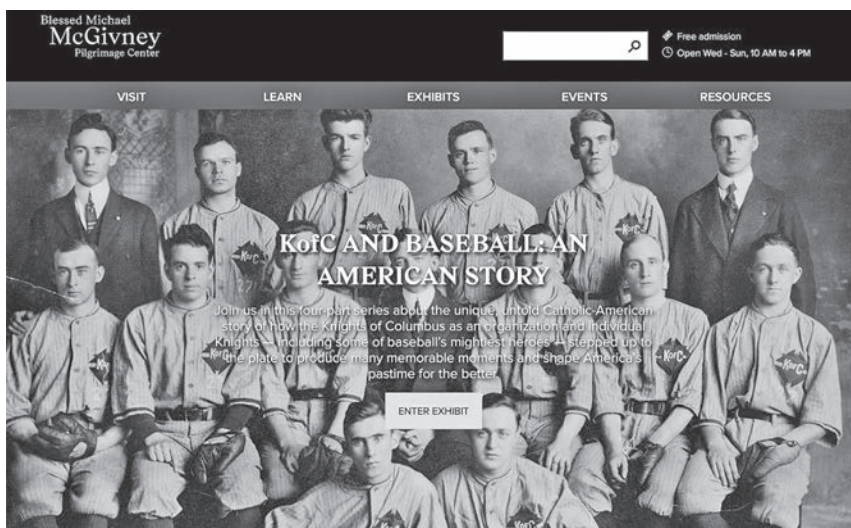
The work has been a labor of love for Andy Fowler, who worked for the Knights for the past four years.

Even though his last day was July 8, he's still fashioning two more installments in the exhibition to be unveiled before the year is out.

"Catholics and baseball lovers might find it fascinating," Fowler advised during a July 11 interview with Catholic News Service

(CNS) from his residence in Milford, Connecticut, near the Knights' headquarters in New Haven.

"The story of baseball cannot be told without a tip of the cap to the Knights of Columbus," the exhibit's introduction reads. "For the Knights of Columbus, the game served as an early avenue of assimilation for Catholic immigrants and first-generation Americans."



This is a screen shot from the website of the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center highlighting "KofC and Baseball: An American Story." The online exhibit sponsored by the Knights of Columbus shows some of the many connections between the Catholic fraternal organization and the national pastime.

The homepage includes a team photo of the Pere Marquette Council 27 baseball squad in Boston from 1915.

The exhibit has four "bases," or chapters.

"First Base" is already posted, as is "Second Base."

Fowler said he planned to have "Third Base" up in time for the annual All-Star Game, which was played this year July 19 in Los Angeles, and that "Home Plate" would be available for viewing by the World Series.

There's also a nod to Blessed Michael McGivney, the priest-founder of the Knights. No, he didn't invent the grand old game; for that matter, neither did Abner Doubleday.

But "I found out that Fr.

## Movie Ratings



Adults and Adolescents

Minions: The Rise of Gru (PG)



Adults

Elvis (PG-13)  
Jurassic World Dominion (PG-13)  
Lightyear (PG)  
Thor: Love and Thunder (PG-13)

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

McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus, played the game of baseball. He was the founder of a seminary club at the seminary in Niagara," Fowler said.

"The postulator of Michael McGivney's cause, he's a big fan," said Fowler, a member of St. Thomas Parish in Thomaston, Connecticut. "They're very excited. I still am. I've been getting all these comments, externally. I just hope it brings more awareness of Father McGivney."

He added, "It could be an avenue to raise his cause and devotion for his intercession. ... I don't think there's an official patron of baseball.

"One day, by God's grace, he could be a patron," Fowler said. "I really do hope that."

Some of the more well-known figures in the early days of the sport were members of the Knights, including Babe Ruth, Connie Mack and John McGraw, Hall of Famers all. Pitcher Ron "Louisiana Lightning" Guidry, a New York Yankees pitcher of more recent vintage — his career ran 1975-88, all with the Bronx Bombers — was also a member of the Knights during his playing days.

"My dad was a big baseball historian, and so was my older brother," Fowler said. "I've had, like, 20 years of prior

experience of listening to all these stories."

It's certainly rubbed off on him, and "over all these years" at the Knights of Columbus, he's found "all this different research and factoids."

"When I started going there (to work) four years ago, I found out Babe Ruth was a Knight of Columbus," Fowler told CNS. "I thought, maybe there's something here."

Fowler reels off still more.

"The first hit by pitch was by a Knight of Columbus, (Orator) Jim O'Rourke," who put in 22 seasons 1872-93 with teams in three major leagues, plus a 1904 swan song with the New York Giants.

"The lowest career ERA," added Fowler, who confesses to being a Yankees fan, "is still owned by Ed Walsh from the Chicago White Sox, who was a Knight of Columbus.

"All these former major league players, and there are current Knights of Columbus MLB players," he said. "There is so much history. I mean, this fascinates me, right? So maybe someone else will find this attractive."

The exhibit "KofC and Baseball: An American Story" can be found at [michaelmcgivneycenter.org/en/baseball-intro.html](http://michaelmcgivneycenter.org/en/baseball-intro.html)

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## POPE CANADA

From page 8

Oratory,” in Montreal, a practice initiated by St. André Besette, Fr. Bouvette said.

The cedar, sage, sweetgrass and tobacco are “gifts of the Creator and therefore returned back to the Creator.”

“Personal purification or the purification of the space where the smudge is happening are the exclusive purposes of the ritual,” he said.

Another Indigenous practice people may see during the papal visit, Fr. Bouvette said, is praying while facing the north, the south, the east and the west.

“We do not pray ‘to’ the four

directions — we pray only to God, the creator,” he said. But the movement is “similar to the ancient Christian appreciation of directional orientation — like facing East at the altar as we await the second coming of Christ or facing north to proclaim the Gospel in the direction of darkness where the light of the sun does not pass.”

“The significance for Indigenous people in orienting themselves in prayer to each of the cardinal directions is twofold,” he said. “First, it serves as a reminder of the omnipresence of the Creator and that all

creation belongs to him.”

And second, Fr. Bouvette said, “each direction is also aligned with the stages of human life: infants and children to the east; adolescents and young adults to the south; parents and middle-aged to the west; and our elders to the north.

“In addition to recognizing the dignity of all human life, it also demonstrates a humble submission to the passage of time, following the direction of the sun in the sky, to which we all must submit ourselves if we seek to live in harmony and peace,” he said.

## MASS COUNT

From page 1

the counts during just one period of the year,” he said.

A key statistic from each year’s October Count has been the average percentage of each church’s total seating capacity that is being used for each Mass.

That will continue to be the case with these yearlong Mass counts.

“We’re past the point of being able to offer Masses of convenience,” Msgr. Kurwiczki noted. “We no longer have the luxury of having enough priests to offer Masses in churches that are consistently half-filled or nearly empty.”

Bishop McKnight will take these numbers into account when assigning priests to parishes and helping them determine how many weekend Masses each parish should have.

The number of available priests has been steadily declining, as has the number of people who regularly attend Mass in many parts of the diocese.

Msgr. Kurwiczki noted that the extended Mass counts will also help clergy and laypeople alike

focus more clearly on evangelization and reconnecting with people who are separated from active participation in parish life.

“There are many reasons why our Mass attendance isn’t what it used to be,” said Msgr. Kurwiczki. “This is a clarion call to all of us to work together to be better friends, better neighbors, better evangelizers and better reconcilers.”

The same applies to encouraging priestly vocations within families and communities, he said.

“Who are we to question why we don’t have as many priests as we’d like if we’re not encouraging the people around us, the people we love, to think about whether God is calling them to Priesthood?” he stated.

He said change is seldom easy, and challenges are rarely overcome without sacrifice, but the extra effort, with God’s blessing, can make all the difference.

“History is watching,” he stated with a nod to Sir Winston Churchill. “Let this be our finest hour.”

## EDUCATION

From page 4

Many people today don’t realize how prevalent anti-Catholicism was in the mid- to late-1800s, fueled in part by centuries-old hostilities dating back to the Protestant Reformation in Europe.

“In those days, the Catholic Church was still viewed very suspiciously by a lot of people,” Mr. Hoey noted.

Concerns grew as more immigrants from countries with large Catholic populations began settling in the Midwestern and Western United States.

“A lot of people were afraid,” he said. “You had persistent conspiracy theories that the

pope was trying to populate this country with Catholics so he could take over.”

All the while, the overwhelming majority of American Catholics respected the nation’s Constitutional and *de facto* religious plurality and “just wanted to be accepted with other religions,” said Mr. Hoey.

“This was a distinctly Protestant country where we were a definite minority,” he said. “There was no desire among American Catholics to make Catholicism the official religion.”

He said a lot of it came down to history and to being

afraid of “the other.”

“Which, to an extent, we still are,” he said.

### Silent prayer

Mr. Hoey said the Supreme Court applied reasoning similar to its *Carson* decision to another case, *Kennedy v. Breerton School District*.

In *Kennedy*, handed down June 27, the Court ruled against a public school district that fired a high school coach for kneeling down and praying silently on the field after games.

“The justices in the majority opinion saw this also as an

## Daily Readings

### Sunday, Jul 24

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Gn. 18:20-32  
Ps. 138:1-3, 6-8  
Col. 2:12-14  
Lk. 11:1-13

### Monday, Jul 25

St. James, Apostle  
2 Cor. 4:7-15  
Ps. 126:1bc-6  
Mt. 20:20-28

### Tuesday, Jul 26

Ss. Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Jer. 14:17-22  
Ps. 79:8-9, 11, 13  
Mt. 13:36-43

### Wednesday, Jul 27

Jer. 15:10, 16-21  
Ps. 59:2-4, 10-11, 17, 18  
Mt. 13:44-46

### Thursday, Jul 28

Jer. 18:1-6  
Ps. 146:1b-6ab  
Mt. 13:47-53

### Friday, Jul 29

St. Martha  
Jer. 26:1-9  
Ps. 69:5, 8-10, 14  
Jn. 11:19-27 or Lk. 10:38-42

### Saturday, Jul 30

St. Peter Chrysologus, bishop and Doctor of the Church  
Jer. 26:11-16, 24  
Ps. 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34  
Mt. 14:1-12

### Sunday, Jul 31

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Eccl. 1:2; 2:21-23  
Ps. 90:3-6, 12-14, 17  
Col. 3:1-5, 9-11  
Lk. 12:13-21

### Monday, Aug 1

St. Alphonsus Liguori, bishop and Doctor of the Church  
Jer. 28:1-17  
Ps. 119:29, 43, 79-80, 95, 102  
Mt. 14:13-21

### Tuesday, Aug 2

St. Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop; St. Peter Julian Eymard, priest  
Jer. 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22  
Ps. 102:16-18, 19-23, 29  
Mt. 14:22-36 or 15:1-2, 10-14

### Wednesday, Aug 3

Jer. 31:1-7  
(Ps.) Jer. 31:10, 11-13  
Mt. 15:21-28

### Thursday, Aug 4

St. John Vianney, priest  
Jer. 31:31-34  
Ps. 51:12-15, 18-19  
Mt. 16:13-23

### Friday, Aug 5

The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major  
Na. 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7  
Dt. 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41  
Mt. 16:24-28

### Saturday, Aug 6

The Transfiguration of the Lord  
Dn. 7:9-10, 13-14  
Ps. 97:1-2, 5-6, 9  
2 Pt. 1:16-19  
Lk. 9:28b-36

### 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.

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issue of freedom of expression of religion,” said Mr. Hoey. “Somehow, it got mixed up in the fear that he was establishing religion.”

In fact, Mr. Hoey noted, the coach was very open to the prayers and religious practices of players of other religious beliefs.

“I think people in general

are way far ahead of where the courts have been until recently,” Mr. Hoey said. “I think people are a lot more tolerant of religious pluralism and diversity than the courts and the courts are just catching up.”

Greg Erlandson of Catholic News Service contributed information to this article.



## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

### Deaths

**Father Michael Gilgannon, 88** — a priest of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, and brother to the late Monsignor Francis Gilgannon, who was a priest of the Jefferson City diocese — on June 19. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Sabina Church in Belton. Burial was in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Raytown.

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Stephen Krebs**

California, Annunciation — **Tammy J. Korte**

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Lena M. Pecquet**

Chamois, Most Pure Heart of Mary — **Joni Boss, Larry Boss**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Gerald Brouder, Trish Hinkebein**

Frankenstein, Our Lady Help of Christians — **Generose Dudenhoeffer, John Troesser**

Hannibal, Holy Family — **Bob Craner**

Holts Summit, St. Andrew — **Leona E. "Lee" Neutzler**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **William McAnany Jr., James Wall**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Nadine M. Smith**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **LaVerne R. Brondel, Austin C. Leuckel**

Kirksville, Mary Immaculate — **Dottie Walker**

Koeltztown, St. Boniface — **Gerald H. Nilges**

Memphis, St. John — **Joy Musgrove**

Monroe City, Holy Rosary — **JoAnn Franklin, James E. Spalding**

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior — **Gerald "Ferd" Metzler**

St. Anthony, St. Anthony of Padua — **Mary Herx**

St. Clement, St. Clement — **Steve Gamm**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Mary Hood**

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul — **Jacqueline Knox, Lucy Stone**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Carolyn G. Lootens**

### Baptisms

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Oynn Rapp**, child of Brooks & Hadley Rapp

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Emma Carani, Jordan Friedrich, Anna Kruse, Londyn Pell, Anika Pila**

Hermann, St. George — **Drue Elizabeth Gerlemann**, daughter of Chase & Abby Gerlemann

Holts Summit, St. Andrew — **Claire Anna Grellner**, daughter of Garrett & Cassidy Grellner

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Marki and Gabriella Pierce; Harlow and Heath Gautam; Scarlet and Lennon Greeno**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Ellie McFarland**, daughter of Casey & Angie McFarland; **Paxton Oakes**, child of Tom & Michaela Oakes; **Casen Parkes**

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Eliel Luis Garcia**, son of Manuel Luis & Martina Acevedo Garcia; **Paul Ray Mastrogiannis; Colson Charles Ross; Valentina Alejandra Sanchez Perez; Rose Genevieve Schwarzen**

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Thomas Isaac Adrian**, son of Andrew & Sarah Adrian; **William Albert Robert Koetting**, son of Gregory & Amanda Koetting; **Evelynn Lucille Mormann**, daughter of Tyler Mormann & Daphne Scobee; **Archer Alen Musick**, son of Justin & Ashley Musick

Moberly, St. Pius X — **Luke Hauge**, son of Cory & Gretchen Hauge

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior — **Caliber Gotsch**, son of Mercedes Gotsch  
St. Martins, St. Martin — **Oscar Geist**, son of Jeremy & Alexandria Geist; **Lance Schuman**, son of Brian & Michelle Schuman

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Adaline Kay Stockglausner**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Callahan Robert Fifer**, son of Dalton & Audrey Fifer; **Sawyer Matthew Rowland**, son of Jeremy & Emily Rowland

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **Cecilia Leona-Marie Kliethermes**, daughter of Ryan & Robin Kliethermes; **Walter David Reinkemeyer**, son of Curtis & Sarah Reinkemeyer; **Celius Stephen Weber**, son of Brady & LeAnn Weber

### Elections

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Lauren Cowherd, Kathy Lang, Chris Schuster, Janet Thompson**, to the Parish Pastoral Council; **Brad Atkinson, Janell Drummons**, to the Parish School Advisory Council

Columbia, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School — **David Steffes**, president; **Ashleigh Boyd**, president-elect; **Mimi Timmerman**, secretary; **James Farnan**, treasurer, of the Trailblazer Parent Association

Hannibal, Holy Family — **Stevie Lee, Jennifer Power**, to the Parish School Advisory Council

Indian Creek, St. Stephen — **Carol Hagan, Emily Gares, Rose McNally**, to the Parish Pastoral Council

Jefferson City, Knights of Columbus Fr. Helias Council 1054 — **Rory Stegeman**, grand knight; **Chris Farmer**, deputy grand knight; **Brian Veit**, chancellor; **Dan Smith**, financial secretary; **Tory Brondel**, treasurer; **Mike Bush**, advocate; **Jude Meldrum**, recorder; **Zeke Vanderfeltz**, warden; **Jim Branch, Isaac Stegeman**, guards; **Larry Schetzler**, lecturer; **Brent Cain, Mike Flanagan, Kevin Stegeman**, trustees; Home Association — **Gary Eggen**, president; **Mike Bush, Greg Kolb, Jack Kramer, Levi Woods**, directors

Linn, St. George — **Sharon Monroe, Nathan Veltrop**, to the Cemetery Board

Martinsburg, St. Joseph — **Patty Fennwald, Caroline Nation**, to the Parish Pastoral Council

Russellville, Knights of Columbus Council 8916 — **Scott Williams**, grand knight; **Brian Deschu**, deputy grand knight; **Todd Koestner**, treasurer; **David Keller**, financial secretary; **Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki VG**, chaplain

St. Anthony, St. Anthony of Padua — **Donna Dickneite, Jacob Kliethermes**, to the Parish Pastoral Council

St. Robert, Knights of Columbus 5401 — **Steven Hoffman**, grand knight; **James Carney**, deputy grand knight; **Pill Poling**, chancellor; **Sam Cox**, trBasurer; **Herb Hiatt**, warden; **Thomas Glueck**, advocate; **Mike Beattie**, recorder; **Tony Helmers, Boston Steele**, guards; **Mickey Letcher**, trustee

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Richard Heckemeyer, Sam Luebbering, Andrea Reynolds, Shane Verslues**, to the Parish Pastoral Council; **Katie Luebbering, Myron Luebbering**, to the Parish School Advisory Council

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Steve LePage, Cindy Luebbering, Tom Sanning, Linda Tobar**, to the Parish Pastoral Council; **Kyle Bernskoetter, Shelly Kleffner**, to the Parish School Advisory Council



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**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.

**FREE WILL OFFERING**

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

Featured on The Unraveled, Catholic Conversation and Parenting Smarts podcasts; contributor and speaker at Unraveled Imago Dei Retreats; writer of several devotionals and faith studies for Catholic ministry.

[www.herfitlife7.com](http://www.herfitlife7.com)  
@herfitlife7

**ST. GEORGE CHURCH  
HERMANN, MISSOURI**