

Praying for seminarians

Bishop McKnight speaks to seminarians and the whole diocese about vocations and prayer while admitting one seminarian to candidacy in his home parish.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

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Bishop Gaydos's silver jubilee: "With a Shepherd's Care"



Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos processes out of Immaculate Conception Church in Macon in this file photo from December 2017, near the conclusion of his 19-year tenure as third bishop of the Jefferson City diocese. He was ordained and installed 25 years ago, on Aug. 27, 1997, and served until Bishop W. Shawn McKnight was ordained and installed on Feb. 8, 2018. — Photo by Jay Nies

Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos, who led the Diocese of Jefferson City from 1997-2018, had to postpone his scheduled 25th anniversary celebration on Aug. 15 due to illness. He asks for prayers as he recovers and looks back gratefully on his time as bishop.

By Jay Nies

Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos immediately noticed the friendliness and authenticity of the flock he had been sent to guard, unite and govern.

"I could tell right off that they were wonderful people, what I call 'the salt of the earth,'" said Bishop Gaydos, who became the diocese's third bishop 25 years ago this month and continued until his retirement in 2018.

"I remember thinking, 'This is going to be good!'" he said. "And it has been good."

He spent the next 20 years promoting the New Evangelization in these 38 counties, through a period of sweeping demographic changes and a diminishing number of available priests.

"The work of the Church is to go out and make disciples!" he said in an Aug. 8 interview. "That is not optional."

He recalled growing up in a tight-knit neighborhood in St. Louis, where life revolved around home and St. Agnes Church and School.

Living within walking distance, he served at Mass many mornings and filled-in for the parish sacristan over the summers.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet who taught him at school and two of St. Agnes's associate pastors in particular encouraged him to think about being a priest.

See BISHOP GAYDOS, page 14

Jamie Morris is appointed executive director, general council of Missouri Catholic Conference

By Jay Nies

Jamie Morris and Deacon Tyler McClay were representing the Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) at a brutally contentious hearing in the State Capitol.

Mr. Morris slipped out while Deacon McClay was getting hammered by one of the lawmakers.

"I went across the street to the Adoration Chapel and texted Tyler, 'I'm over here, praying for you,'" Mr. Morris recalled. "I can't think of anything that would have been remotely as helpful in that moment."

"It speaks to the power of prayer and the Eucharist," said Mr. Morris, the MCC's newly-appointed executive director and general counsel.

"The Eucharist is why I'm Catholic," he added.

Mr. Morris succeeds Deacon McClay, who recently moved to St. Louis to be closer to family.

"I have huge shoes to fill," Mr. Morris stated.

The MCC is the public-policy agency for Missouri's four Roman Catholic dioceses.

Its executive director and staff work with the state's bishops to promote Gospel values in the public square, mostly by advocating for laws and government policies that promote the common good and reflect the inherent sanctity and dignity of all human life.

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

As executive director and general counsel, Mr. Morris will work with lawmakers and state agencies on shaping the bishops' priorities into effective public policy.

See MORRIS, page 17

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Prayer to Begin a School Year

God of wisdom and might,
we praise You for the wonder of our being,
for mind, body and spirit.

Be with our children as they begin
a new school year.

Bless them and their teachers and staff.

Give them strength and grace

as their bodies grow;
wisdom and knowledge to their minds

as they search for understanding;

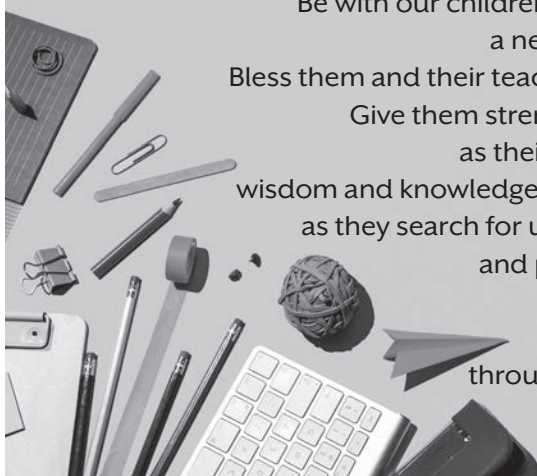
and peace and zeal

to their hearts.

We ask this
through Jesus Christ

our Lord.

Amen.



Director of Youth Ministry

Holy Family Church in Hannibal, Mo., is accepting applications for a full-time Director of Youth Ministry. The position includes, but is not limited to, coordinating the high school and middle school youth programs including worship, social and service activities for the youth in the parish community. Hourly position with benefits included. Interested applicants should contact Father Alex Gabriel at algabri567@gmail.com or 573-221-1078.



DIocese of
Jefferson City

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

- ▶ Custodial & Maintenance Coordinator
- ▶ RN/LPN Wellness Coordinator
- ▶ Women's Ministry Coordinator

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

Bible study: Isaiah and the World of Prophets — 9 Mondays in J.C.

Carolyn Saucier will lead a Bible study on the Prophet Isaiah on nine Mondays in Jefferson City.

Classes will be held on Aug. 29; Sept. 12 and 26; Oct. 10 and 24; Nov. 7 and 21; and Dec. 5 and 19 in the Missouri River Regional Library, 214 Adams St.

“Come join us for a heart-stirring, eye-opening journey with the prophet, Isaiah!” said Mrs. Saucier. “He will unnerve you, challenge you, speak truth to power, offer you a vision for peace, and pull you deep into the mystery of God.”

The Old Testament prophets are the most disturbing voices in the Bible and some of the

strangest people in the world.

“But their communion with God and hope-filled vision for God’s people is matched only by Jesus,” said Mrs. Saucier.

Isaiah is perhaps the greatest of these prophets. He contrasts the holiness of God and the sinfulness of humans. He warns of the judgment and wrath of God, but his voice is ultimately steeped in the love and mercy of a God beyond your wildest imaginings.

“To understand Isaiah is first to grasp the when, where and why of his ministry,” said Mrs. Saucier. “It is to know his sacrificial love for the Jewish/Israelite people and his total surrender to God.”

Marian pilgrimage along Katy Trail, October 10-14

“5 days. 45 miles. 7 Catholic churches.”

Father Timothy Foy, pastor of St. John Gildehaus Parish in Villa Ridge in the St. Louis archdiocese, will lead the sixth annual Katy Trail Marian Pilgrimage from Oct. 10-14.

For five days, pilgrimage participants will walk along the scenic Katy Trail while engaging in meaningful fellowship and prayer.

Highlights include daily Mass, Adoration, prayer and fellowship; overnight accommodations and transportation provided, as well as reasonably-priced dinner arrangements.

Mass will be offered in churches located near the trail, including: Immaculate Conception Church in Augusta; St. Vincent de Paul Church in Marthasville; St. Ignatius Loyola Church in Concord Hill; the old St. Anthony



Participants in the 2018 Katy Trail Marian Pilgrimage arrive at the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg in this file photo.

Church in Case; the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg; and Assumption Church in New Haven.

Catholic or non-Catholic participants of all ages are welcome to “join for the day or stay for the week.”

“This Marian journey will not only get your feet moving in the right direction, but will also give your heart and soul an exercise in spiritual growth,” said Jennifer Smith, who has taken part in the pilgrimage in past years.

“The event moves the soul ... it is awe-inspiring to say the least,” she stated.

The pilgrimage has grown rapidly from a handful of participants the first year to 67 on one of the days in 2021.

Special guests in recent years have included parish priests, seminarians, religious sisters and even middle school students.

Visit KatyTrailPilgrimage.com for information.

To register, write to MarianPilgrimage77@gmail.com.

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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Pray for deceased priests

Aug. 28 — Fr. Thomas D. Sullivan, St. Cecilia, Meta (1977)
Sept. 2 — Fr. Herman J. Striewe, St. Joseph Home, Jefferson City (1966); Msgr. Jacques J. Wenting, St. Thomas Seminary, Hannibal (2004)



LEFT: Bishop W. Shawn McKnight admits seminarian Jacob Hartman to candidacy for Holy Orders during Mass on Aug. 6 in St. Andrew Church in Holts Summit. **RIGHT:** Seminarians Philip Novotney, Gage Niesen, Shane Kliethermes, John-Paul McGuire, Jacob Hartman, Gregory Clever, Christopher Hoffman and Bryce Smith of the Jefferson City diocese gather for a photo after the Aug. 6 Mass in St. Andrew Church. — Photos by Jay Nies

Bishop to seminarians and faithful: **“Discernment is hard work. Pray for God’s help”**

By Jay Nies

Discerning a priestly calling is not just the work of a person who believes God is calling him.

It’s also the responsibility of the whole Church to pray vigilantly for him and for those who are helping him discern.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight likened this responsibility to Jesus’s parable of the servants who are awake and ready upon their master’s arrival from a wedding (Luke 12:35-40).

“The signs of a vocation must be evident to the Church, especially to those in authority who are responsible to make sure that priestly vocations are authentic,” the bishop stated.

“And this takes prayer, lots of prayer on the part of the candidate, but also on the part of the Church,” he said. “This discernment also takes a lot of patience and active preparation.”

He called to mind the many

laypeople who spend time at all hours of the day in Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in chapels throughout the diocese.

“Among the many needs and desires they pour out to the Lord, the need for more priestly vocations is very common,” he said. “We would do well to remember how dependent we are upon God and the prayers of the good people of His Church, for us to be here for this rite of admission to candidacy.”

Bishop McKnight offered the Aug. 6 Saturday evening Vigil Mass in St. Andrew Church in Holts Summit, during which he formally admitted seminarian Jacob Hartman to candidacy for Holy Orders.

The Rite of Admission to Candidacy is a pivotal step in the journey to ordained Priesthood. It is celebrated when a seminarian has reached a maturity of purpose in his formation

and has demonstrated the necessary qualifications for ordination.

In the presence of the bishop, the seminarian publicly expresses his intention to complete his preparation for Holy Orders and his resolve to fully invest himself to that end, so that he will serve Christ and the Church faithfully.

There are currently eight seminarians studying for the diocese this year: three at Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas; three at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio; and two at Mundelein Seminary near Chicago.

Mr. Hartman and fellow seminarians of this diocese, each preparing to return to his studies and formation after spending the summer here, assisted the bishop during the Mass as servers and in various other roles at and near the altar.

Mindful that the world needs good Catholics, and that Catholics need priests to support, nurture and lead them, Bishop McKnight reminded the seminarians of their “fundamental obligation to preserve the apostolic communion of the Church in what we believe, in how we pray and in how we live as disciples of our Lord.”

That communion, he told them, must be resilient in the face of the mystery of evil that continually besets the world.

“Christ’s apostolic mission to crucify sin and death and

to bring forth the new life of the resurrection has continued down through the centuries through the work and ministry of His Apostles and their successors,” the bishop noted.

“And despite the wounds inflicted upon the Body of Christ in the twin crises of clergy sexual abuse and the abuse of power by the hierarchy, Christ continues to break the chains of slavery to sin; He continues to heal the broken-hearted; to nourish the hungry; and to bring glad tidings to the poor,” he insisted.

The bishop reminded Mr. Hartman that in presenting himself as a candidate for Holy Orders, “you are manifesting your internal intention to join in this apostolic work” and becoming “a public person for the sake of the Church’s mission.”

After a thorough process of testing and discerning a candidate’s aptitude, the candidate

is called to ordination, “which will mark him with the singular seal of the Holy Spirit for the ministry of God and the Church,” said Bishop McKnight.

“When the time comes, he will serve the Church and build Christian communities by the preaching of the Word and the celebration of the sacraments,” he said.

The bishop instructed Mr. Hartman to cultivate his vocation more fully, “using especially those means that can be offered to you as help and support by the ecclesial community entrusted with this task.”

“On the part of all of us, trusting in the Lord, we will assist you with our prayers,” he said.

The bishop asked everyone to continue praying for Mr. Hartman and all of the seminarians.



Bishop McKnight’s Calendar

AUGUST

Aug 27 Most Reverend John R. Gaydos Silver Anniversary Reception, St. Louis

SEPTEMBER

Sep 7 Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Board of Directors Meeting, noon, Catholic Charities Center, Jefferson City

Bishop McKnight’s September prayer intention for our Local Church

For all who serve in our community as first responders: that God may protect them from all harm, and that we be grateful for the sacrifices they make for the common good.

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

Por todos los que sirven en nuestra comunidad en primeros auxilios: que Dios los proteja de todo daño y que estemos agradecidos por los sacrificios que hacen por el bien común.



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

60 years into religious life: Sr. Mary Ann Carey still delighting in students' 'aha!' moments

By Jay Nies

Sister Mary Ann Carey of the School Sisters of Notre Dame calls to mind a prayer of St. Gertrude the Great of Helfta:

"My God, You are my hope; You the glory; You the joy; You my blessedness. You are the thirst of my spirit; You the life of my soul; You the jubilation of my heart."

"These words, much like the wisdom of our foundress, Blessed Mother Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, are a fitting summary of my 60 years as a School Sister of Notre Dame," said Sr. Mary Ann, who ministers at Sacred Heart Parish in Rich Fountain.

She marked the start of her seventh decade in religious life on July 30 of this year.

"I hold as treasured blessings my family, my sisters in community, friends, co-workers and students," she stated.

"I feel so privileged to be a member of the SSND congregation — women of hope who are committed to serving God's people through education in every sense of the word," she said. "We value prayer, faith-sharing and a community life that calls us

to be of 'one mind and one heart.'"

Sr. Mary Ann, a daughter of the late Arthur J. and Laurine A. Carey, grew up in a loving family that included three older brothers and a younger sister.

She lived in the small town of Ballwin, Mo., and attended St. Joseph School in neighboring Manchester. Both later became burgeoning St. Louis suburbs, but back then, she said, "it seemed like practically everybody was related somehow, and if something happened to one person, it happened to everybody."

She remembers always wanting to be a sister like the SSNDs who taught her at St. Joseph.

"It was more of who they were, rather than what they did, that drew me to want to be just like them," she stated.

Among her teachers were Freeburg native Sister Teresella Bauer, now deceased, who taught Sr. Mary Ann when she was in first and second grade and helped her prepare for First Holy Communion.

"She was a sweetheart," Sr. Mary Ann recalled. "She was always doing nice things for us."

Fostering potential

Sr. Mary Ann often visited the sisters in their convent and would help them on Saturdays. She even stepped up to proctor the lower grades at the school whenever asked.

"It just seemed a natural thing," she said.

She attended Notre Dame High School as an SSND aspirant.

In 1960, with her parents' blessing, she formally entered the SSND congregation from her home parish, Holy Infant in Ballwin.

She was received into the SSND novitiate on July 29, 1961, and was given the religious name Sister Mary Jame-sanne.

Years later, she went back to her baptismal name, Mary Ann.

She professed temporary vows in 1962 and continued her studies at Notre Dame College at Sancta Maria In Ripa, the SSND motherhouse on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River in St. Louis.

She graduated in 1964 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in art and English and began her educational ministry at St. Peter School in Jefferson City (1964-70).

She renewed her vows in 1965 and professed final vows on July 30, 1967, promising God to live a life of poverty, chastity and holy obedience to Him through her religious superiors and the SSND constitutions.

Originally established in Germany as a branch of a religious congregation founded in France, the SSNDs now have sisters ministering all over the world.

Sr. Mary Ann noted that the congregation's international presence gives the Sisters a unique global responsibility to address current



Sister Mary Ann Carey SSND

needs, particularly those of women, young people, and people who are poor.

She pointed out that all SSNDs are educators, encouraging each individual to discover his or her full potential in order to help other people in God's name.

"I like telling young people to look at the middle two letters of 'Church' to remind them that 'YOU ARE the Church,'" she said.

"Aha!" moments

Sr. Mary Ann's ministry in elementary education continued at Holy Angels School in East St. Louis, Illinois (1970-76); Our Lady of Loretto School in Spanish Lake, near St. Louis (1976-82); St. Mary School in Alton, Illinois (1982-88); St. Ignatius Loyola School in Concord Hill (1988-2000); and St. Theodore School in Flint Hill (2001-03).

She has been teaching at Sacred Heart School in Rich Fountain for the past 19 years, currently as the school's art teacher and the parish's religion teacher.

"One of my greatest joys has been watching the faces of students suddenly light up with 'Aha!' moments of inspiration and creativity," she

stated.

She notices similarities between Sacred Heart and the community she grew up in.

"It's like a family in school rather than just a lot of people," she said.

Sr. Mary Ann completed a Master of Arts degree in reading education in 1982 through a graduate summer program at Clark College (now University) in Dubuque, Iowa.

She took time to care for her infirm mother in Montgomery County while substitute-teaching in local schools in

1998-99, followed by an art sabbatical in Lantana, Florida.

Sr. Mary Ann said these past 60 years have gone by quickly for her because "being with children has kept me feeling young at heart and centered on what is truly most important: bringing Jesus's message of love and unity to our world."

She was amazed to be able to approach a major health scare this summer with peace and serenity, which she realizes are from God.

Now more than ever, she accepts each day as a gift.

Sr. Mary Ann remains forever grateful to her parents and siblings for encouraging her to follow her call to religious life.

"Their example of commitment to the Catholic faith and to the Eucharistic celebration served to strengthen my resolve to be a School Sister of Notre Dame," she said.

She fervently hopes all parents will pray with their children for openness to a possible calling to the Priesthood or Religious Life.

"Each of us by Baptism is called to respond to the challenge of being good stewards and to use our gifts and talents to build up God's kingdom here on earth," she said.

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Priests see the importance of spending time in the classroom

By Jay Nies

Father Jason Doke opens up the floodgate, and the questions come gushing forth.

“Do you have any children?”

“Yes!”

“How many?”

“Two hundred! And they all go to school here!”

He gives it a few seconds to sink in.

“You should see a kindergarten when it clicks in their mind,” said Fr. Doke, pastor of St. Martin Parish in St. Martins. “They say, ‘Oh! That’s us!’”

Fr. Doke is fully convinced of the importance of Catholic education and of having a spiritual Father make regular visits to the Catholic school in his charge.

“Just being present to the kids is the most important thing,” he said. “Because as priests, we work *in persona Christi* — in the person of Christ.”

Understanding that Father knows them and cares about them helps children see how much Jesus knows them and cares about them.

“Especially if Father knows your name!” said Fr. Doke. “That means you’re somebody important, that you’re somebody special. You have that relationship: ‘Father knows my name; therefore, Jesus knows my name.’”

Juggling his responsibilities as a pastor and as moderator of the curia in the diocesan Chancery offices can make scheduling time in St. Martin School difficult for Fr. Doke.

“That’s why I have a school schedule,” he said. “If I didn’t schedule my time in the school, it wouldn’t happen.”

Dr. Erin Vader, diocesan superintendent of Catholic Schools, has slated Fr. Doke to give a presentation at the upcoming pastors/principals workshop in Jefferson City.

“I’m going to offer some advice on making an effort as a pastor to regularly spend time in your school, and ways you can have fun with the kids and teach them at the same time and have them get to know you,” he said.

He said the best way to learn students’ names is to build an actual relationship with them.

“You get to know them by interacting with them,” he said. “You actually get to know who they are, who their parents are, who their siblings are.”

“Part of everything”

Monsignor David Cox, pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in Wardsville and St. Margaret of Antioch Parish in Osage Bend, said he has always enjoyed having a Catholic school in his parish.

“It makes the whole parish so much more alive,” he said. “It gives us a great opportunity to evangelize.”

Msgr. Cox has seen many adults decide to become Catholic or return to the practice of the faith because of their children’s positive experiences and excitement about being Catholic.

“Teaching is in my blood!” he added. “I enjoy interacting with the kids, and I love teaching them about Jesus.”

Learning students’ names opens the door to positive interaction with entire families.

“Somehow, it gives the parents a way to talk to me,” he said.

Msgr. Cox said it’s good to help children develop ways to express their faith at home and beyond.

Msgr. Cox believes it’s important for him to make time to teach children at St. Stanislaus School how to be altar servers, hear their Confessions once per quarter, and make sure they pray the “Angelus” at noon every day and spend time in Adoration on Fridays.

The students go to Mass twice a week and serve as lectors, altar servers and music ministers.

“One of the best things about a Catholic school is that we can surround them with the Catholic faith and remind them of the love of Jesus, no matter what subject is being taught at the moment,” said Msgr. Cox.

“It helps the children to make their religion a part of everything in their lives,” he said.

A St. Stanislaus student who attended summer enrichment classes at a local public school



Father Jason Doke, pastor of St. Martin Parish in St. Martins, drives a tractor in St. Martin School’s second annual Tractor Parade last fall.

recently told him, “We didn’t even say one prayer!”

“I think she gets it,” he stated.

“The true center”

Father Dylan Schrader noted with sadness that some parishes with Catholic schools consider the school to be the heart of the parish.

“That isn’t accurate,” cautioned Fr. Schrader, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia and St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Folk. “The celebration of the Eucharist is the true center of parish life.”

Like everything else a parish does, the school should draw its strength from the Eucharist and lead back to it, he said.

He noted that a priest has the special ability to help connect the school and — through the school — families to the Eucharist more fully, because he makes Christ present in the school in a unique way.

But that can backfire if parishioners come to see Mass, Confession and visits to the schoolchildren as a “school thing” that ends when the children graduate.

“One of our challenges is to help our students build life-long skills to serve them in the active practice of the Catholic faith for the rest of their lives,” said Fr. Schrader.

“I would really encourage parents to be deliberate about taking your kids to Mass each Sunday relentlessly; taking them to Confession over the summer months; inviting the

challenges to the teachings of the Church will happen,” said Fr. Corel, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia. “We need to be a sturdy and friendly guide to help students through these questions and challenges that are usually very counter-cultural.”

He noted that one of the main purposes of having a Catholic school is to have teaching and learning happen in a Catholic setting.

“We as priests should be exercising our role as teachers by being in the classroom,” he said.

That doesn’t necessarily mean grading papers or giving quizzes and tests, said Fr. Corel, but it should include interacting with the students on a variety of Catholic teachings.

“Our students are living in the culture, and we need not be afraid of their doubts and questions, but help them through reason, concern, care, love and support to see and understand why the Church teaches as she does,” he said.

See PRIESTS, page 15



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Seeing famous Passion Play brings Gospel to life, visitors say

By Dale Gavlak

Catholic News Service

Oberammergau, Germany

The visitors browse the intricately carved wooden Nativity sets or dive into some mouthwatering creamy Italian ice cream at the Eiscafe Paradiso.

Thousands from the world over are descending on this picturesque Alpine village to see the famed Passionsspiele, or Passion Play, held here every decade for nearly 400 years.

In the cavernous Passion Play Theatre that seats about 5,000 people, an air of excitement takes hold as Jesus enters, straddling a live donkey on stage.

Hundreds of men, women and children, dressed in cloaks of earthen hues, cry out before him, “Hosanna, Hosanna!” marking Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and the start of His arduous journey from Palm Sunday to the cross — a story known as the Passion.

Later, a hush takes hold in the audience as Roman soldiers come to arrest Jesus, sending Him to a sham trial, brutal punishment and execution befitting a criminal.

“This was so powerful seeing the sweep of the Gospel story,” said Christine Dutton, who trains people ministering in the Anglican and Methodist churches in Britain.

“All of the disciples fled really quickly from the stage when Jesus was arrested. What so struck me was the political nature of the whole Gospel story — the conflict between Jesus and the authorities,” she told Catholic News Service (CNS).

“The Crucifixion scene was particularly well done. Such a gentle way they brought Jesus’ body down from the cross. The care that (was) taken,” she explained, referring to the long white fabric placed on the arms of the nearly 10-foot wooden cross.

The fabric was used to deliver Jesus’ mangled body down to His mother, Mary, and His mournful followers.

“So often, week by week we use the lectionary; segment it or sanitize it. Actually, seeing that sweep of events altogether is a powerful reminder of the overarching narrative of the story,” Dutton said.

She added that the insertion of the Old Testament scenes, such as Moses and the burning bush, helped to provide context to the unfolding drama engulfing Christ: why He came into the world and died for sinners, but He was raised to new life.

“This was my fifth time coming to see the Passion Play and I don’t mean fifth in one year. I think that explains it all,” fellow Briton Ruth Aspinall told CNS.

“I liked it so much this time and found it simpler. I loved the Resurrection scene, never used before. It was just hinted at in the past. But this time, all the disciples come on stage, light candles. Mary is happy. Everyone sings hallelujah. It was very tastefully done and ended on a joyful note,” she said.

Oberammergau native Christian Stückl has directed the production for more than 30 years, several times reworking the script and modernizing it, including the removal of past anti-Semitic references.

“As a spectator, you don’t really have to bring anything (in terms of religious understanding), you can just turn up,” said Stückl. “But as a director, if I didn’t have the belief and conviction that there is a certain power behind this story, behind this Jesus, I wouldn’t be able to tell this story. I wouldn’t need to tell it.”

Linda Taggart, a retired British teacher whose daughter-in-law is from Oberammergau, told CNS she applauded the changes to the text made by Stückl, because not everyone in today’s audience fully knows the biblical account of Christ’s suffering, death and resurrection, once considered common knowledge in earlier times.

“They have to understand what the story is about and what’s its message. This is the most important message in the world,” said Taggart.

“I hope it touches lots of other people’s hearts, too, because the play made me realize how much Christ went through. I knew it, but it really made me think a lot about it. I’m also amazed at how relevant the story is for today,” a reference not only to challenges



Frederik Mayet portrays Jesus in a scene set in Bethany at the Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany. This is the second time Mayet will portray Jesus in the play.

— CNS photo/Birgit Gudjonsdottir, Passionsspiele Oberammergau 2022

posed by the COVID-19 outbreak, but to those encompassing conflict, poverty and social injustice gripping many parts of world.

Stückl takes the lead actors and soloists to Israel for 10 days before play rehearsals begin to have them experience the places where Jesus walked and ministered, saying it impacts the performers and the

audience.

“It forces us to examine the play anew; to ask: What does this have to do with us? When it dawns on the performers how relevant the lines still are, how strong they are, there is a chance that they will then pass that on to the audience,” he said.

For Oberammergau native Frederik Mayet, one of two ac-

tors who plays Jesus, conveying Christ’s message of love and hope to the audience is important and something of a sacred trust.

“We have to try to find the words that reach the people of today. We notice this now in this year’s production. People are really touched,” Mayet told CNS.

“The power, joy, and enthusiasm we have on stage reaches the people in the auditorium automatically, and that’s something special. When the choir is singing, when there are hundreds of people on stage, sometimes it’s a magical moment,” said Mayet, who is portraying Jesus for the second time.

“The Passion Play ends with the Resurrection, but the message is contained in the message Mary Magdalene speaks,” Mayet said. “A woman has the last words on stage and delivers this message: Jesus brings the light, the fire into the world as a sign of hope.”

For Maureen Reade, an Anglican parish priest from Shropshire, England, attending the Passion Play was a dream come true.

“I’ve wanted to come here since I was 17. That was 52 years ago. My head teacher at school came in 1970 and brought us each a bookmark. She told me about Oberammergau. I said: ‘I would love to go.’ She said: ‘You’ve got the rest of your life.’ That’s been my dream,” Reade said.

Mary teaches primacy of humility over power, success

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Mary’s humble life and example are a testament to the triumph of service and love over power and success, Pope Francis said.

Before reciting the Angelus prayer on the feast of the Assumption Aug. 15, the pope told an estimated 10,000 pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square that the song of praise uttered by Mary while visiting her cousin Elizabeth “announces a radical change, an overturning of values.”

Mary “prophesies that it will not be power, success and money that will prevail, but service, humility and love. Looking at her, in glory, we understand that the true power is service, and that to reign means to love. And that this is the road to heaven,” he said.

In his address, the pope reflected on the Magnificat, which is not only “a hymn of praise and exultation for the great things that the Lord has accomplished in her,” but also a recounting of “the work of God in the entire history of her people.”

However, her praise of God who “brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly” may make some wonder if she was “exaggerating, describing a world that does not exist.”

“Indeed, what she says does not seem to correspond to reality; while she speaks, the powerful have not been brought down: the fearsome Herod, for example, is still firmly on his throne. And the poor and hungry remain so, while the rich continue to prosper,” he said.

School Sisters of Notre Dame, associates focus on transition, transformation during Assembly in K.C.

By Jay Nies

“God was in the gathering.”

Sister Kathleen Wegman of the School Sisters of Notre Dame spoke of the joy of meeting in-person with fellow sisters and lay associates from 22 U.S. states, as well as Japan, Guam and other countries.

She and Sister Susan Renner SSND, who help with the work of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, attended the SSND Central Pacific Province’s July 11-15 Assembly of the Whole in Kansas City.

About 300 people participated in-person and via livestream.

It was the first large SSND gathering in the province since the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Simply being together was energizing,” said Sr. Kathleen. “Just renewing acquaintances and meeting lots of new people.”

In-person participants were tested for COVID before attending and wore masks throughout the sessions.

The theme was “Transitions to Transformation.”

“The purpose of the Assembly was to strengthen relationships among us,” said Sr. Susan. “And this was in light of the fact that yes, we are in a period of transitions — major transitions!”

Presenters reminded the Assembly that the SSND congregation has been in constant, occasionally tumultuous and sometimes painful transition since its founding in Germany in 1833.

So have each of the sisters.

“God uses transitions in our lives and ministries to help us learn to rely on Him and trust Him more fully,” said Sr. Susan.

The Assembly’s in-person and online participants took part in small-group activities that focused on moving “from ‘I’ to ‘we’ to ‘one.’”

“The whole process was one of faith-sharing in small groups and then sharing in a large group,” said Sr. Susan.

There was lots of laughter.

Sr. Kathleen and Sr. Susan said the activities helped them reflect on transitions and times of uncertainty that they had

weathered in their own lives.

The activities also highlighted one of the key aspects of community life: everyone has something important to contribute, despite everyone having limitations.

“What was amazing was how naturally, in my mind, we all fell into working as one,” Sr. Susan said of one of the more elaborate group activities.

“When one thing didn’t work, we automatically tried something else,” she said. “And despite each of our limitations, we each contributed, and we learned that all ideas were worthy of consideration and that we would only succeed by working together.”

Part of life

There are currently about 2,000 SSNDs worldwide — 11 of whom are working in various ministries in the Jefferson City diocese.

The congregation’s presence here dates back to the arrival of the first SSNDs in Westphalia in 1866.

Their charism, which is their Holy Spirit-inspired reason for existence, is focused on promoting unity, building-up community life, carrying-out ministries directed toward education, and partaking of a common search for and doing God’s will.

As society and the world are constantly changing, so, too, must consecrated religious life.

Adding to the urgency is the diminishing number and increasing average age not only of SSNDs but of many other religious congregations in the United States.

“Transition is just a part of life,” said Sr. Susan. “You see that in nature. And something I was really touched by at the Assembly — I felt such a sense of faith and trust.

“There wasn’t a sense of ‘poor us, we’re going through difficult transitions,’” she said. “I didn’t sense any fear among us or even a great wanting to



School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND Associates take part in activities during the Central Pacific Province’s Assembly of the Whole in Kansas City.

— Photo from the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province Facebook Page

fight the transitions that are happening.

“In fact, what I saw was a lot of excitement for mission in every age group,” she said.

Sr. Kathleen spoke of the strength that comes from communal energy, sustained by the Holy Spirit.

“There’s always a temptation to fear or run from transition, but there’s no need for that,” she said. “It’s like, ‘jump in, there’s energy in it.’ The newness of the potential can be exhilarating.”

“It’s like, we’re all in this together, and we will be fine,” said Sr. Susan.

She said the history of SSNDs clearly shows that “there is a gift in every transition. You don’t always see it at the time, but the gift is revealed as you continue to live your life.”

Sr. Kathleen noted: “God has a very good track record!”

By association

For the first time, SSND Associates were invited to join the sisters in taking full part in the Assembly of the Whole.

“I was struck by the love that was present all around, and how welcoming the sisters were to having the Associates present,” said Anne Carey, one of the directors of the SSND Associates who gather in 13 states, Guam and Japan.

SSND Associates are lay women or men who seek to integrate the SSND charism

into their own everyday pursuits.

They promise to work toward deepening their prayer life, taking part in congregational activities, conforming their lives to the spirit of the Gospel, and extending that spirit into service to God’s people.

A layperson who wishes to be an SSND Associate spends about a year learning about such things as the history, charism, spirituality and international make-up of the SSND congregation.

Each Associate is approved by the SSND provincial council, followed by a covenanting ritual and the making of a year-long promise.

“Every year, we get the opportunity to renew that promise,” said Ms. Carey. “It’s a chance for each Associate to think about how their connection with SSNDs has enhanced their life.”

“Live that spirit”

A group of six people in and around Columbia became SSND Associates while Sister Francine Kohler was serving as director of faith formation at that city’s Sacred Heart Parish.

The group gathers about once a month to build each other up and help keep each other accountable. Also, since the COVID-19 pandemic, a larger group from Missouri and Illinois has been gathering via livestream the first Tuesday

of each month.

Ms. Carey got to know several School Sisters of Notre Dame while working for the U.S. Forest Service in Southern Missouri. She wound up spending a year and a half working with sisters of this province in Sierra Leone.

Later on, she was living in California state when members of a newly-formed SSND Associates group invited her to join.

She said the SSND culture of uniting people and addressing a wide array of social justice issues has helped her become more fully

Christian.

“I say Christian because you don’t have to be Catholic to become an associate,” she said. “You just have to be someone who desires to live that spirit in your own life.”

“Much more connected”

Dr. John Meyer, an SSND Associate and member of Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia, participated in the Assembly online.

“It was absolutely amazing how everything worked,” he said. “It was like we were there in the room the whole time.”

Having been educated by sisters as a child, he got to know Sister Patricia Hall SSND at Sacred Heart, followed by Sr. Francine.

“I really admire people who give up their lives for Christ and for spreading His teaching and being involved in things like education,” he said. “That’s one of the things that really drew me to the School Sisters of Notre Dame.”

He noted that the SSND congregation was originally founded to educate poor girls, whose opportunities for learning were very limited.

He said participating in all of the group activities during the Assembly was worth the time and effort.

“I’ve been fairly active as an associate, but when I got done there, I felt much more

QUESTION CORNER

How to obtain relics? / Leave altar during recessional

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



This column originally ran in 2014. Father Doyle is now retired.

Q. Why is it so hard to obtain first-class relics? (Also, do I need permission from my bishop to obtain them?) I am now 65 years old and virtually bedridden, a convert to the Catholic Church in my teens. There are two saints to whom I have special devotion, and to have their relics would be a great comfort to me: St.

Rita of Cascia and St. John Mary Vianney. I appreciate any advice you might offer. (Tell City, Indiana)

A. First, a primer on the three classes of relics. As explained by Catholic News Service: “A first-class relic is the physical bodily remains of a saint or blessed like bones, blood and hair; a second-class relic is a personal possession, such as clothing, devotional objects, handwritten letters or even furniture; and a third-class relic is an object that has touched a first-class relic. These — usually small snips of cloth that have touched a blessed or saint’s tomb — often end up in public distribution fixed onto prayer cards.”

Relics have been venerated in the Church since the earliest centuries of the Christian era because they evoke the memory of the person honored and are thought to put one in closer contact with the virtues of that saint.

The largest collection of relics belongs to the Vatican and is kept at a convent adjacent to the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome. The practice of making relics generally available to the public, particularly first-class relics, ended about 20 years ago at the insistence of the Vatican.

Today, you can apply to the Vatican for a specific relic only with a letter of permission from your bishop and only if the relic will be used for a church altar or other public purpose. The private ownership, especially of first-class relics, is highly discouraged since it is seen as limiting the evangelizing effect of the saint’s memory.

Occasionally, second- or third-class relics can be obtained by contacting the religious order or shrine of a particular saint. (The national shrine of St. Rita of Cascia is in Philadelphia, and the shrine of St. John Mary Vianney is in Ars-sur-Formans in France). If these shrines are unable to provide you with relics, they can at least offer you devotional material on the saints and information about their lives.

The Church’s *Code of Canon Law* says specifically and strongly (in No. 1190) that “it is absolutely forbidden to sell sacred relics.” When relics are obtained, there is often a charge for the metal container encasing the relic and for mailing costs, but not for the relic itself.

Q. Why do so many priests leave the altar as soon as the final hymn begins? The choir practices the hymn for hours, and then the priest hurries off right after they start. So other people begin to leave, too, and nobody pays any attention to the music. I think it’s rude. (Bound Brook, New Jersey)

A. I agree. The guidelines of the Church (the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*) are silent on the matter of a recessional hymn, and some parishes choose not to use one at all — their thinking being that the congregation is sent forth immediately to “glorify the Lord by their lives.”

But if a hymn is used, common courtesy and liturgical propriety ought to keep the priest at the altar for the greater part of it. Since it is a “recessional,” the final part of the hymn may accompany the priest back down the aisle; but he should encourage the congregation to sing (and respect the choir) by not moving too soon.

Papal Audience August 17, 2022

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on old age in the light of God’s Word, we now turn to the mysterious figure of the “Ancient of Days,” presented in a vision of the prophet Daniel (Dn. 7:9) and echoed in the Book of Revelation (cf. Rev. 1:13-14). This image of God the Father, venerable in age and authority, expresses God’s transcendence, His eternity and His constant care for this world and its history. The figure of the “one like a son of man” is a prophecy of Jesus, the eternal Son of the Father, sent into our world for our salvation. At His Presentation in the Temple, the child Jesus was embraced by Simeon and Anna, two elderly people who recognized in Him the long-awaited fulfillment of God’s promises. The presence of the aged couple speaks to us of the special vocation of the elderly: to welcome the young into our world, to celebrate their lives as a blessing and to testify to the unity of the different generations in the unfolding of God’s saving plan. The elderly play an indispensable role in helping the young to mature in wisdom, rooted in continuity with the past and looking ahead to the future of hope that God, the “Ancient of Days,” opens up before us all.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s audience. Upon you and your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!



Responding in faith to climate change: The 17th-century Dutch example

By Mike Hoey

Every era faces challenges adapting to the vagaries of weather and climate change.

Today, the challenge is global warming, but in the 17th century, the challenge was a global cool-down, a period known as the Little Ice Age, which was punctuated by stormy seas, plummeting temperatures and shorter growing seasons.

But, braced in their faith in God’s providence, some people in Northern Europe found ways to respond to the new climatic conditions.

The God-fearing people of the newly minted Dutch Republic rose to the occasion, strengthening coastal defenses, building seaworthy ships and developing a robust network of trade to feed its citizens.

They managed this feat despite wars with Spain and later England and occasional bloody eruptions of religious strife that undermined the civil peace.

Historian Dagomar Degroot tells this story in *The Frigid Golden Age*, a period he defines as running from 1560 to 17200.

Unlike today’s global warming, in which the burning of fossil fuels has led to a greenhouse effect overlaying natural climatic changes, the Little Ice Age involved natural phenomena including cycles of sun spot activity, a complex interplay of oceanic and atmospheric circulations, such as the Arctic Oscillation, and massive earthquakes that reduced sunlight, leading to cooler temperatures.

Degroot uses the logbooks of sailing ships to determine that in colder periods of the Little Ice Age, winds blowing across land from east to west, sometimes coming out of Siberia, prevailed over the warmer ocean-produced west-erlies.

The colder weather fluctuated with periods

of warming, but overall a colder world prevailed, presenting daunting challenges to a pre-industrialized people, especially in Northern Europe.

Degroot states that “in Europe, changes in prevailing weather contributed to ruined harvests, food shortages, commodity price increases, human and animal epidemics, social unrest, and ultimately outbreaks of violence that destabilized one society after another.”

Yet, the Dutch were uniquely positioned to face climate change challenges. Even before the onset of the Little Ice Age, they had radically altered their landscape, digging up peat and draining bogs to add more farmland.

The land sank in consequence, and then the Dutch began construction of an elaborate system of dikes and drainage canals designed to protect their Lowlands.

During the Little Ice Age, the Dutch strengthened these coastal defenses, improved the seaworthiness of their sailing ships so they could travel through ice-clogged seas and expanded trade along the Baltic coast in order to purchase grain from the breadbasket of central Europe.

Domestically, the Dutch established a “turn-ferry” network to take advantage of their watery world, so smaller sailing ships could connect cities such as Amsterdam to the interior of the country.

When the streams and rivers iced over in winter, the Dutch continued to move merchandise and people using sled boats.

It is one of the ironies of history that a people steeped in the Reform Church of the Protestant Reformation, a tradition that insists that faith not works is the key to salvation, should busy themselves so intensely in assuring their

Following the path of inspiration

By Christina Capecchi



During his down time at work, a Minnesota surgeon often browses the *New Yorker* in the hospital library. One day he spotted its famed cartoon caption contest — a caption-less cartoon

that calls on readers to submit captions and then vote on their favorites, to be published in the following issue of the magazine.

The fun is trying to explain an oddity or the juxtaposition of two disparate elements in a single sentence. The contest generates some 5,000 to 10,000 entries a week. And this doctor was intrigued by the cartoon he saw: a husband and wife lying in bed behind prison bars.

"I stared at the cartoon for several minutes and typed a few duds," he wrote.

"Then I was called to start a surgery and, literally, in those few seconds before I logged off, the caption came to me."

He typed: "How about we just stay in tonight?"

The caption won the contest.

What happened in the span of those three or four seconds?

Inspiration struck.

As a Catholic journalist, I have always been fascinated by that Eureka moment. I often ask people to describe the scene in detail: room, time of day, beverage at hand, music in the background. There's something satisfying about painting a picture, pinning down all the elements in place when the elusive experience occurred.

A criminal prosecutor told me he sets his alarm for 4 a.m. and makes Cuban coffee so he can write fiction before his kids wake up. His preferred method: paper and pen.

"This morning, right after my prayer,

this story I've been thinking about for 18 months just kind of came together," he said.

What made it click?

"Who knows?" he said. "I like to think it was grace and a bit of the Holy Spirit."

The late novelist John Hassler found it helpful to read his old journals. "Between novels," he said, "I will browse through my 30 years of journal entries looking for topics to write about, and this, together with my memory and imagination, produces the fiction." If he needed an extra boost "to get the language rolling," he'd craft a letter to a friend.

A chemist described the central role of his Catholic faith when he's stuck in a science experiment. "Then I turn to God for guidance and I am amazed," he said. "Things start to click in my head and problems are solved. I am very appreciative and I thank God — some-

times out loud."

Movement can shake out a new idea, getting outside your head or your office.

"I get some of my best ideas in the morning when I'm thinking in the shower, rubbing my scalp," the artistic director of an acclaimed theater told me. "Maybe it's a scene I'm not satisfied with and I'll rub my scalp really hard and something will pop up."

Unloading the dishwasher helps me. My fingers are free from the keyboard, but my mind keeps turning an idea.

Undertaking a different creative endeavor — especially one that doesn't involve a deadline or any degree of mastery — can get the juices flow. Einstein called this tactic "combinatory play" — the act of opening up one mental channel by experimenting in another. That's why he'd play the violin when he

See CAPECCHI, page 18

Where is God on your calendar?

By Laura Kelly Fanucci
Catholic News Service



Where does God show up on your calendar?

I pose this as a real question, not a rhetorical one. If someone found your planner on the bus or a stranger

glanced at your calendar on the wall or a hacker gained access to your phone's events, would they see any sign you were a Catholic?

Lest you think I'm the judgment patrol, this question came from flipping through my own family's calendar.

Kids' activities — school, sports and music — all appear to be important to us, evidenced by how often they show up every week. Ditto for visits with friends and trips with family. Business travel for both parents is marked on our calendar; so are birthdays, anniversaries and holidays.

But where does our faith show up? We'd tell you it's central to our lives and family, but I started to wonder how our calendar bears any testimony to that truth.

I went through and wrote "Mass" on every Sunday. Obvious (and overlooked), but it helped to remember how we start each week in worship. Then I added the dates whenever someone was serving as a lector or altar server. That helped too, to see our service show up.

But honestly? Standing in front of that jampacked calendar and realizing how little of our faith was revealed gave me a wake-up call.

Because the deeper concern, of

course, is not what someone else would say or whether there would be enough evidence to convict me of being Christian in a theoretical court. What matters most is what place God has in my life.

Front and center or stuck on the sidelines?

I stood in front of our calendar for a long time, chewing on the end of my pencil, wondering about what changes we might be called to as a family.

Too often I've fallen into the trap of expecting a new school year to transform our lives into an idealized version of what our family should be. I don't want to make that same mistake again this fall. But I do feel called (and convicted) to pray about what God might be revealing.

Like everyone else, our family has limits of time, money, energy, attention and abilities. Where are we investing our resources? How do our values show up on our calendar? When do we live out and learn about our faith in concrete ways each week?

The psalmist sings this longing to God: "Teach us to count our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart" (Ps. 90:12). Could this become our prayer, too — as we soak up the last days of summer, as we look ahead to autumn activities starting soon, as we shop for school supplies and brand-new planners to fill?

Each time I pass our calendar on the wall now, I pause for a second. It's a work in progress, an ever-evolving reality, a snapshot of life right now. But I feel its tug asking me where God shows

See FANUCCI, page 19

REFLECTION

Where your treasure is

By Mark Saucier

I have a friend who could have been a great pastor, but he spent his professional life as a machinist instead.

He never went to seminary, barely made it through high school.

The Navy was going to straighten him out, but it didn't.

After his stint, he devoted himself to drugs. He was good at it. He could do his job high, binge on the weekends and show up on Monday morning.

Until he couldn't.

Then, wasted and dying, love found him and anointed him. After 20 years of sobriety, he still goes to meetings.

He puts this resume to effective use, working among the recovering and the unrepaired.

He seeks out the desperate, befriends them, feeds them, hugs them and prays with them.

The other day, we were talking about someone we knew — a good guy who got hooked, made a bunch of poor decisions, and spent most of his adult life in prison.

This guy was often on the verge of making it, but temptation was always stronger than intention.

My friend had been spending time with him and was hoping that this might finally be his breakthrough.

Then the guy relapsed, lied to my friend and used him. It broke my friend's heart.

After telling me the story, my friend said something I hope I will never forget: "Behind our tears we find our treasure."

At first blush, that's not too insightful. We've all shed tears at the death of a loved one, the end of a relationship, or the struggles of someone close to us.

Those tears reveal, not only the depth of pain but how much we cherish another in our life.

But my friend was talking about something different. Examining his tears, he found that he was sad because he had been mistreated, his friendship had been rejected and his kindness abused.

His treasure, he found behind those tears, was all about himself.

That's only human. But my friend feels called to a more perfect love, a love like that of Jesus, focused on the other to the point that we accept, and even expect, our own vulnerability.

My friend does not regret the tears, but he wants them shed for the other man's weakness, for his loss of another chance for healing and wholeness.

We'd all do well to search our inevitable tears. It might surprise us, certainly instruct us, and quite possibly change us.

What treasures lie behind your tears?

New Catholic school administrators poised to accompany students on their faith journey

This is part of a series of articles on new Catholic school administrators in the Jefferson City diocese:

By Jay Nies

"Whoever receives one child such as this in My name receives Me," (Matthew 18:5).

The new and returning administrators of the Jefferson City diocese's 37 Catholic elementary schools and three Catholic high schools are taking Jesus's words to heart as a new academic year gets under way.

Eight are taking up new administrative roles in the diocese.

Here is how two of them got to this point:

Praying out loud

Leigh Ann Grant and her daughter became Catholic three years ago.

"Most of my life, I've always prayed silently," said Ms. Grant, principal of Immaculate Conception School in Macon. "At the Catholic school, we pray out loud daily, and what a blessing that is to be able to do that."

She will teach religion to grades 5 through 8 in addition to her administrative duties.

"I have had a foundation of faith and Christian role models," she said. "I have survived many life learning experiences with ups and downs. Through all of this, I have no doubt that the Lord is guiding me. I feel that it is important to let His light shine through me."

Born near Kansas City, Ms. Grant moved several places with her family before arriving in Macon at age 15.

She graduated from Macon County R-1 High School and completed her undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Missouri.

Her parents, her brother and his family live in the Macon area, where her brother has been teaching at Immaculate Conception School for 14 years.

Her daughter is an I.C. graduate.

This will be Ms. Grant's fourth year teaching at the school. She previously worked



Lisa Grellner, principal of St. George School in Linn and St. Mary School in Frankenstein; Leigh Ann Grant, principal of Immaculate Conception School in Macon; Nancy Shively, principal of Holy Rosary School in Monroe City; Lucinda Varner, principal of Our Lady of the Snows School in Mary's Home; Amy Schebaum, principal of St. George School in Hermann; Nancy Manning, principal of Sacred Heart School in Sedalia; Dick Davis, principal of Fr. McCartan Memorial School in Marceline; and Abby Martin, principal of Ss. Peter and Paul School in Boonville.

— Photo by Annie Williams

for MU Extension and for 17 years at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and taught high school for three years in Atlanta.

Several of her friends were Immaculate Conception parishioners, as were friends of her mother, who is a retired educator.

Ms. Grant believes the purpose of a Catholic school is to help form faith, service and leadership.

She said her first responsibility as a Catholic school administrator is to be a spiritual role model for the staff, children and community.

"Second, being a leader by listening and communicating with all of those involved in the school," she added. "Thirdly, helping to facilitate a vision to continue the success of our school."

Mentors in the education field have advised her to be firm, fair and friendly in the classroom, setting high expectations for all of the students; and as a leader to listen, be supportive and create an environment in which the mission would be successfully carried out even if she were not present.

Citing her own daughter's success in high school after graduating from Immaculate Conception, she is convinced that Catholic education is

foundational to the spiritual success of individuals and the community of faith.

"She is strong in her faith," Ms. Grant stated. "It prepared her to accept all kinds of people, make good decisions in all kinds of situations and to know that there was a community of faith there for her if she needed them."

Ms. Grant said that if a Catholic school does its job well, its graduates are kind, loving, successful leaders, who support their families, parishes and communities.

In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, "playing in the dirt," reading books and spending time with her family.

She has been reading *A Young Catholics Guide to Spiritual Warfare*, by her pastor, Father William Peckman; and *Veritas Conflict*, a novel that addresses the presence of evil in the world and the power of prayer. She also takes time to meditate on the Bible verses in a daily devotional book called *Jesus Calling*, by Sarah Young.

Her favorite hymns are "Amazing Grace" and "Here I Am Lord."

Her favorite Bible verses are Galatians 5:22-23 ("... The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law"), Jeremiah

29:11 and John 16:33 — all counseling against worrying.

Lately, her favorite prayer has been the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel, seeking protection against evil in the world.

She also relies on the intercession of St. Jean-Baptist de La Salle, patron saint of education.

Ms. Grant asks for prayers for guidance for her and the school's entire staff as they begin a new academic year.

"I pray for and ask for prayers for peace, patience and kindness," she said.

To help God answer that prayer, people can pitch in willingly whenever asked, look for the positive side of things and "think about walking in someone else's shoes," she said.

Close family ties

Nancy Shively is the first new principal in nearly four decades at Holy Rosary School in Monroe City.

Among the many fellow educators who have helped her along the way, she believes her predecessor, Dominican Sister Suzanne Walker, is "the best mentor there is."

"Her guidance has been invaluable," said Mrs. Shively. "From practical life lessons such as 'never write in your calendar in pen' or 'it will all work out' to invaluable faith lessons on how to handle situ-

ations, her guidance is priceless."

Mrs. Shively added: "Her gentle, humble and faith-filled ways have been an example for me my whole life and to get the privilege of following after her is a blessing."

Mrs. Shively and her husband Joe have been married for 16 years and have four children, ages 15, 12, 8 and 6.

They live and work on their family farm and are lifelong members of St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek.

Mrs. Shively worked in special education before moving to Holy Rosary School to teach science.

The school has always played an integral role in hers and her family's lives.

"My mother graduated from Holy Rosary High School in 1962," she said. "Many of my aunts, uncles and cousins as well as my eight siblings all graduated from Holy Rosary School."

In college, Mrs. Shively returned to Holy Rosary to do some of her practicum hours under the same teachers who had taught her there.

"This school has given me the foundation of faith and education to shape me into the person I have become, and I am forever grateful for all those who have made Holy Rosary School what it is today," she said.

She believes it is her privilege and responsibility as a Catholic school administrator to provide a Christ-centered academic environment "where students know and live out the faith so that they can become responsible and contributing members of society."

"Catholic education is so important because it is vital that these students know Jesus and learn the foundations of how to become Christian disciples and to live out their faith in all activities of life," she stated.

She said a Catholic school is doing its job when students go on to lead lives of stewardship, using the foundation of

See ADMINISTRATORS, page 11

Benedictine Sr. "Maggie" Buergler, formerly of Columbia

Benedictine Sister Mary Magdalene "Maggie" Buergler, 86 — who for over four decades was a member of the Benedictine Community of the former Our Lady of Peace Monastery in Columbia — died on Aug. 6 at St. Mary Monastery in Rock Island, Illinois.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Aug. 11 in the St. Mary Monastery Chapel. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery in Rock Island.

"Sr. Maggie was prayerful and joyful, and now she is at peace in the Father's home," said Father Duane Jack, who presided at her Funeral Mass,

in his homily.

Sr. Maggie was born on July 9, 1936, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, a daughter of Martin and Frances (Leding) Buergler.

She grew up near St. Scholastica Monastery in Fort Smith and was taught by the Benedictine Sisters. Also, her uncle was a Benedictine priest, and an aunt was a Benedictine Sister.

Three of her brothers were priests of Subiaco Abbey in Arkansas, and her parents were Benedictine Oblates of that abbey.

She entered the Benedictine Community at St. Scholastica Monastery in 1952 and made her profession as a Benedictine Sister on June 24, 1955.

She transferred her vows to Our Lady of Peace Monastery upon its establishment in 1969, and transferred upon its closure to St. Mary Monastery in 2010.

"Having Sr. Maggie live with us for 10 years was a blessing. It truly was," said Benedictine Sister Susan Hutchens, prioress of St. Mary Monastery.

"Sr. Maggie had a keen sense of humor and loved to visit with people," recalled Benedictine Sister Mary Jo Polak of Yankton, South Dakota, who with Sr. Maggie was a member of the Benedictine Community at Our Lady of Peace



Sister Mary Magdalene "Maggie" Buergler OSB

Monastery. "She had a heart for those underprivileged and the intellectually disabled."

"Maggie was compassionate and a caring person," noted Benedictine Sister Barbara Bock of Fort Smith, who had also been a member of the Columbia Benedictines with her.

Sr. Maggie held a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, Texas; a master's degree in special education from Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and a master's degree in pastoral ministry, with a minor in Counseling, from Seattle University.

Her ministry included: teaching grades 1-6 in Arkansas and Missouri, including St. Pius X School in Moberly; teaching people with special needs from pre-school to adult in Missouri and Maryland; and serving in pastoral ministry in parishes while coordinating retreat ministry at the Columbia monastery.

"Imagine how many people have been influenced by this holy woman!" Fr. Jack stated in his homily at the funeral.

"Because God called her to a variety of ministries, God also gave her countless talents, skills and gifts in order to accomplish what Jesus wanted her to accomplish."

She was prayerful and joyful, the priest said, "and now she is at peace in the Father's home."

In 2005, upon celebrating her 50th anniversary as a Benedictine Sister, Sr. Maggie spoke of being filled with gratitude to God for countless blessings and graces.

"My gratitude extends to my family, my community and my friends who have blessed and supported me along the way with their presence, love and friendship," she said at that time.

"My jubilee celebrates a journey of 50 years in the monastic way of life," she continued. "It celebrates my YES that was spoken in the past: a YES that has brought me to this special moment in time; a YES that leads me into the unknown future."

Surviving are her Benedictine Sisters; a brother, Bede, and sister-in-law, Maryann; sister-in-law, Betty Buergler; and nieces, nephews and cousins.

Preceding her in death were her parents; and three brothers, Benedictine Father Luke Buergler, Benedictine Abbot Boniface Buergler, and Ben Buergler.

Her Funeral Mass was live-streamed and can be found on the Benedictine Sisters of St. Mary Monastery Facebook page.

Online condolences may be expressed at wheelanpressly.com.

Dolan: As Jesus taught, Church must welcome, help migrants

Catholic News Service

New York

The Catholic Church's perspective on the needs of migrant families arriving in New York City on buses from Texas is to see them "with the eyes of Jesus," Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan told reporters at a news briefing Aug. 16.

"He's the one who said to us, 'When I was a stranger ... an immigrant, you welcomed me,'" the cardinal said. "Our perspective is not the political perspective" others may have about what has led to huge numbers of asylum-seekers from dozens of countries crossing into the United States from Mexico, he said.

"Our perspective is to help them ... (with) a sense of honor that we are able to help these people in whom we see the face of God."

Before the briefing, Cardinal Dolan and Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, met privately with several individuals and families who had arrived in recent days on buses sent by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

More than 6,000 migrants have been bused to the city to date and Catholic Charities of the New York Archdiocese has assisted 1,500 migrants. These migrants are seeking "safety, protection and opportunity" in the U.S., Msgr. Sullivan said.



ADMINISTRATORS

From page 10

faith and education they have received.

Mrs. Shively enjoys helping her husband on the farm in her spare time, "whether it is raking hay, doing cattle work, driving the grain truck or just helping in the day-to-day activities."

She also enjoys being involved in youth activities, sports and any outdoor activity.

She recently read *This Present Paradise: A Spiritual Journey with St. Elizabeth of the Trinity*, by Claire Dwyer.

"This book spoke profoundly to me about the necessity of turning each present moment into an opportunity for holiness," she said.

Some of her favorite saints for intercessory prayer are St. Anthony of Padua and St. Elizabeth of the Trinity.

Her favorite prayers are the Rosary and the Blessed Mother's "Magnificat," which begins: "My soul magnifies the Lord."

Her favorite hymn is "How Can I Keep from Singing" and one of her many favorite Bible verses is Nehemiah 8:10 — "The joy of the Lord is my strength."

She requests prayers, fasting, Rosaries and Masses for her and her fellow educators to follow God's will in all that they do, "that these students may always know, love and serve our good and gracious God."

People can help God answer those prayers by encouraging the teachers, students and staff with kindness and graciousness "as we do our best to serve and be good and faithful disciples."

Mrs. Shively feels blessed and humbled by the new position she holds.

"Our faith and the future of our Church — the students, or 'my kids' as I like to call them — mean everything to me," she said. "I am so excited to serve God and His children."

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Father César Anicama, associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia, offers Sunday morning Mass in a large music tent on the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia on Aug. 14 during the fair. Assisting him is Deacon Turf Martin, with the singing being led by a musical ensemble directed by parishioner Osmaro DeLeon. Catholics from parishes throughout the state attended.



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Principal decries acts of vandalism at D.C. Catholic school

Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

St. Anthony Catholic School in Northeast Washington has been vandalized twice in less than a week.

“When they tore up benches out front, that was vandalism,” said principal Michael Thomasian. “When they destroy statues of St. Anthony and the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph — that is (an attack on something) explicitly Catholic, and that is an act of hate.”

The school, located several blocks from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, is familiar to many people from all over the Jefferson City diocese who for nine years received lodging there the night before the annual March for Life.

On Aug. 11, school officials

discovered that overnight vandals destroyed property outside of the church, toppling and decapitating the school’s statue of St. Anthony, pulling up benches from the school playground and damaging a concrete windowsill.

The head of the statue is still missing. On Aug. 15, officials discovered that the school was vandalized yet again.

“This time they got into the building, I don’t know how, but they did,” Thomasian told the *Catholic Standard*, Washington’s archdiocesan newspaper. “They vandalized my office. They destroyed a Blessed Mother statue, a statue of St. Joseph and Advent candles. They cleared out my desk drawers and took a camera and flash drives.”

Raquel Terry, a teacher at the school and parent of two St. Anthony students, created a GoFundMe page to repair the damage and desecration.

The page is: [gofund.me/0ef0030e](https://www.gofund.me/0ef0030e).

Prayers after Orthodox church fire in Egypt

Catholic News Service

Nairobi, Kenya

Some Catholic leaders have joined the Coptic Orthodox Church in mourning the 41 people — including 18 children — who died in a fire in Egypt’s capital, Cairo.

According to news reports, at least 5,000 Coptic Christians were preparing for the morning liturgy Aug. 14 at the Martyr Abu Sefein Church in Imbaba, a suburban area of the city, when the fire started. Church officials said the blaze was caused by a short circuit in the air-conditioner.

“I wish to express my condolences to the Orthodox Church in Egypt. We really feel sorry about the sad occurrence,” Bishop Noel Seyoum Fransua of Hossana, Ethiopia, told Catholic News Service.

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DIOCESE OF Jefferson City

Walking the walk



Father John Henderson (right), pastor of St. William Parish in Perry and the Mission of St. Frances Cabrini in Paris, joins parishioners in trying to set a personal best time at the annual "Hannibal Cannibal" run/walk event July 2. Proceeds from the event benefitted the Hannibal Regional Foundation, a nonprofit subsidiary of Hannibal Regional Healthcare System. — Photo by Cassie Gonzales

New take on an old rhyme



The church sign fronting U.S. 63 outside Holy Family Church in Freeburg echoed an old nursery rhyme to invite people to Sunday Mass. — Photo by Jay Nies



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BISHOP GAYDOS

From page 1

Ties to this diocese were already being forged.

"I always say, Father (Arnold) Bruckerhoff, who was from Rhineland, sent me to the seminary, and Father (Bernard) Boessen, who was from St. Thomas, kept me in the seminary," said Bishop Gaydos.

After studying in St. Louis and Rome, he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Dec. 20, 1968.

He served for nearly 19 years as a priest of the St. Louis archdiocese, ministering in parishes and assisting Cardinal John J. Carberry, Archbishop John L. May and Archbishop (later Cardinal) Justin F. Rigali in the Chancery.

Late one evening in June of 1997, Archbishop Rigali summoned him to the archbishop's residence to tell him: "Pope John Paul II has decided to send you to be the next bishop of Jefferson City."

The new bishop was ordained and installed on Aug. 27 of that year, succeeding Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe, now deceased, who retired after leading the diocese for 28 years.

Bishop Gaydos, whose surname is Slovak for "Shepherd," took the motto, "With a Shepherd's Care."

Mobilizing disciples

From Day 1, Bishop Gaydos worked with priests, curia and the lay faithful to bolster the spiritual renewal of the Church here, beginning with the laity.

Among the highlights of his episcopacy were the establishment of a diocesan affiliate of Catholic Charities USA, the building of the Alphonse J. Schwartz Memorial Catholic Center, the opening of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, the intensification of formation for permanent deacons, and the inviting of a new wave of missionary priests from around the world to minister here.

Churches, schools and Newman centers were built or expanded on his watch.

"None of this is my work," he insisted. "It's the work of the Holy Spirit."

One of his first acts was to convene the four-year "Disciples in Mission" faith-sharing and renewal process in parishes throughout the diocese.

"I saw it as a perfect way to draw more people into the heart of the mission of the Church," he said.

The process culminated with the convening of a re-configured Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC), made up of lay and ordained representatives from throughout the diocese, to advise the bishop on ways to put the Church's mission into action.

Faith in action

When Bishop Gaydos arrived in Jefferson City, the administration and central support ministries of the diocese were scattered across four older buildings that had become very expensive to maintain.

"I can't think of a more difficult thing to try to get people interested in supporting than building a new office for their bishop," he recalled. "So I prayed."

The answer came through the family of the late Alphonse J. Schwartz, a Westphalia native who had started out poor but mastered the art of investing.

Mr. Schwartz's family, the trustees of the community foundation he established, and his pastor, Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, contacted Bishop Gaydos. The family wanted to do something substantial to honor God in Mr. Schwartz's memory.

The foundation paid to build the Catholic Center that now carries Mr. Schwartz's name, with a chapel dedicated in honor of his patron saint, St. Alphonsus Liguori — "who founded a religious community to work with the rural poor," the retired bishop noted.

Bishop Gaydos worked with deacons and laypeople to establish conferences of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in parishes throughout the diocese, providing a prayerful and distinctly Catholic way to help local people in need.

Those efforts, coupled with



Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos attends a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the founding of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri and the completion of the agency's new headquarters in Jefferson City in October 2021.

— Photo by Jay Nies

the diocese's already vibrant refugee resettlement, prison ministry, social concerns, rural life and family life efforts, led to the creation of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCN-MO) in 2011.

"Many, many people had a hand in bringing Catholic Charities into being," Bishop Gaydos noted.

Sister Kathleen Wegman SSND, serving as chancellor and director of parish services, helped set the agency's vision and convene its board of trustees.

Looking back to the same timeframe, Bishop Gaydos recalled being surprised to find out that the largest city in this diocese did not have a Catholic high school.

Parents in Columbia with children in grade school were eager to get a school started right away, but Bishop Gaydos counseled them: "Raising the money to start a high school is the easiest part. Keeping it going is the most difficult."

Years of preparation and fundraising went into creating Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, which opened in 2011 and draws students from a large radius.

It is named for the Church's first noticeably Black priest in the United States, who was born in 1854 into a family of enslaved people in what is now

part of this diocese.

Planning, inviting and healing

Bishop Gaydos and his advisors worked to develop and implement a diocesan pastoral plan, with emphasis on building up family life; promoting deeper knowledge and understanding of the faith; and creating a more welcoming environment in all parishes for newcomers, immigrants, the marginalized and the inactive.

An intensive, two-year consultation led in 2015 to the reaffirmation of those priorities along with a realignment of the Chancery staff to help it become more collaborative and directly focused on the needs of people in the parishes.

He worked with his vicars general — first Monsignor Michael J. Wilbers, then Monsignor Gregory L. Higley, then Father Joseph S. Corel — to invite and welcome missionary priests from Africa and Asia to serve in this diocese.

"These priests from all these faraway places — their sense of mission and dedication is such a great gift to us," said Bishop Gaydos. "People whose ancestors first came to know Christ through missionaries from the homelands of many of our ancestors are now here ministering to us."

The most difficult challenge of Bishop Gaydos's episcopacy involved coming to terms

with and addressing the fact that there were members of the clergy who had sexually abused children who were entrusted to their care.

Priests of the diocese who were deemed to have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors in the past were removed from ministry, and new, robust safeguards in keeping with the U.S. Catholic bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People were implemented and refined.

It was a heart-wrenching process for everyone involved.

"If there's one thing that kept me sane through all of this, it's the fact that Jesus promised that the gates of hell would not prevail against His Church," said Bishop Gaydos. "The Church is the Body of Jesus, risen from the dead! It may be wounded, but it will be healed."

"Awesome adventure"

In retirement, Bishop Gaydos resides in the Cathedral of St. Joseph Rectory, devoting much of his time to prayer and contemplation and offering daily Mass for the people of this diocese, living and deceased.

"I have much more time for just being with the Lord," he noted.

He is confident that the Body of Christ will weather and eventually prevail over such setbacks and challenges as the COVID-19 pandemic.

"One way or another, the work of the Church is going to continue," he said. "It's going to grow, and we're going to continue to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus and make that a present reality, until the end of time," he said.

As the third bishop of Jefferson City to celebrate both his 50th priestly anniversary and his 25th episcopal anniversary here, he insisted that "God's plan for us is infinitely much more wonderful than anything we can think of or plan for ourselves."

"Everywhere along the way, starting with Fr. Bruckerhoff

Schedule released for beatification of Pope John Paul I

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

The Diocese of Rome will host a prayer vigil the evening before the beatification of Pope John Paul I and his hometown will host the main Mass of Thanksgiving a week

later, the office promoting his sainthood cause announced.

Pope Francis is scheduled to beatify the late pope Sept. 4 during a Mass in St. Peter's Square.

Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, the papal vicar for Rome,

will preside over the prayer vigil the evening of Sept. 3 in Rome's Basilica of St. John Lateran.

And the official Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated in the early evening Sept. 11 in the main square of Canale D'Agordo where Albino Luciani, the future Pope John Paul, was born Oct. 17, 1912.

The bishops of Belluno-Fel-

tre, Vittorio Veneto and Venice — the dioceses he served before being elected pope in August 1978 — will celebrate the thanksgiving Mass, according to the announce-

ment published July 11.

Pope John Paul served only 33 days as pontiff; he died in the papal apartments Sept. 28, 1978, three weeks shy of his 66th birthday.

25th

From page 14

saying, 'John what would you think about taking the entrance exam for the seminary?' — up through Archbishop Rigali telling me, 'Pope John Paul is sending you as the next bishop of Jefferson City' — up to the ability to accept into my heart and the heart of this diocese my successor — it's all been much more fascinating, much more wonderful than anything I could dream up," he said.

"It's been an awesome adventure," Bishop Gaydos stated. "I'm very grateful to have had, so far, these 25 years and counting as a successor of the Apostles in the midst of the people of this diocese."

PRIESTS

From page 5

Fr. Corel believes priests should also spend time hanging out at lunch, recess, recitals, sporting events, plays, musicals and other times students have structured free time or are showing off their talents.

"Structured free time gives the priest and students opportunities for great conversations and building good, solid, healthy, relationships where we can demonstrate kindness, compassion, care and respect," he said.

It's a powerful statement to children when their priests care enough about them to spend time with them.

"And, while we're at the events where they're showing their talents, we can also interact with their parents, the first educators of the faith — the ones we partner with to help their children become the best disciples they can be, and have some good quality conversation and relationship-building with them, as well," he said.

Fr. Corel sees being visibly present in the school as part of how pastors exercise their authority as leaders of the parish.

Students, faculty, parents and volunteers should see the pastor and school administration working together as a cohesive unit, he said.

"This is a balancing act because the pastor has the principal and administrative team to run the day-to-day operations of the school — so he's not mi-

cro-managing, not abdicating his responsibility, but exercising co-responsibility," said Fr. Corel.

"To be in the school is to show support to those who are employed, to those who we help make disciples, and to show good leadership," he stated.

Creating an oasis

Teresa Dusenbergh, a fourth-grade teacher at St. Martin School in St. Martins, talked about how Fr. Doke greets students and parents on their way into school each morning and makes weekly visits to each classroom, "teaching, talking and building relationships with the students."

She lauded his homilies at school Masses and his participation in school activities, such as driving a tractor in the farm parade on Farm Day.

"Fr. Doke is a gift to our parish and our school!" she said.

As pastor, Fr. Doke believes Catholic schools are important because they're an oasis from a dominant, secular culture that tends to want to do away with anything supernatural, let alone Christian.

"We're giving children a foundation that it is hard to get elsewhere," he said. "Because in a Catholic school, you get to live and breathe the faith that you don't get to in another way."



ASSEMBLY

From page 7

connected to the larger community," he said. "I think it improved my sense of belonging."

Ms. Carey lauded the sisters at the Assembly for facing transitions head-on and working to recognize them as gifts from God.

"I give them a lot of credit," she said. "They're addressing situations and trying to come up with answers instead of just letting things happen."

"Change is always uncomfortable," she noted. "And yet, it's a necessary part of everyone's life."

She suggested offering up prayers of thanksgiving for the consecrated religious of the SSND.

"I sat in a room with over 220 sisters that first day, and I couldn't help thinking about all of the individual lives each of them has impacted in so many different ways," she said.

"It gives me shivers," she stated. "It's like the ripple effect you have when you throw stones into a calm lake. You make a difference in one person's life, and that makes a difference in the lives of everyone around them."

To be sent

While on a spiritual retreat the week after the Assembly, Sr. Kathleen reread and reflected on an article titled, "Elderhood: Becoming the Charism."

"The essence of it is, when you're younger, you 'do' the charism — you're actively engaged in the impact of it," she said.

"Once you're elderly, you're called to 'be' that thing that unites us — to 'be' part of that engaging force," she explained.

She said having taken part in the Assembly has helped her "look at things with new eyes" and a fresh sense of being part of a worldwide community.

"We're at our best when we're together," she said. "But it's the old adage: 'You gather to scatter.' We come together not to stay together but to be sent."

"In this kind of this experience of community, you step back into the reason you're doing what you're doing," she said. "You have that sense of oneness. You renew yourself, and you're sent back out."



(Front row) SSND Associates Jorge Lugo, Miriam Hankins, Justine Brown, John Meyer, Jackie De La Cruz, Donna Haley, (back row) Associate Norma Struempff and Sister Francine Koehler SSND gather before the altar in Sacred Heart Church in Columbia on March 19, 2021, the evening of the Columbia Associates' initial covenant.

— Photo by Anne Carey



By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

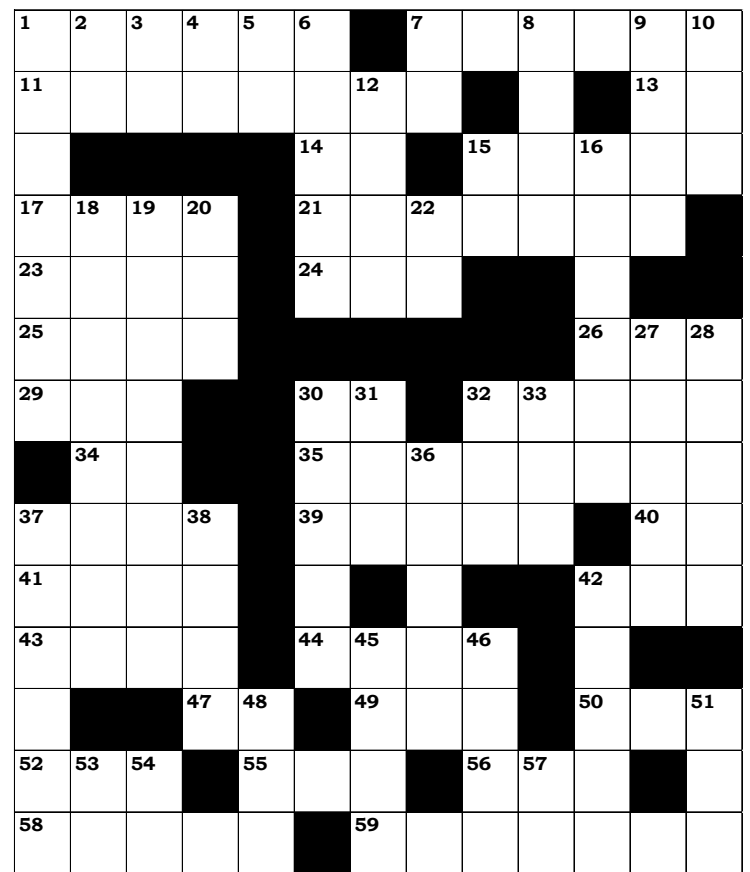
1. The State of Nevada has its counterpart in Nevada, Mo. in ____ County.
7. "Cole Camp is a strong German settlement in Benton County. A company of Home Guards were surprised one night in their sleep after sentinels had been hoodwinked by a Union flag rebels carried, and a part of the ____ force was shot down without mercy," —*Longer Than a Man's Lifetime in Missouri*, Ch. 30: "A sketch of the actual war in Mo."; Gert Goebel.
11. "____ is proof that, given the will, we have the capacity to achieve the impossible," —Eddie Rickenbacker.
13. It came down to a "____ said, she said" situation.
14. Taos, Mo. got its name from the city/pueblo of Taos in this State.
15. "In the first place, I take it that neither of us is prepared to ____ diabolical intrusions into the affairs of

- men," —Holmes to Watson in *The Adventure of the Devil's Foot*; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
17. Dog talk.
21. The State of Kansas has its counterpart in Kansas City, Mo. in ____ County.
23. Both St. Peter and St. Paul were murdered by the order of this dissolute Roman Emperor.
24. It's got high hopes of moving that rubber tree plant.
25. The State of Missouri has its very own counterpart in Missouri City, Mo. in ____ County.
26. Eve's origin?
29. ____ and Yang in Chinese philosophy are contrasting or opposite forces.
30. The 1920's dance craze, the Charleston, originated in Charleston in this State (abbr.).
32. "How come when you mix water with ____ together you get glue. And then you add eggs and sugar and you get cake? Where does the glue go?" —Rita Rudner.
34. The familiar two initial letters of Chesterton, the prolific convert and Catholic apologist prominent in England in the 1920s and 30s.
35. The State of California has its counterpart in California, Mo. in ____ County.
37. Grain storage structure on a farm.
39. Responses from the pews.
40. ____ *cum spiritu tuo*.
41. "All of you who stand fast in

- the Lord are a holy seed, a new colony of bees, the very flower of or ministry and fruit of our ____," —Easter sermon; St. Augustine.
42. Lower digit.
43. Mary's mother.
44. The State of Oregon has its counterpart in Oregon, Mo. in ____ County.
47. Yes for Pancho.
49. "Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ____," (Matthew 21:5).
50. A sergeant or corporal, for ex.
52. "See all, keep a ____ to yourself and correct a few things," —motto of Pope Gregory the Great.
55. What domesticated animal did Mark Twain prefer as a pet?
56. "...this woman was caught in the very ____ of committing adultery," (John 8:4).
58. "Earth's crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God but only he who sees, takes off his ____; the rest sit round it and pluck blackberries," —American poet Elizabeth Barret Browning.
59. A cut of steak.

DOWN

1. After the ratification of the 19th amendment (women's suffrage) on August 18, 1920, the first woman in the country to vote in an election was from Hannibal: Marie Byrum, age 26. On Aug. 31, 1920, she voted in a special election to fill a ____ on the Hannibal City Council.
2. Tesla, GM, and Toyota are ambitiously pursuing development of ____ (electric vehicle) cars.
3. Newport in this State is famous for sailing and Gilded Age mansions (abbr.).
4. Chemical symbol for sodium.
5. Not NT but ____.
6. Teenage Mutant ____ Tur-



7. Lion's den prophet. 34th book of the Bible (abbr.).
 8. Since I have never won when I buy a lottery ticket, my ____ of winning are going up!
 9. Some soccer players wear ____ guards.
 10. God always answers our prayers with a) a yes, b) not ____, or c) I have a better plan.
 12. Country at the mouth of the Persian Gulf.
 15. ____-47; Russian made assault rifle.
 16. The State of Florida has its counterpart in Florida, Mo. in ____ County.
 18. "It is the root of all ____ that a man knows that he is nothing in order to thank God that he is something," —G.K. Chesterton.
 19. The State of Washington has its counterpart in Washington, Mo. in ____ County.
 20. The tiny northwest Mo. town of Norborne proclaims itself to be the ____ bean Capital of the World!
 22. New Haven in this State is home to Yale University (abbr.).
 27. The full-time vowels.
 28. "Rowsby Woof was the man's dog; and he was the most objectionable, malicious, disgusting ____ that
- ever licked a man's hand," —*Watership Down*, Richard Adams.
 30. "Tear down their altars, ____ their sacred pillars," (Deuteronomy 12:3).
 31. Ending for an email address.
 32. Part of a shark.
 33. Lieutenants (abbr.).
 36. Singer Diamond and astronaut Armstrong.
 37. "Solomon had four thousand ____ for his twelve thousand chariot horses," (1 Kings 5:6)
 38. Cheers at a bullfight.
 42. The Lone Ranger's partner.
 45. Mares and does eat ____ and little lambs eat ivy... according to a song by the Pied Pipers, 1944.
 46. Old Russian ruler.
 48. The parishes at Owensville and Loose Creek are ____.
 51. A private sadness that haunted Washington to the end was in having no child of his _____. He had not grasped that an autonomous America was his child," —*The First Salute*, Barbara Tuchman.
 53. ____ no!
 54. "Easy does it,' says America ____ mankind. But easy has never done it. Never," —*The Lost Art of Walking on the Water*, Fr. Michael Heher.
 57. Letters for chlorine on the periodic chart.

ANSWERS on page 19

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MORRIS

From page 1

“In a lot of ways, it’s evangelizing,” said Mr. Morris. “It’s just a different way of bringing the truth of the Catholic faith to the public square.”

He noted that part of the beauty of Church teaching is its tendency toward “both/and,” rather than “either/or.”

“Especially in this time in history, we offer an answer to a lot of the polarization that’s going on in society, and try to get that across in our advocacy,” he said.

The supreme law

Mr. Morris, a member of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, grew up in Mary’s Home and graduated from Our Lady of the Snows School and Eugene High School before studying political science and law at the University of Missouri.

“I describe myself as a Catholic, a husband, a father, an attorney and lobbyist who is now blessed to be able to work with the bishops of our Church,” he said.

He joined the MCC in September 2018 as legislative counsel, lobbying primarily on issues related to the pro-life cause and marriage and family.

He previously worked as an attorney with the Missouri Department of Insurance, where he helped draft and implement legislation and administrative rules.

He and his wife, Kristan, have three sons, ages 13, 11 and 9.

Mrs. Morris teaches at St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City, where their sons are students.

In all things, charity

Mr. Morris said he can’t think of work he’d rather do than this.

“It’s such a dream job, being able to work with people on both sides of an aisle and at least try to get the message of the Church out there,” he said.

“Where else can someone with my background go to put their faith into action in such an immediate and impactful way?” he stated.

He believes one of the MCC’s most important roles is to educate Catholics and other Missourians of faith and

goodwill about important issues and the solid reasons behind the positions the bishops take.

“It’s helpful when we provide background and context when people ask us, ‘Why are we taking a stand on this?’” he said.

He noted that the Church could take an official position on just about any issue, “but we also have the prudence to know that we can’t and shouldn’t be involved on every issue.”

He spoke of the importance of speaking the truth with compassion and charity.

He lauded the professionalism and Christian witness of Deacon McClay, his predecessor, who served as the MCC’s general counsel since 2010 and executive director since 2018.

“The earliest advice he gave me was that this is a contact sport, that it can get very ugly,” said Mr. Morris. “He told me to remember that I work for the bishops and represent the Church, and to act accordingly.”

“That’s how we have to operate,” Mr. Morris continued. “Yes, it can get ugly sometimes, even among Catholics who are on opposite sides of contentious issues. You have to get to the point where you don’t take it personally.”

At the same time, working in the Capitol presents numerous opportunities for random conversations with people he’d never have a chance to meet otherwise.

“It’s amazing how many personal stories you get to hear just by being present and having people know who you represent,” Mr. Morris noted. “People open up to you and trust you, and you start hearing all kinds of things about their faith and their background.”

Strong support

Mr. Morris said the state’s bishops work very well together and take their role with the MCC seriously.

The first thing they asked after appointing him executive director was, “What do you need from us? What can we do to help you?”

“It’s great to know that

with all the things the bishops have going on, they’re always willing to listen to us and help us make decisions on the issues we bring to them,” he said.

Mr. Morris described the MCC staff as “tremendous.”

“We have been blessed with a great staff,” he said. “Some have been here 30-plus years, some for less than three months, but they all bring terrific faith and dedication to the job. They made accepting this appointment very easy for me.”

He spoke of the MCC’s Citizen Action Network, made up of Catholics throughout the state who contact their lawmakers in anticipation of important votes.

“It’s vitally important as a way to get our message out and show or legislators that Catholics care about and are paying attention to what they do,” said Mr. Morris.

It’s one thing for lawmakers and policymakers to hear from representatives of the Church, he said; it’s quite another for them to be in touch with their constituents.

“Most of them would rather hear from one of their neighbors, from people in their community,” he said. “There is real power in that, and we continue to draw on it.”

A new horizon

Mr. Morris said recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions on issues including abortion, school choice and religious freedom open the door to new opportunities and new battles in public policy.

“We’ve done a great job addressing the supply of abortion,” he stated. “Now we have to have some difficult conversations about how to address the demand for abortion, and how to make abortion unthinkable.”

He said an impressive array of organizations throughout the state, many of them faith-based, are meeting women



Jamie Morris is the new executive director and general counsel of the Missouri Catholic Conference.
— MCC photo by Heather Buechter

and families in crisis where they are, and giving them the help they need.

Another recent Supreme Court decision, *Carson v. Makin*, could open the door to helping families who send their children to faith-based private schools.

“Over the past few years, especially with the pandemic, we’ve seen increased interest in education alternatives and school choice,” Mr. Morris noted. “I plan to put some focus on education and what kind of benefits could come from our efforts to promote Catholic schools.”

“Lifted up”

Enthusiastic and motivat-

ed, Mr. Morris said it’s always important for him to slow down, take a breath and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance before jumping into a task or conversation.

“Any good I do over there (in the Capitol) is not my own,” he said. “It’s the Holy Spirit, and it’s hopefully being lifted up on a lot of prayers.”

He asks for people to pray for him and his coworkers, “for the strength and guidance not just to make a difference but to truly reflect the beauty of the Church and her teaching.”

“If we can spread the Good News through our work on public policy, that can be a really great thing,” he said.


He also requested prayers for lawmakers and their staff members, especially during the legislative session.

“The Capitol can be a tough place,” he noted. “There are a lot of ways for things to become difficult.”

He thanked Deacon McClay for being a great mentor and friend, and for leaving the MCC in great shape.

“Tyler really set us up for success, as I’m sure those who went before him did,” said Mr. Morris. “And I hope that one day, I’ll be able to hand it over to my successor in as good of shape as I received it.”

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Fundraisers & Social Events

Aug. 21

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish picnic, 11 am-7 pm

Aug. 27

Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School and Interparish Band barbecue, 10:30 am-2 pm, K of C Hall; **Pilot Grove**, St. Joseph Parish homecoming picnic, 4:30-10 pm

Sep. 2-3

Camdenton, St. Anthony Parish Sisters in Christ Labor Day weekend garage sale, 8 am-5 pm

Sep. 4

Freeburg, Holy Family Parish picnic, 11 am-11 pm; **Mary's Home**, Our Lady of Snows Parish picnic, 11 am-7:30 pm

Sep. 9

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

Sep. 11

Belle, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am; **Folk**, St. Anthony of Padua Parish fall festival, 11 am-6:30 pm

Sep. 17

Jefferson City, Bob Jones Golf Tournament, sponsored by K of C #1054, 8 am-5 pm, Oak Hills Golf Course, for info email GK.Helias1054@gmail.com

Sep. 18

Montgomery City, Immaculate Conception Parish harvest picnic, 11 am-4 pm, Montgomery County Fairgrounds; **Russellville**, St. Michael Parish fall festival, 11 am-5 pm

Sep. 19

Columbia, Paul Prost Memorial Golf Tournament, 11 am-6:30 pm, Columbia Country Club, for info or to register call 573-864-6604 or email ggerke@gerke.com

Sep. 24

Wardsville, Wardsville/Osage Bend K of C 23rd annual Home Association BBQ fundraiser, 11 am-5 pm, St. Stanislaus School

Sep. 25

Columbia, "A Most Excellent Time-Travel Musical Adventure," presented by the Basi family, 2 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church; **Fulton**, St. Peter Parish fall festival, 11 am-6 pm; **Marshall**, St. Peter Parish harvest festival, 11 am-4 pm

Meetings/ Workshops

Sep. 6

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

Sep. 7

Jefferson City, Informational meeting for Holy Land pilgrimage with Fr. Matthew Flatley, 7-8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall

Sep. 20

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

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

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 ecasastro@diojeffcity.org / cmguzman10@gmail.com; **Sedalia**,

Concierto de Música, 6:30-9:30 pm, Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

septiembre 4

Marshall, Taller para Facilitadores de Preparación Matrimonial, 8:30 am-1 pm, Parroquia San Pedro, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 por su celular o en WhatsApp | ecastro@diojeffcity.org o a Jamie Schulte al 573-635-9127 | faithformation@diojeffcity.org; **Sedalia**, Picnic de Colores, 10 am-9 pm, parroquia del trébol Dell, para más información contacte a Oswaldo Diaz al 660-829-5213 o por correo electrónico a deleon@sedalia200.org

septiembre 17-18

Columbia, Retiro de Inicio, Parroquia Segrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Jacqueline de la Cruz al 573-673-2091 o por correo electrónico a jpuertoplata@yahoo.com

septiembre 24-25

California, Retiro de Crecimiento, Parroquia Anunciación, para más información contacte a Emilio Juarez al 573-680-9326 o por correo electrónico a emiliojh@outlook.com

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Sep. 3

Jefferson City, Couples Retreat: Love & Life, 8:30 am-4 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation

Sep. 10

Columbia, Pre-Cana Program for engaged couples, 8:45 am-4:30 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, for info or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/pre-cana-registration

Liturgical

Sep. 13

Starkenburg, Second Tuesday Mass & luncheon, 11:30 am-1 pm, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows

Sep. 17

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

Youth & Young Adults

Sep. 7

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

Sep. 21

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

Health & Wellness

Sep. 14

Jefferson City, Heartsaver CPR class, 5:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, registration required; email dhilke@icangels or 573-690-8077

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From page 9

was struggling to solve a mathematical puzzle. It worked.

This underscores the Catholic belief that the body, mind and soul are intimately connected. We can spark one by tapping into another. And the health of one dimension often leads to the health of another. A long walk, a clearer mind. An active prayer life, lower blood pressure.

Reflecting on creativity fills me with hope. We are creative beings, made in the image and likeness of the Creator. We are capable of beautiful things. And a brilliant new idea may arrive any second.

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

Learning how to be Trailblazers



Incoming freshmen at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia take part in the two-day “Tolton 101” orientation program Aug. 10-11.

— Photos from the Trailblazer Parent Association Facebook page

Flying high at VBS in Kirksville



Twenty-five children take a “radical ride” on the “Wings of Prayer” on “Cat Chat Airlines” during Vacation Bible School at Mary Immaculate Church in Kirksville. They learned how to put their faith in action through prayer, lessons, music, crafts and games.

— Photos from the Mary Immaculate Catholic Church Facebook page



Don't be afraid to make mistakes, pope tells young people

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Christians must never give in to fear when evangelizing, especially when reaching out to those in need in the digital space, Pope Francis said.

“Do not be afraid to make mistakes,” the pope said in a video message sent Aug. 6 to participants of Hechos 29, a youth conference in Monterrey, Mexico, on evangelization in the digital age.

“I never tire of repeating that I prefer a Church that is wounded because it goes out to the existential peripheries of the world, rather than a Church that is sick because it remains closed up in its own little securities,” Pope Francis said.

Herod has John the Baptist killed

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

John the Baptist appeared in the desert. He dressed in clothes made of camel's hair, wore a leather belt around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey.

John began preaching to the people, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin.

The inhabitants of Jerusalem and the entire Judean countryside came to John so he could baptize them in the Jordan River.

"One mightier than I is coming after me," he told the people. "I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of His sandals. I have baptized you with water; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



One day, John called out King Herod for the sin of marrying a woman named Herodias, who had been his brother's wife.

"It is not lawful for you to

have you brother's wife," John told Herod.

Herodias held a grudge against John for what he had said. She wanted to kill him but was unable to do so.

Herod, on the other hand, feared John, so he kept John in custody. He also liked to listen to John, although his words perplexed the king.

One day, Herodias gave a banquet for Herod's birthday. The leading men of Galilee, military officers and courtiers were present to help celebrate.

Herodias' daughter performed a dance that delighted Herod and his guests.

"Ask of me whatever you wish, and I will grant it to you," Herod said to the girl. "I will grant you whatever you ask of me, even to half of my kingdom."

The girl went to her mother. "What shall I ask for?" she wanted to know.

"The head of John the Baptist," Herodias replied.

The girl hurried back to the king.

"I want you to give me at once on a platter the head of John the Baptist," she told Herod.

Herod was deeply distressed, but because he had made his promise to her in front of so many important people, he did not want to go back on his word.

Herod promptly sent his executioner to behead John.

When John's followers found out about his execution, they took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Read more about it...
Mark 1 & 6

1. What was Herod's sin?
2. Who wanted to kill John the Baptist?

Bible Accent

One day, John was surprised when an unexpected person came to him and wanted to be baptized.

In Matthew 3:13, we read that Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan River. John had been baptizing people there for the forgiveness of sins.

When John saw Jesus approaching him, he was stunned. He could not believe that Jesus had come to him to be baptized.

John was baptizing people who were sinners and needed to repent. However, John recognized Jesus as the Messiah,

and he knew that Jesus was without sin.

So, at first, John protested.

"I need to be baptized by You, and yet You are coming to me?" he asked Jesus incredulously.

"Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness," Jesus replied.

John did what Jesus said and baptized Him.

When Jesus came up from the water after he was baptized, something very special happened.

The heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove and came upon Jesus.

Then a voice from heaven spoke.

"This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased," the voice said.

Trivia

Who were John's parents?
(Hint: Luke 1:57-59)

Answer: Zechariah and Elizabeth

Saint Spotlight

St. John Gabriel Perboyre

St. John Gabriel Perboyre was born in France in 1802. He was drawn to missions, so he joined the Congregation of the Mission in 1818. After his priestly ordination in 1826, he was assigned to perform seminary formation work in France. In 1835, he finally was sent on a mission to China. For two years, he rescued abandoned children and taught them Christianity. He was forced into hiding in 1839 because missionaries in China were being persecuted. He was turned in by a recent convert to Christianity, but he refused to betray other missionaries or trample the cross. John was martyred in 1840, and we remember him on Sept. 11.



Puzzle

Using the hints provided from Matthew 3, fill in the blanks in the sentences about John the Baptist.



1. John told people, "Repent, for the kingdom of _____ is at hand!" (verse 2)
2. The prophet _____ spoke about John. (verse 3)
3. John called the Pharisees and Sadducees a brood of _____. (verse 7)
4. John said someone mightier was coming to baptize with the Holy Spirit and _____. (verse 11)



Answers: 1. heaven; 2. Isaiah; 3. vipers; 4. fire.

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New online course aims to instruct new Catholics, reenergize lifelong Catholics

By Julie Asher
Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

A new online study course titled *What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith*, was “created by a few very imperfect disciples who happen to be crazy about Christ and his Church,” said one of the authors and presenters of the course.

“The goal of the study is not only to instruct but to inspire and reenergize. Catholics who are joyful, excited and informed have very little trouble attracting others, even the young, to the Church,” Marcellino D’Ambrosio told Catholic News Service (CNS).

“What is the Catholic Church all about? What does it mean to be Catholic? What do Catholics actually believe?” are some of the questions the 10-session course aims to answer for new Catholics, lifelong Catholics and those considering becoming Catholic.

D’Ambrosio and co-creators and co-presenters Andrew and Sarah Swafford recently filmed the course in Rome for Ascension. The three also wrote an accompanying book with the same title published by Ascension.

The course “was developed to cast a broad net” to meet the needs of Catholics “already hungry to know more about their faith” and non-Catholic Christians “curious about what Catholics believe,” said D’Ambrosio.



This is the opening image for a new online study course titled *What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith*, from Ascension.

“The videos and/or the paperback book can be shared with those who are ‘nones,’ those who claim no affiliation with any religion, he said.

The course also has something for those who are non-Christian or come from an atheist background, he added. “In fact the book is a great evangelist giveaway tool.”

He told CNS he has been “sounding the alarm for years about the fact that young people, millennials and Generation Z, are increasingly losing interest in the Catholic Church and organized religion.”

“If you probe a bit, the main reason young people themselves give for this is that they perceive Catholicism and organized religion in general as irrelevant to their real concerns like love, community and adventure” he said.

“This study presents following Jesus in the fullness of Catholic faith as the greatest of all adventures, a journey made together with others, a journey home, into the heart of One who loves each person intimately and perfectly,” he said.

D’Ambrosio is currently a professor of theology at Catholic Distance University, a private online Catholic university based in Charles Town, West Virginia.

A regular guest on both secular and Catholic TV and radio programs, he also is the co-founder and director of the Crossroads Initiative and the author of five books and hundreds of articles.

Andrew Swafford is an associate professor of theology at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. He is host and au-

thor of Ascension’s DVD series “Hebrews: The New and Eternal Covenant and Romans: The Gospel of Salvation.” He also is editor and contributor to Ascension’s *Great Adventure Catholic Bible*.

Sarah Swafford is a national speaker and author of *Emotional Virtue: A Guide to Drama Free Relationships*.

“I think most of us have experienced one time or another being caught by surprise by a question or challenge about Catholic teaching and have found ourselves coming up short,” D’Ambrosio said.

“This study will prepare those who participate to have a better answer in these situations and ‘be ready to give a reason for their hope,’” he added, quoting from Chapter 3 of the First Letter of Peter.

He said the course also will correct the misconception he believes most people have, “even Catholics,” that Catholicism is an “‘ism,’ a belief system and a code of ethics taught by an impersonal institution.”

In *What We Believe*, Catholic beliefs and the Commandments “are put in their proper context — a living relationship with Jesus Christ Who shares with us everything — His Father, His mother, His Holy Spirit, His inheritance, His righteousness, His entire family that stretches back thousands of years and upward to heaven,” he explained.

More information about the online course and the accompanying book can be found at ascensionpress.com/WhatWeBelieve.

Movie Ratings discontinued



As of July 30, movie ratings are not being currently supplied by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Film and Broadcasting Office.

Biography helps readers understand why Pope Gregory is ‘the great’

In the Eye of the Storm: A Biography of Gregory the Great, by Sigrid Grabner. Ignatius Press (San Francisco, 2021). 265 pp, \$17.95.

Reviewed by Brian T. Olszewski
Catholic News Service

“Great” is not an official Church title, nor have Church historians readily bestowed it. Among the 265 deceased popes, only four have that moniker: Leo I, Gregory I, Nicholas I and John Paul II.

Being deemed “great” might be subjective, but it is generally understood that the one to whom great is attached was an outstanding leader, made an impact on the life of the Church, be it in structure, spirituality, practices and theology, and influenced the world at the time of his pontificate.

In *In the Eye of the Storm*, (originally published in German in 2009), Sigrid Grabner shows why Gregory is among the Church’s greats.

In his prayerfulness and his adherence to the Gospel, Gregory, as a young adult, asked the question that Catholics within all generations have asked: “What is it you want me to do, Lord?”

God provided multiple answers.

Born into nobility of parents who, according to Grabner, saw themselves as caretakers of what they had been given, Gregory was immersed in the stewardship expected of all Christians.

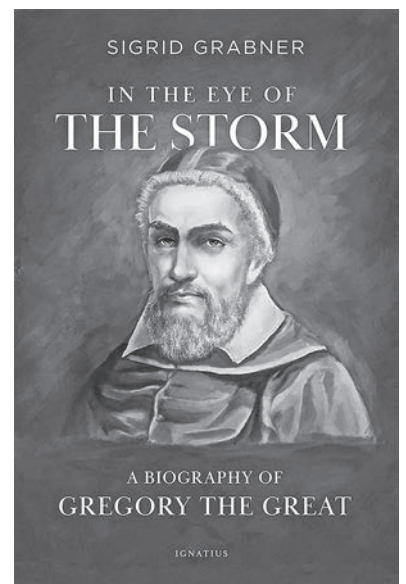
Whether it was in service as prefect to the people whose Rome had been destroyed, as a monk at St. Andrew’s Monastery, which he established, as papal envoy to Constantinople, as confidant of a pope, or as pope himself, Gregory lived a life of service, diligently using his God-given intellect and his skills as an administrator, communicator, diplomat and spiritual guide.

For Gregory, the most important part of his papal ministry, Grabner notes, was preaching.

Thus, she draws heavily from Gregory’s homilies, allowing readers to see the depth of the pope’s spirituality and to reflect upon his words. For example, “Own the things of the earth without letting yourselves be possessed by them. ... Make use of temporal things, but attach your desire only to those that are eternal.”

Gregory demonstrated concern and love for the poor throughout his life, and, as pope, focused on how they were to be treated, e.g., “We must therefore respect them all: It is all the more necessary for you to be humble with all of them, as you do not know which of them is Christ.”

As a historian, Grabner gives context for Gregory’s life, a vivid picture of the state of the world and the Church in the sixth century. She includes enough details about invasions, wars, illness,



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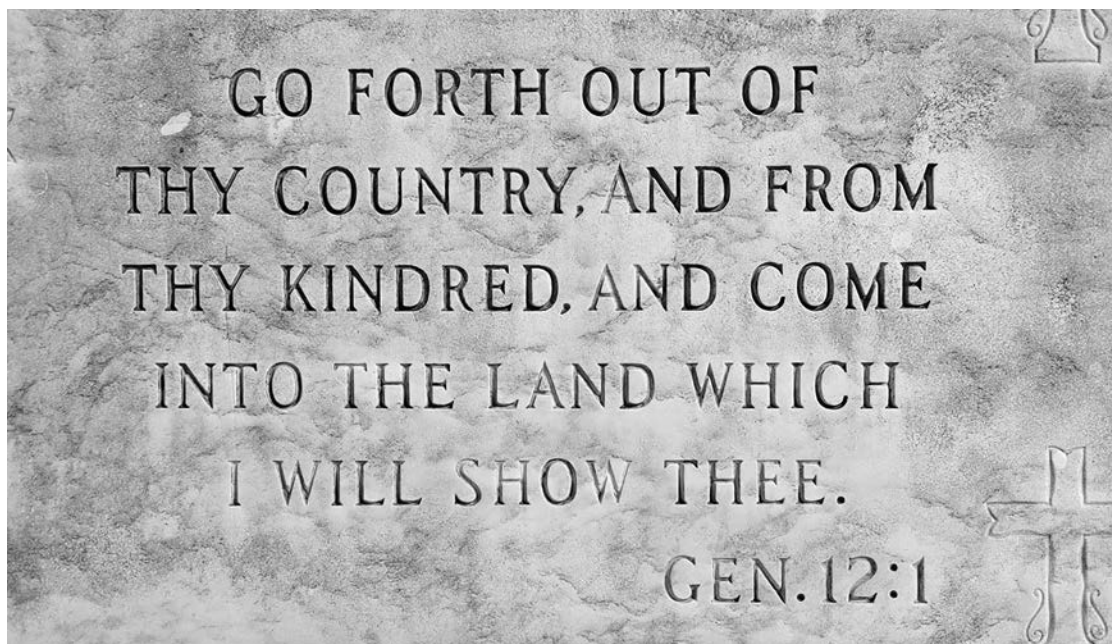
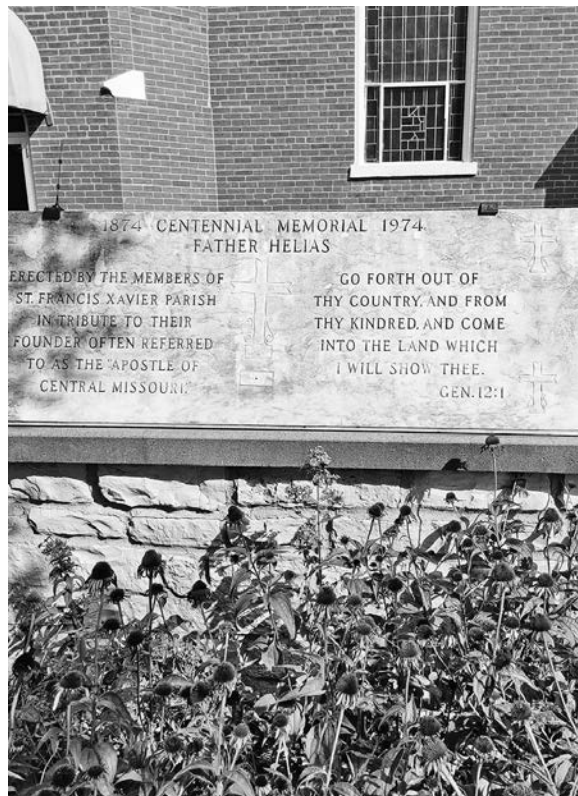
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In memory of a beloved missionary

The Father Helias memorial outside St. Francis Xavier Church in Taos looks a lot brighter now, since Taos parishioner Paula Sanning set about cleaning it in mid-July. The stone marker, fashioned from the mensa of the altar from the previous St. Francis Xavier Church and set into place in 1974, marks the place where Fr. Helias died 100 years previously. The Jesuit missionary from Belgium founded missions throughout central Missouri in the mid- to late 1800s, helping to solidify a Catholic presence in this area that remains strong to this day. He is commonly referred to as the Apostle of Central Missouri. His earthly remains are at rest in a crypt inside the church. Mrs. Sanning purchased the D2 solution from a reputable cemetery restoration supply company to clean the face of the memorial, which contains a quote from the Book of Genesis.



Berra, Hodges lead in balloting for Catholic baseball all-star team

Catholic News Service

Alexandria, Virginia

Yogi Berra, Gil Hodges, Derek Jeter, Babe Ruth, Whitey Ford and Connie Mack were among the first-place winners Catholic voters chose in online balloting for an all-time Catholic baseball all-star team. Nearly 2,000 Catholic baseball fans across the country cast their votes in a ballot hosted by Catholic Athletes for Christ.

The Alexandria-based nonprofit organiza-

tion hosted the online voting platform during June and July, and 1,969 fans selected their top choice at each baseball position, including three selections for outfielder and pitcher, as well as for manager, general manager and broadcaster.

"The all-time Catholic baseball all-star team campaign created a buzz on social media and highlighted just how many great players were practicing Catholics," Ray McKenna, president and founder of Catholic Athletes for Christ, said in a statement.

GREGORY

From page 22

corruption and poverty to let readers know the setting for the physical, emotional, spiritual and institutional struggles Gregory endured.

A chronology aids in understanding the events of that period.

One book certainly can't explore every aspect of Gregory's life in depth. Each facet of his life, i.e.,

spirituality, theology, diplomatic work, government service, etc., warrants extensive study and discussion. However, Grabner provides an engaging story, one that often reads like a historical novel in which heroes and villains are integral to its telling and in which the main character becomes well known to readers.

Those who want a solid introduction to Gregory's

life will receive it; those who enjoy reading lives of the saints will be pleased with what is presented.

All readers will come away knowing more about this much revered pope and with a better understanding of what defines greatness in the Church.

Olszewski is the editor of The Catholic Virginian, bi-weekly publication of the Diocese of Richmond, Virginia.

Daily Readings

Sunday, Aug 21

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is. 66:18-21
Ps. 117:1, 2
Heb. 12:5-7, 11-13
Lk. 13:22-30

Sunday, Aug 28

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sir. 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
Ps. 68:4-7, 10-11
Heb. 12:18-19, 22-24a
Lk. 14:1, 7-14

Monday, Aug 22

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Thes. 1:1-5, 11-12
Ps. 96:1-5
Mt. 23:13-22

Monday, Aug 29

The Passion of Saint John the Baptist

1 Cor. 2:1-5
Ps. 119:97-102
Mk. 6:17-29

Tuesday, Aug 23

St. Rose of Lima, virgin

2 Thes. 2:1-3a, 14-17
Ps. 96:10-13
Mt. 23:23-26

Tuesday, Aug 30

1 Cor. 2:10b-16

Ps. 145:8-14
Lk. 4:31-37

Wednesday, Aug 24

St. Bartholomew, Apostle

Rv. 21:9b-14
Ps. 145:10-13, 17-18
Jn. 1:45-51

Wednesday, Aug 31

1 Cor. 3:1-9

Ps. 33:12-15, 20-21
Lk. 4:38-44

Thursday, Aug 25

St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, priest

1 Cor. 1:1-9
Ps. 145:2-7
Mt. 24:42-51

Thursday, Sep 1

1 Cor. 3:18-23

Ps. 24:1bc-4ab, 5-6
Lk. 5:1-11

Friday, Aug 26

1 Cor. 1:17-25

Ps. 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11
Mt. 25:1-13

Friday, Sep 2

1 Cor. 4:1-5

Ps. 37:3-6, 27-28, 39-40
Lk. 5:33-39

Saturday, Aug 27

St. Monica

1 Cor. 1:26-31
Ps. 33:12-13, 18-21
Mt. 25:14-30

Saturday, Sep 3

St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

1 Cor. 4:6b-15

Ps. 145:17-21
Lk. 6:1-5

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for August:

We pray for small and medium sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities.

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for September:

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

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St. Mary's Hospital
JEFFERSON CITY

Love & Life one-day retreat for couples

DATE: September 3
TIME: 8:30am - 5pm

Love & Life is a one day retreat where couples explore the truth and beauty of marriage

and God's plan for it. It will be held on Sept. 3, from 8:30 am to 5 p.m., at the Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, 2207 W. Main St. in Jefferson City.

Based on *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan* by the U.S. bishops, this retreat will help couples renew their bonds through presentations and periods of prayer. It has helped hundreds of couples reconnect and appreciate each other, their relationship, and their marriage. This retreat is open to all couples (married, engaged and unmarried).

Registration for this event is required. For more information or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/marriage-enrichment.



Kathleen Lindemann to speak at Laurie pilgrimage

DATE: September 17
TIME: 8:30 - 5:30 pm

The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, invites all to a pilgrimage with speaker Kathleen Lindemann on Saturday, Sept. 17, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The pilgrimage day includes the two speaker sessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharistic adoration, Benediction, the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, culminating in Mass at 4:30 p.m.

Lunch will be provided.

Ms. Lindemann is an exhilarating and dynamic Catholic evangelist. Taking everyday life situations, she weaves the joy of the Gospel into a practical application.

Ms. Lindemann will be speaking on "Mary's 'Yes' Can Be Our 'Yes' Too" and "Unlocking the Virtues to a Joyous Life."

Listeners will learn how to unleash the Gospel in their own lives as she leads them to realize how they can walk in the light of Christ.

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

Our Lady of the Snows
PARISH PICNIC
Sunday, September 4
Mary's Home

Fried Chicken & Gluten-free Roast Beef Dinner
Served Cafeteria Style from 11am-7:30pm
Adults \$15 Children (6-12) \$7 5 & under free
Carry-outs available

Quilt Fortune Wheel ** Games & Prizes ** Kids Games
Crafts & Country Store ** Sandwiches & Refreshments
Homemade Pastry Auction

Handicapped parking. No outside drinks or coolers on grounds.
Cash or checks only.

Holy Family
PARISH PICNIC
Sunday, September 4
Freeburg, MO

Chicken and Roast Beef Dinner
with Real Mashed Potatoes
Served 11:30 am-7 pm
CARRY-OUTS ONLY - \$15
Outdoor & indoor (A/C) seating - no table service

Quilt Auction 5pm • Kiddie Tractor Pull (sign-up 2:30pm/start 3pm)
Games & Prizes (starting 1pm) • Sandwich Stand & Refreshments
Live Music—Osage Angels 2-5pm, Shiloh 8pm-midnight

St. Thomas
the Apostle Annual Parish Picnic
SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

Fried Chicken & Roast Beef
served with real mashed potatoes & gravy, corn,
green beans, kraut, homemade bread
and homemade pies

Served cafeteria style from 11 am-7 pm
Drive-thru & Carry-out available

Adults \$14
Children 6-12 \$7
Under 6 Free

Quilt Auction begins at 5 pm — View quilts online at www.stthomasapostle.net
Prizes – Games – Country Store – Kidsville – Bounce House – Kettle Corn – Live Music – Craft Stand – Refreshments

TRACTOR PULL

WESTPHALIA LIONS FIELD

ADMISSION: \$5 adults, Kids under 12 free
PLUS: Kiddie Tractor Pull 7pm Food & Refreshments

For more info contact
Daniel Berhorst 573-291-2076 or
Brent Gentges 573-291-5008

3pm SATURDAY AUG 27