

Project Homeless Connect

Faith- and community-based organizations including Catholic Charities joined forces to help people who are homeless or near homelessness in Jefferson City get the services they need.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

October 14, 2022 • Vol. 66 No. 8

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Visiting Eastern Rite bishop urges prayers for Ukraine



See related articles
on Pages 11 and 12.

By Jay Nies

An Eastern Rite bishop representing a large contingent of Ukrainian Greek Catholics in the United States thanked students of St. Peter School in Jefferson City for their prayers, while urging them to thank God for their blessings.

“On behalf of all the children, parents and schools in Ukraine — thank you and God bless you,” Bishop Bohdan J. Danylo of the Eparchy of Saint Josephat in Parma, Ohio, proclaimed from the pulpit of St. Peter Church the morning of Oct. 6.

“Will you promise to say a prayer in the morning for Ukrainian children?” Bishop Danylo asked the preschoolers through eighth-graders at the all-school Mass. “And if any of them come to visit this year, I hope you will be able to welcome them.”

Bishop Danylo, whose Ukrainian Greek Catholic Eparchy of Saint Josephat covers all or part of seven eastern U.S. states, has about 10,420 Ukrainian Greek Catholics under his episcopal care.

He was one of four bishops who joined Bishop W. Shawn McKnight for meetings that week in the Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center in Jefferson City.

They are members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee on the Catholic Home Missions ([usccb.org/committees/catholic-home-missions](https://www.usccb.org/committees/catholic-home-missions)).

Bishop McKnight is the subcommittee’s chairman.

Two of the visiting bishops and Bishop McKnight offered Mass in St.

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Ukrainian Greek Catholic Bishop Bohdan J. Danylo of the Eparchy of Parma, Ohio, and Bishop Michael W. Warfel of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, Montana, distribute Holy Communion to students of St. Peter School in Jefferson City Oct. 6. — Photo by Jay Nies

Final Catholic Stewardship Appeal to mark transition to stewardship model for parishes

By Jay Nies

The final Catholic Stewardship Appeal (CSA) in this diocese is about to begin for well over half of the parishes and missions here.

Gifts and pledges to the CSA support an array of diocesan ministries that help every parish fulfill the Church’s mission of leading souls to Christ and preparing them for eternity in heaven.

“The CSA is a prime opportunity to give thanks to God by making a sacrificial gift or pledge above and beyond one’s own commitment to his or her own parish,” stated Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

The bishop emphasized the stewardship aspect of the CSA — “seeing to it that we are fully invested in the salvific work of our Church.”

He noted that the CSA is not just about giving to a need, it’s a concrete expression of discipleship and solidarity with the whole Church.

“As followers of Christ, we humbly accept the gifts the Father bestows on us through Him, mindful of our obligation to use those gifts to serve God and one another in His name,” the bishop stated.

The theme for this year’s CSA is from Ephesians 4:12: “... To equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ ... ”

Among the CSA-supported ministries are: the Catholic Schools Office, the Vocations Office, youth ministry, family life, diaconate formation, the Matrimonial Tribunal,

See STEWARDSHIP, page 19

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MOVING? If you are moving or changing parishes, please fill out information below. Clip and mail to THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN, 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Or submit changes online at diojeffcity.org/update-individual/contact/information.

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10/14/22

Pray for deceased priests

Oct. 17 — **Fr. Richard L. Kaiser**, St. Thomas Seminary, Hannibal (1970)

Oct. 19 — **Fr. Terence J. Mullins**, St. Joseph, Edina (1964)

Oct. 20 — **Fr. John P. Cowan**, Immaculate Conception, Owensville (1979)

Oct. 22 — **Fr. Adolph H. Puetter**, St. Francis Carraciola, Bourbon (1957); **Fr. Michael E. McHugh**, Holy Guardian Angels, Brinktown (1978)

Oct. 26 — **Fr. John J. Hans**, Immaculate Conception, Shackelford (1965); **Msgr. Joseph A. Vogelweid**, St. Peter, Jefferson City (1981); **Fr. Edwin N. Sturm**, St. Joseph, Martinsburg (1983)

Oct. 27 — **Fr. Patrick H. Hoffmann**, St. Joseph, Canton (1990)

Rosary to be prayed publicly Oct. 15

To commemorate the 105th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun witnessed by thousands of people in connection with the Blessed Mother's apparitions to three children in Fatima, Portugal, groups of Catholics throughout the world will gather on Saturday, Oct. 15, to pray the Rosary publicly.

All are invited to join in any of the following observances:

CALIFORNIA

Public Rosary at noon in Proctor Park.

JEFFERSON CITY

Rosary Crusade and Rally, noon to 1 p.m., State Capitol grounds at Broadway and West High Street, across from St. Peter Church.

TIPTON

Rosary Rally at noon in the Rosary Garden outside St. Andrew Church, including the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries.

J.C. parish "Season of Hope" event

DATE: October 20
TIME: 6:30 - 8:45 pm

Immaculate Conception Parish's Caring for Creation Committee in Jefferson City will host an evening of learning, fellowship and discussion on Thursday, Oct. 20, about responding to a changing climate as a community of faith.

It will be from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. in Pleus Hall, next to the Immaculate Conception Rec-

tory on East McCarty Street near Clark Avenue.

The theme will be "Season of Hope: Responding in Faith to a Warming World."

Presenters will include:

- Father Matthew Flatley, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, with prayer and an overview of the spirituality of care for creation;

- Mizzou Academy Science Specialist Roger Bergman, presenting on practical ways to

mitigate the effects of the increased levels of carbon in the atmosphere; and

- Bill Yarbrough, sharing his experiences as a missionary in third world countries, how he sees the changing climate affecting the poor, and how what he has seen has affected the way he lives now.

For information, visit:

icangels.com/upcoming-events

SSND discernment evening for women

DATE: October 20
TIME: 7 pm

The North American Vocation Team (NAVT) of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) is hosting an online

"Joyful & Alive Conversation," at 7 p.m. on Thursday on Oct. 20.

Single women ages 18-45 interested in how to discover God's will for their life and/or who are curious about religious life are invited to attend and bring questions.

More information and registration for the Zoom link is available at ssnd.org/events/10-20-22.

The NAVT accompanies young adults as they discern God's call while informing them about the mission and charism of SSND, an international community of almost 2,000 women religious found-

ed in Bavaria in 1833.

The SSND mission is to proclaim the Good News, directing their entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent.

School Sisters of Notre Dame transform the world through education, giving special emphasis to women, young people and those who are poor.

Crocker parish to celebrate anniversary

DATE: October 30
TIME: 11:30 am - 2 pm

St. Cornelius Parish in Crocker will celebrate its 60th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 30.

The celebration, organized by the St. Cornelius Ladies Group, will be at 11:30 a.m. in the church basement, following 9:30 a.m. Mass in the church at 115 State Highway U, Crocker, Mo.

There is no cost to attend this event, but those planning to attend are urged to contact Barbara Britt at barbarabritt82@gmail.com.

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Official newspaper — Diocese of Jefferson City
Mailing address: 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Phone: 573-635-9127

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

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THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN (ISSN 1083-6977 or USPS 556940), October 14, 2022, volume 66, number 8. Published biweekly at 2207 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65109. Subscription price \$14 a year through parish plan. Periodical postage paid at Jefferson City, Mo. and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to The Catholic Missourian, 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City MO 65109-0914.

Cemetery Clean-Up

Monday, October 24, will be the FALL CEMETERY CLEAN-UP at Resurrection and St. Peter Cemeteries in Jefferson City. **It is suggested that all patrons have their floral and/or decorations removed prior to 8 a.m. All items may be replaced after 5 p.m.** NOTE: Saddles or flowers in permanent vases that are part of the monument will not be removed.

Email — info@rccjc.org

Missouri's Catholic bishops urge 'no' vote on constitutional amendment on recreational marijuana

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and his fellow Roman Catholic bishops of Missouri are asking voters to vote "no" on Amendment 3, which would legalize the recreational use of marijuana in the state.

"We believe that marijuana legalization will negatively impact Missouri families, health outcomes, communities and workers," the bishops said in a unified statement Sept. 30.

The statement's signatories include: Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of St. Louis; Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. of Kansas City-St. Joseph; Bishop McKnight; and Bishop Edward M. Rice of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, functioning in their role as officers of the Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC).

They signed the statement Sept. 30 and it was posted on the MCC's website Oct. 7. Election Day is Nov. 8.

According to the Missouri Secretary of State's Office description of Amendment 3:

"A 'yes' vote will amend

the Missouri Constitution to remove state prohibitions on the purchase, possession, consumption, use, delivery, manufacture and sale of marijuana for personal use for adults over the age of 21.

"The amendment would also allow individuals with certain marijuana-related offenses to petition for release from prison or parole and probation and have their records expunged; along with imposing a 6% percent tax on the retail price of recreational marijuana."

Passage of this amendment would require a simple majority of voters.

Missouri's bishops said they are concerned that the social costs of increased marijuana usage would outweigh any state revenues to be generated by a taxable marijuana industry.

They said that although usage will be restricted to age 21 and older, legalization sends the message that marijuana is

safe and socially acceptable.

They pointed out that many states that have legalized recreational marijuana have the highest teen usage rates.

"We know that regular

safety, increased marijuana use could hinder individuals' ability to find or keep meaningful employment, especially in jobs that require drug testing," the bishops stated.

They echoed Pope Fran-

bishops said, "we urge Catholics and all persons of good will to oppose Amendment 3."

Colorado and Washington were the first two states where marijuana was legalized for recreational use; in each state voters approved it via ballot initiative in 2012.

In the intervening years, nine additional states — Alaska, Oregon, California, Nevada, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Michigan and Illinois — plus the District of Columbia have likewise legalized it, either

by ballot initiative or legislative action.

Four other states approved marijuana legalization in the November 2020 elections — New Jersey, South Dakota, Arizona and Montana.

Catholic News Service contributed to this report.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF MISSOURI



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Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
General Chairman
Archbishop of St. Louis



+ James V. Johnston, Jr.

Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.
Vice Chairman
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph



+ Shawn McKnight

Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight
Executive Chairman
Bishop of Jefferson City



+ Edward M. Rice

Most Reverend Edward M. Rice
Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Approved September 30, 2022

Bishop McKnight discusses faithful citizenship in MCC podcast

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight joins Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) Executive Director Jamie Morris in the latest "MCC from the


Capitol" podcast.

Bishop McKnight discusses how Catholics can form their consciences in order to answer the Church's call to

faithful citizenship.

"As Catholics, we are called to act as responsible citizens and participate in political life to promote the common good," bishop McKnight stated.

Find the podcast online at: mocatholic.org



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

OCTOBER

Oct 15 Fall Diocesan Deacon Retreat, St. George Parish, 11:30 am, Linn

Oct 16 Confirmation Mass, Immaculate Conception Parish and St. Bonaventure Parish, 12:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Church, Brookfield

Oct 17-28 Holy Land Pilgrimage

NOVEMBER

Nov 1 Dinner with Retired Priests, 5:30 pm, Bishop's Residence

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Diocese of Jefferson City

Bishop McKnight's October prayer intention for our Local Church

For a greater respect for all human life; that our commitment to pro-life causes will be perfected in our acts of charity and mercy for those most in need. We pray to the Lord.

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

Por un mayor respeto a la vida humana; que nuestro compromiso con las causas de pro-vida se perfeccione en nuestros actos de caridad y misericordia por los más necesitados. Roguemos al Señor.



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Jefferson City Project Homeless Connect: making friends and encountering God in one another

By Jay Nies

Followers of a Man Who built homes, fed the hungry, healed the sick and prayed for unity spent the day united in helping people who have no home.

It was Jefferson City's eighth annual Project Homeless Connect, a massive, interchurch, interagency effort to provide wide-ranging assistance in one place.

"The Body of Christ! That's who we're dealing with! That's why we do this!" said Carolyn Saucier, a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City.

The purpose of the all-day event on Sept. 30 was to help people who are homeless or nearly homeless overcome as many barriers to permanent housing as possible.

More than 60 sponsoring churches, faith- and community-based agencies, including Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO), along with government entities and local businesses, cosponsored and participated in the event, held in the buildings of First United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church and First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the same block of East Capitol Avenue.

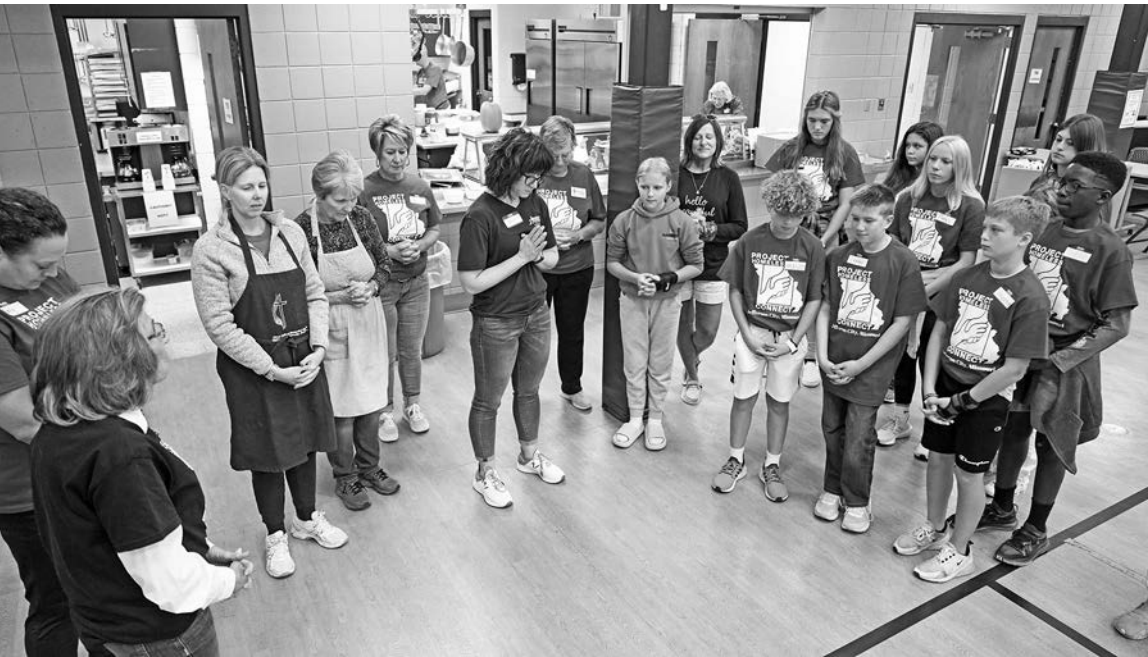
Local volunteers helped each participant find the services he or she needed the most.

The weather cooperated brilliantly.

How may we help you?

Representatives of numerous avenues of assistance set up booths and answered people's questions in the gymnasium at First Christian Church.

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri set out a smorgasbord of items for visitors to put together their



Adults from Immaculate Conception Parish and seventh-graders from Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City gather for prayer before serving lunch and greeting visitors in the fellowship hall of First United Methodist Church during Project Homeless Connect in Jefferson City.

— Photo by Jay Nies

own hygiene kit, containing only items they find useful or helpful.

"We have a variety of things they can choose from, and they can go over there, and

"Seeing people come in and take what they need and what they can use and are familiar with, she created the concept for doing the same thing here," said Ashley Wiskirchen, CCCNMO's senior director of communications.

The response was phenomenal.

"Giving people choices is part of upholding their dignity," said Ms. Stoll.

Students from Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City, St. Martin School in St. Martins and other parishes and schools held dignity drives to collect the personal-care items.

Children from St. Francis Xavier School in Taos put together and decorated bags of hygiene products for

the people to take.

Ms. Stoll also distributed information about CCCNMO's wide range of services and programs, including the food pantry, financial stability services, and guidance through the process of obtaining and keeping a place to live.

She had gotten back into

Jefferson City only a few hours before the event began, after attending a national conference of Catholic Charities affiliates.

"It's amazing to spend time

with people who are united in their commitment to see Jesus in every person that you encounter, then to

come here and actually do it in such a noticeably impactful way," she said.

"God brought them here"

Members and friends of Immaculate Conception Parish prepared and served over 300 hot meals for the event and provided dozens of home-baked cookies for dessert.

The meal consisted of smoked, pulled pork, mashed potatoes, and green beans.

The food came from the event's sponsors.

Mrs. Saucier said the event was a great introduction to the need for services for people who are homeless.

"People are so willing," said Mrs. Saucier. "We've had so many people come up to us in the past few days and say, 'What can I do to help?'"

A group of seventh-graders from Immaculate Conception School gave up a day-off from school to help in the dining room and visit with the people who attended.

"We are basically feeding people who are homeless because they're hungry and we want them to have a nice, good meal," said seventh-grader Lexie Atkinson.

"We know that God brought them here for us to serve them," she said.

The young volunteers, most of whom are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, arrived at church at 7:30 a.m., went to 8 a.m. Mass together and received a special blessing from Father Matthew Flatley, the pastor.

"It was awesome," Fr. Flatley. "The whole community gave them a blessing and we sang, 'Sent Forth with God's Blessings' as they processed out with me. We're so proud of all of them."

After a quick breakfast of donuts and juice, they walked about 10 blocks to the site of the event.

Fellow I.C. parishioner Tom Fennessey, who was volunteering as a guide, observed the young people in action.

"They were involved, helpful, and most of all polite in assisting with providing drinks, food and clean-up in the lunch area," he said.

Lexie said she was keenly aware of God's presence throughout the event.

"I feel His energy," she said.

A good start

The kitchen staff and seventh-graders gathered for prayer before the steady current of diners began arriving.

"Lord God, thank You for bringing us all here together today!" Mrs. Saucier prayed. "May we serve the men and

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



Ashley Wiskirchen, senior director of communications, and Lori Stoll, food programs coordinator, both for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri greet visitors to Project Homeless Connect on Sept. 30 in Jefferson City. Catholic Charities offered a selection of snacks and personal hygiene items, along with information about available services, to people who are homeless or near-homeless.

they can take what they need and make their own care packages and are only getting what they actually need or use," said Lori Stoll, Catholic Charities' food programs coordinator.

Ms. Stoll based the concept on the way Catholic Charities' client-choice Food Pantry in Jefferson City works.

El Puente Hispanic Ministry Grand Opening event in California

DATE: October 22
TIME: 10 am - 2 pm

El Puente Hispanic Ministry will celebrate the Grand Opening of its new office in California, Mo., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22. The office is located at 414 W. Patrick St. Please contact Aurora Guillen at 573-680-5035 or aurora.guillen@elpuentemo.org if you plan to attend.

Sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, the Diocese of Jefferson City and local parishes, El Puente is a separate, nonprofit agency offering an array of services to the Hispanic communities in and near Jefferson City and California. El Puente's mission is "to

make present the healing love of Jesus, the Incarnate Word, promoting human dignity through a ministry of presence and outreach to the Hispanic community." Staff members serve as bilingual, bicultural liaisons between Spanish-speaking immigrants from Mexico, Central and South America and the neighborhoods and faith communities they are eager to become a part of.

about finances and nutrition and connect people with short-

term assistance and long-term resources.

Donna Cori Gibson to present in Taos

DATE: October 22
TIME: 10 am - 3 pm

St. Francis Xavier Parish's Women's Ministry will welcome acclaimed Catholic vocalist and evangelizer Donna Cori Gibson to Taos on Saturday, Oct. 22. She will speak from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the St. Francis Xavier School cafeteria, 7319 Route M, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101. The theme will be "Keeping a Mary Spirit Throughout a Martha Day." Ms. Cori Gibson will shares life lessons of how to find (make) time for prayer and ways to stay at the feet of Jesus despite all of life's necessities and obligations. Lunch will be provided. Free-will offerings will be accepted. Register by calling 573-395-4401.

El Puente's mission is "to make present the healing love of Jesus, the Incarnate Word, promoting human dignity through a ministry of presence and outreach to the Hispanic community." Staff members serve as bilingual, bicultural liaisons between Spanish-speaking immigrants from Mexico, Central and South America and the neighborhoods and faith communities they are eager to become a part of.


In addition to accompanying people to doctor's appointments and providing language-interpretation services, the staff and volunteers help individuals and families overcome obstacles to fulfilling the dreams that brought them here. They provide information

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Helen Osman, Meta native, receives Vatican appointment

**Served until recently
as communications director
for Jefferson City diocese**

By Jay Nies

Speaking to be understood and listening to understand.

That's not only the essence of effective communication, it's one of Helen Osman's passions and lifelong callings.

"Catholic communication is about building communion, which is the core of the Church," said Mrs. Osman, a Meta native, former diocesan communication director, and current communication consultant for the Jefferson City diocese.

Mrs. Osman recently accepted a five-year appointment from Pope Francis to be a consultant to the Church's Dicastery for Communications (<https://www.comunicazione.va/en.html>).

The dicastery oversees all aspects of the communication efforts of the Vatican, including its radio, print, television and digital platforms, such as www.vatican.va and the Pope's Twitter service, [@pontifex](https://twitter.com/pontifex).

Mrs. Osman, along with other consultants, will advise Church leaders on how to

use modern communications to advance the mission of the Church.

That will occasionally require traveling to Vatican City from her home in Austin, Texas.

"It's a humbling honor," Mrs. Osman stated. "While the Church is often challenged in our efforts on the 'Digital Continent,' to quote Pope Benedict, I believe we are also in a time of grace, as we find creative ways to use digital means to build community and encourage freedom of expression and freedom of religion throughout the world."

Communion is the deep and complete unity that Jesus asked the Father to grant His closest followers.

It begins with an openness to recognize God's goodness and wisdom in other people.

Mrs. Osman noted that communion and encounter are recurring themes of Pope Francis's pontificate.

"Our pope often speaks of encountering God in one another," she noted. "And encounter can't happen if you're not listening."

It's an understanding she's spent her entire adult life pursuing — as a Catholic newspaper reporter and editor, diocesan communication director, communication secretary for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and board member and president of SIGNIS, the only association of lay media professionals officially recognized by the Holy See.

Interacting and collaborating with people from numerous backgrounds has given her a glimpse of the countless ways people are living out Jesus's command to "follow Me."

"But how we live out the Creed and our calling is not a cookie-cutter experience, whether we live in Missouri

or in Germany or Kenya or anywhere else," she noted.

She has visited with people from places where the Church is fulfilling its mission, and locales where it seems to be faltering.

"What it keeps coming back to are the same themes — walking together, listening to each other, communion, participation and mission," she said.

Those are the themes put forth by Pope Francis for the Church's international Synod on Synodality, a two-year process of listening and discerning.

"The simplicity and universality of those synodal themes amaze me ... I am inspired by the brilliance of the Holy Father — the brilliance of the Church," Mrs. Osman stated.

"Laughing like Sarah"

Mrs. Osman grew up on a dairy farm near Meta, where she and her family were members of St. Cecilia Parish.

From her early childhood, her grandmother, Rose Lubbering, and aunt, Juliana Crane, fed her innate curiosity and fascination with the printed word.

"I loved to read, and my grandma would keep giving me Catholic literature!" she said.

Mrs. Osman attended Fatima High School and met her husband, John, on a Teens Encounter Christ weekend in Jefferson City.

She studied communication at Drury University in Springfield and worked an internship at *The Catholic Missourian* the summer before her senior year.

After graduating and getting married, she and her husband moved to Austin, Texas, where Mrs. Osman wound up serving as ad director, then reporter, then editor of *The Catholic Spirit*, award-winning newspaper of the Diocese of



Helen Osman, president of SIGNIS, the World Catholic Association for Communication, based in Brussels, is pictured in a 2012 photo. The Vatican announced Osman as one of several new members and consultants for the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication.

ral visit.

Preparing for Pope Francis proved to be the most demanding task of her career.

Nonetheless, she would remind her coworkers in Washington that her upbringing on a dairy farm gave her an important perspective.

"When we were dealing with seemingly impossible situations or expectations, I would tell them, 'I know what it's like to be covered in you-know-what. This is nothing compared to that!'" she said.

Making connections

Mrs. Osman worked at the US-CCB with then-Father Shawn W. McKnight, who was executive director of the Office for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

Several years later, after Bishop McKnight was appointed to lead the Jefferson City diocese, he asked Mrs. Osman to undertake a comprehensive audit of the diocese's communication efforts.

She later agreed to serve as diocesan communications director, traveling to Jefferson City several times per year while continuing her international communication work.

She set about updating and streamlining how the bishop and the people who work with him communicate with parishes and the larger community, and how parishes organize information and share the Gospel locally.

She helped the diocese navigate media relations throughout the pandemic and the ongoing pastoral planning process, and coordinated the diocesan listening phase for the Synod of Bishops.

She stepped aside as communications director last month but continues to advise Bishop

Austin.

She later became director of communications and director of safe environments for that diocese.

She was elected to several offices, including president, of what is now known as the Catholic Media Association.

That organization, which represents Catholic media outlets throughout North America, presented her in 2012 its highest honor, the St. Francis De Sales Award, for her outstanding contributions to Catholic journalism.

She remembers "laughing like Sarah in the Old Testament" when a friend encouraged her to become active in SIGNIS and run for its board of directors.

She was recently elected to her second term as president.

In 2007, she accepted an invitation to serve as director of communications for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in Washington, D.C.

There, she coordinated international media coverage of Pope Benedict XVI's 2008 pastoral visit to the United States and Pope Francis's 2015 pasto-



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World Mission Sunday: Pandemic brought Fr. Anicama face-to-face with people's total reliance on God

Spent three and a half years on mission, helping people in need in his homeland, Peru

By Jay Nies

Father César Anicama witnessed some of the most ardent professions of faith while on mission in his homeland.

"People came to me in confession, crying. Their only refuge was God," said Fr. Anicama, a priest of the Jefferson City diocese who grew up in Pisco Playa, Peru.

Ordained in 2015, he received permission from Bishop W. Shawn McKnight in 2018 to spend some time back in Peru with the Missionary Society of St. James the Apostle, serving people who are chronically poor.

He returned to parish work in central Missouri on July 1 of this year.

In anticipation of World Mission Sunday, Oct. 23, (usccb.org/events/2022/world-mission-sunday), Fr. Anicama looked back with joy and sadness at his time on mission in the nation of his birth.

"The Society of St. James is a group of diocesan priests from the United States, from the United Kingdom, from Ghana, from the Philippines, who come to Peru to serve poor people, to help Peruvian families," he noted.

They do so by evangelizing, catechizing and providing pastoral care and social outreach.

Fr. Anicama ministered in the coastal city of Villa El Salvador, about 20 miles south of the nation's capital.

It was the first time since the Society's founding in 1958 that it had a priest from Peru serving in Peru.

His time there overlapped with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It was a difficult situation," he recalled. "I would bring food baskets to people, pray with them and give them masks and hand sanitizer."

Villa El Salvador is home to about 4 million people, many of whom resettled there after fleeing the poverty of the Andes Mountains almost a half-century ago.

Life there has always been difficult. The pandemic made

things substantially more so.

"There are no resources to speak of, and people couldn't work during the pandemic," said Fr. Anicama.

Many who needed compressed oxygen to help their COVID-weakened lungs couldn't get it.

He noted that some of the children haven't been able to go to school for two years, and many adults and children still wear face-masks in an effort to keep the virus from spreading.

"Here in the States, it feels like the pandemic is over, which is wonderful," said Fr. Anicama. "In Peru, it's a very different situation."

He couldn't celebrate Mass publicly because too many people were getting sick with the virus.

"It was very difficult," he said. "A lot of people died."

Among them were two of his cousins, ages 34 and 35.

"I'm grateful that I survived," he said. "I didn't get COVID. I didn't get sick."

Bishop McKnight stayed in contact with Fr. Anicama throughout his time in Peru.

"We had the support of the St. James Society and the Diocese of Jefferson City, which sent us donations to help the poor," the priest stated.

New field, same mission

Fr. Anicama returned to Missouri this summer.

"This is my diocese," he noted. "Bishop McKnight welcomed me with open arms when I came back."

He's now serving as associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, with an emphasis on ministry to Hispanic Catholics.

"It's a very busy parish," he noted.

Since July 1, he's presided at five weddings, along with numerous quinceañeras and baptisms.



Father César Anicama ministers to people during their pain and suffering in the Peruvian coastal city of Villa El Salvador while serving with the Missionary Society of St. James the Apostle during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here, he is seen delivering bags of food to people who are hungry; praying with the sick for recovery; and offering prayers for the dead. He frequently administered the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick to people who were sick with COVID. Some of them stayed at home because Peruvian hospitals faced collapse amid the COVID wave.

Although the Hispanic population in the area includes people from many Spanish-speaking cultures and locales, they tend to be more alike than unlike, he said.

"We speak the same language," he noted. "Sometimes, they have different expressions and slang, but it's the same language."

"I do feel at home here," he said. "The people are not unlike the people in Peru. We have a similar culture."

What struck him most during his time in his homeland was people's steadfast faith and total reliance on God.

"I saw the people still believing in God and turning to Him, despite the pandemic and all they were experiencing," he said.

That's something he recognizes in the bulk of the people

he now ministers to in and near Sedalia.

"I hear many stories," he said.

"Some people are suffering because they don't have the right documents. Some miss being home. Some miss their family."

"They seek refuge in God," he said. "They come to Mass. The first Sunday of every month, we have a Holy Hour, and many people come for the Holy Hour and then stay for Mass."

"They are hard-working people who never forget about God or their Catholic faith, despite their difficulties," he said. "They love to pray and make sacrifices for the



Church."

"Wherever we are"

Pope Pius XI established World Mission Sunday in 1927.

A special collection, taken up in parishes throughout the United States, benefits the Pontifical Mission Societies.

The theme Pope Francis chose for this year's celebration is taken from the Acts of

QUESTION CORNER

God and birth defects / How late is late?

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



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

Q. I have several very devout and pious friends who believe that God creates children with birth defects to become his “victim souls” because God needs suffering in order to make up for what was lacking in the suffering of Christ in the work of redemption. They quote to me the account of the man born blind in John 9:3 and Mother Teresa, who once said that suffering is the kiss of Jesus. Does God really do this? Ever? (Newton, New Jersey)

A. I do not support your friends’ explanation. God can do anything He wants; He doesn’t “need” human suffering to complete the work of redemption. If God decided that what Jesus did was sufficient in itself, that would surely be within the divine prerogative.

Having said that, I do not claim to know why the Lord allows children to be born with birth defects. That is one aspect of the “problem of evil,” which has triggered theological discussion and debate since the dawn of creation — and without a solution that totally satisfies.

One need only look at the Book of Job in the Old Testament; though Job had lost nearly everything he valued in life — family and friends, health and crops — and still failing to understand, he chose simply to continue to trust in God. “The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord” (Jb. 1:21).

So the ultimate and honest answer to the question is: “We don’t know.” For as long as we remain on this side of heaven, we simply do not know how to reconcile God’s goodness with the fact that much of His creation is wounded and broken; but we trust that the reasons will be revealed once we enter the peace of God’s presence.

Part of the explanation, theologically, is that sickness and imperfection, disease and death were not part of God’s original plan but came through the disobedience of the earliest human beings. To me, though, the most helpful thought is that human beings move forward on the path of goodness and work out their salvation through their special kindness to those who are vulnerable. (I have seen it in my own family with my parents’ tender care for my sister, who died of multiple sclerosis at the age of 28.)

I believe this is part of what is meant in the Gospel of John, when Jesus says that the man was born blind not through his parents’ sins or his own, but that “the works of God might be made visible through him” (Jn. 9:3).

Q. We recently moved and now have attended four Catholic churches close to our new home in an effort to figure out which one we would like to join. It appears that the Church has relaxed any sort of tradition on timely arrival for Mass. At least 20% of the parishioners at each of these churches seem to arrive for Sunday Mass any time they want, right up until just after the readings. There seems to be no official response to this habit from the pulpit. So my questions are these: How late is acceptable? Just so you’re there by the time the readings start? Before the Gospel? Before Holy Communion? Or is the Church just happy to have us there at all — even if we are 20 minutes late or more? Maybe I’m picky, but when does this become an af-

See FR. DOYLE, page 22



Papal Audience October 12, 2022

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on spiritual discernment, we have considered the importance of prayer and growth in self-knowledge. Today we consider a third necessary element of discernment, which is desire, the deep longing for happiness and fulfillment present in the human heart. In our spiritual tradition, desire is seen as evidence of our innate yearning for God and the peace that He alone can give: a kind of compass directing our lives to their ultimate goal. In seeking the Lord and trusting in His promises, we find the strength to persevere amid difficulties, to accept sacrifices joyfully, and to strive in all things to live in accordance with His will. In the Gospels, Jesus often asks those who seek a miracle what it is that they ask of Him (e.g., Mk. 10:51). Our own dialogue with the Lord in prayer helps us to articulate our inmost desires and to allow Him to work miracles of grace and healing in our lives. For that is Jesus’ own greatest desire: to make us sharers in his own divine life and to enable us to find, in Him, our eternal happiness and fulfillment.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims taking part in today’s audience, especially those from England, Denmark, Finland, Norway, the Netherlands, Ghana, Vietnam and the United States of America. Upon all of you I invoke the joy and peace of Christ our Lord. God bless you!

In Ukraine, Abp. Lori sees resilience, helps distribute Knights’ aid

Catholic News Service

Baltimore

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore joined a small group of leaders from the Knights of Columbus on a four-day trip to Poland and Ukraine to help distribute aid from the fraternal organization to orphanages and other service centers assisting refugees from the war in Ukraine.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly established the Ukraine Solidarity Fund in February to assist with food, shelter, clothing and other supplies. During this trip, the Knights brought care packages for internally displaced persons and also provided monetary support for the Ukrai-

nian Catholic Church, the Latin-rite Church in Ukraine and for the orphanage run by the Archdiocese of Czestochowa, Poland.

In a video interview Oct. 2 from Lviv, Ukraine, where he had completed a day of gatherings with Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki, the city’s Latin-rite bishop and president of the country’s Latin-rite bishops’ conference, among others, Archbishop Lori said he sees a lot of resilience in the Ukrainian people.

“The Ukrainians are a very sturdy people, a courageous people. What I’m seeing is beautiful hope,” he told the *Catholic Review*, magazine of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

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Responding to immigration successfully

By Father Eugene Hemrick
Catholic News Service



As buses rolled into Washington, D.C., with mystified immigrants not knowing where they would end up, one could not but feel: There is a better way than this to manage homeless human beings being treated savagely.

In seminary studies, one of my areas of interest was German immigration to America. Like thousands of Latinos/Latinas, German immigrants did not speak English. And yet volunteers were able to break through the language barrier by

speaking the heartfelt language of humanity.

Under the patronage of St. Raphael, the protector of immigrants, Peter Paul Cahensly, a German layperson dedicated to serving German immigrants, helped to establish St. Raphael-Verein.

From the moment people left from Bremen and Le Havre, immigrants were provided information to ensure a safe journey and make their arrival to America a wholesome experience.

At American ports where the immigrants arrived, St. Raphael-Verein built chapels, created banking and deposit systems, established counseling facilities and offered the possibility of attending Mass in the German language.

Christ's way will bring us to truth

By Mary Marrocco
Catholic News Service

In the animated movie "Up," a shy lonely man knows joy, married to the love of his life and delighting in their little home, even with its sorrows. After Ellie dies, Carl becomes increasingly sealed in by grief and pain, his frown deepening into fixed furrows, the beautiful nest becoming an airless bubble.

Soon, booming industry and development surround and dwarf the little house, until Carl becomes a bewildered, angry prisoner within the world and within himself.

I wonder if the man in the parable, who hid the gold coin instead of investing it (Lk. 19, Mt. 25), was like that? Was he, too, locked up in grief and anger, narrow and fearful without knowing he'd become that way? There's nothing wrong with being fearful, ashamed or angry, but when we get stuck there, we can get as mixed up as the gold-coin buriar.

Jesus seems eager to roust us out of such inner prisons. For Him, it's urgent. He shows us we're like lamps, meant to be lighted, to be seen, and to help others see the light.

Jesus exhorted His listeners not as individuals, but as members of a faith, a community. As a Church, too, we can get locked in and unaware we are nursing fears and angers. Then, not only we ourselves, but the world around us, loses out.

Like depressed people, we might believe the lie that we're worthless and the world better off without us; we are as surrounded by that false assessment of the church as Carl is by cranes and tall buildings.

And the more we believe it, the more it seems to come true: Like Carl, Church people can get crabby and belligerent. The bushel basket we cover the lamp with is dingy and unattractive, but we imagine it's the lamp that's the problem.

What to do when built-up shame, fear and anger become the burying places, the

bushel baskets, where we Christians hide the word of God we carry? These emotions, given to help us, can become tortuous when they're misplaced or misused.

Fortunately, God enters our prisons with us, and His glory is never imprisoned. "It will flame out, like shining from shook foil," wrote poet priest Gerard Manley Hopkins. Try it sometime: Get out your aluminum foil in a dark room, light a lamp, shake the foil and see what happens.

Three recent examples, for me, flamed out from the "shook foil" that could have become crusted-over fear, shame and anger.

At a summer fair, fairgoers of all ages and backgrounds were carrying walking sticks. Inquiries led to a booth where an evangelical organization was giving out the sticks to those who listened to their preaching.

Whatever one might think about the contents of the preaching, or the requirement to listen before receiving the gift, the small team's creativity and courage meant those walking sticks spread themselves around the whole fair ground. What creative ways we could find of carrying the word to others, instead of staying home afraid of being seen and heard.

A lay community called Sant'Egidio, recently visiting, told how community members once found themselves in the surprising position of mediating a peace agreement in Mozambique. The community members were neither experts, politicians nor bureaucrats, but through their relationships with people in that country, they had won trust.

They could listen and understand the needs of both sides enough to assist in creating a long-lasting peace agreement where hopeless war had held sway. The community is centered on prayer, the poor and peace. It's important to talk with one's enemies, they say. Shame can keep us at home, talking only with those who like us. Compassion can bring us out

Immigrants also learned where to travel to do farm work with German communities. St. Raphael-Verein also distributed brochures throughout the country alerting the American population to the plight of German immigrants and imploring them to pledge financial support.

Above all, the main effort of St. Raphael-Verein was protecting the body and soul of new arrivals.

Benedictine Father Boniface Wimmer left Germany to establish the first Benedictine monastery in America, and like Cahensly, keeping Catholic faith and education strong was the driving force behind his missionary effort.

Times have dramatically changed since turn-of-the-century immigration to

our country. As then, so too today there is a backlash against immigrants.

One reason is a bigger financial challenge. Housing is tight, inflation is exceedingly high and the pandemic has made some people skeptical about welcoming immigrants who might spread COVID-19. And worst of all, there are closed-minded white supremacists.

Undoubtedly, multiple high hurdles exist to overcome. And yet, as in the past, protecting the body and soul of immigrants and especially their religious faith is still the best means for overcoming daunting hurdles.

Living the Christian principle "for" — as in Christ died "for" us — shows that serving another can move mountains.

where we are exposed and vulnerable.

At Mass one day, a retired priest was presiding so the pastor could take holidays. A feeble, elderly man, the visiting priest had trouble finding the right book and microphone to read from, needed

help to climb the sanctuary's two steps and took long pauses during prayers at the altar.

But at the sermon, he became a flame

See MARROCCO, page 23

REFLECTION

In light of the circumstances

By Mark Saucier

It was early when I came downstairs. Just before I reached for the switch, something across the room caught my eye.

There was a single patch of light. At first, I thought it was a message alert on my phone, or the nearby tablet had mysteriously turned on.

It was neither. Just a triangle of light neatly aligned within the corner of the desk — the only light in the room.

Curious, I traced it from the desk to a window, then to the rising sun.

A beam of sunlight had found its way through a hole in the tree canopy outside, triangulated itself on the slant of the neighbor's roof and the conjunction of two sides of the window and landed on the edge of that desk.

That image stayed with me long after the sun had climbed the trees and left that window behind. I had a feeling that there was something I was supposed to learn.

Then it hit me. What I had witnessed was a unique moment in time. It would never happen again in just that way.

By the next morning, even if it was again still and cloudless, the sun would have moved slightly south, and the leaves would be a little more contorted in their autumnal decline.

It reminded me that, like the snowflakes falling in winter, no two moments of our lives are exactly alike.

Each is unique in the transcendence it exposes, unique in the grace that it offers.

The flowers on the table are different than they were yesterday. Their colors still beautiful but fading, they're yielding to the current of change that flows through all of life.

That luscious pie we're sharing for dessert will never be the same as it is today. Not just because the apples will be different or the pinch of nutmeg might be less generous, but because the company of the meal, the mood of the fleeting moment, enhances the taste.

This person I've known for decades is not the same as she was years ago, not the same as she was yesterday. Whatever her day was like, it affected her, changed her, became part of her.

If I don't try to see that difference today, and tomorrow, and the next, then I will have cheated this moment out of all it could have been and her out of all I promised.

Maybe that's what a little patch of light was trying to teach me.

Hispanic Heritage Month: Maintaining ties to faith, family, community and culture

In observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, which is observed in the United States from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 each year, The Catholic Missourian has been conducting interviews to shed light on the experience of being Hispanic, Catholic and American.

"Hispanic" generally refers to people who came from Central or South America or the Caribbean, or whose ancestors did so, and who speak Spanish as a first or main language.

Their collective heritage spans numerous nationalities, cultures, dialects and places of origin, encompassing roughly two-thirds of the Western Hemisphere.

By Jay Nies

Aurora Guillen eventually stopped crying every day.

The then-9-year-old, her brother and her mother had moved from the small, rural town in Guanajuato, Mexico, to an isolated locale in Utah, USA.

It meant that she and her parents could be together all year.

It also meant being separated from the gloriously close-knit extended family she enjoyed in the place she still calls "home."

"All my family was there — my grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles," she said. "Everybody knew everybody."

Her father had been living and working in the United States for most of every year since he was 16.

"That was tough!" Mrs. Guillen recalled. "He did that for the first 12 years of my parents' marriage."

"Father Miguel," the pastor of his parish in Utah, was also an immigration lawyer and helped Mrs. Guillen's father apply for U.S. citizenship.

Later on, he also helped process Mrs. Guillen's, her brother's and her mother's immigration paperwork and eventually helped them apply for U.S. citizenship.

"So I got to come here

through the big door," Mrs. Guillen noted.

Family ties

Back in Guanajuato, everyday life revolved around the Catholic church near Mrs. Guillen's parents' house in the middle of town.

Most of the people there are small-scale farmers, subsisting on the crops they grow each season.

Mrs. Guillen's maternal grandfather served as a sacristan, maintenance supervisor and event organizer for the parish throughout the week.

Her mother helped out in every way she could.

Upon moving to Utah, the only Catholics Mrs. Guillen knew were fellow immigrants from Mexico — most of whom had ties to her hometown — who worked in the nearby food-processing plant where her parents worked.

"Probably 95 percent of the Hispanic population worked in that plant," she noted.

The Diocese of Salt Lake City takes in the entire state of Utah. Each Sunday, a priest on mission from Colombia in South America would drive two hours from his rectory to offer Mass in the tiny Mission of St. Jude.

"It was standing-room only," Mrs. Guillen recalled. "It was great to be with people who understood what I believe and believed it, too."

Mostly isolated from the rest of the Church during the rest of the week, the people of the St. Jude Mission were determined to maintain their community and live out their Catholic faith.

Although Mrs. Guillen's daily bursts of tears eventually subsided, she continued longing for her hometown's intense communal life and Catholic-inspired rituals and traditions.

"Being Mexican Catholic is

a culture in and of itself," she noted. "Our culture and our faith — you can't have one without the other. Our faith is part of our everyday life and culture."

Memories of rituals such as serenading the Blessed Mother in the middle of the night on the Feast of Our Lady of Gua-

dalupe, to accompanying the Holy Family on their quest for lodging in the days leading up to Christmas, to the elaborate reenactment of the Stations of the Cross through the streets of town on Good Friday still animate her spirit.

Safe passage

Mrs. Guillen's father never wanted her to lose touch with her roots. Nearly every year, the family would make a 38-hour pilgrimage by car back to their hometown for Christmas.

"Going back every year and remembering who I am and where I come from — that helped me a great deal," she said. "I feel like I have a good sense of who I am. I don't feel like I've lost my identity."

They would stop at church and pray for a safe journey, and at whatever time they arrived, they would stop at church to give thanks.

Through relatives in Central Missouri, Mrs. Guillen's parents found out about good job opportunities and the lower cost of living here.

They moved to Jefferson City when Mrs. Guillen was 17.

"Moving here was a big change for me because of our religion," she noted. "You see so much more Catholicism here. I loved it and I still love it."

It brought her back into

contact with larger Catholic congregations and public celebrations of her faith and heritage.

She and her family began attending the early-afternoon Mass in Spanish in St. Peter Church.

In her 20s, she noticed a young man who usually sat

always of His boundless love, generosity and mercy.

"I want them to know that God is with us every step of our lives," she said. "I want them always to look at this beautiful world that He created for us, and to know that He is walking beside them every step of the way, even when things get rough."

"I want them to always remember that if they have God and they have faith, they're going to be all right, no matter what," she said.

Although fluent in English, Mrs. Guillen and her husband take their children to the Mass in Spanish in St. Peter Church.

They enjoy worshipping God with their children in the language of their extended family.

"I wouldn't dare avoid speaking Spanish in front of my kids," said Mrs. Guillen. "For one thing, how are they going to have a meaningful relationship with their grandparents if they can't communicate with them?"

Mrs. Guillen, who now serves on the staff of El Puente Hispanic Ministry in Jefferson City and California, feels strongly about forging strong ties to her parish and the larger community.

"This is our community," she said. "This is where we're raising our family, where our girls are growing up."

Knowing that her immigrant experience has been different from and in some ways less difficult than many others, she asks for prayers "for our immigrant brothers and sisters who come here while fleeing from poverty and violence, who are searching for a better life for their children."

She noted that due to language and cultural barriers, costs and inordinate delays, "coming here the proper way is nearly impossible."

"And many people give up so much — ties to family, to what is familiar to them — just to come here," she said. "You don't make those kinds of sacrifices for nothing."

alone at Mass. A few years later, a mutual friend formally introduced them.

As it turned out, Hector Guillen had familial ties to Aurora's hometown but hadn't been back there since he was a child.

They got married on Sept. 4, 2010.

In due time, Mrs. Guillen led her husband back to their hometown to reconnect.

They arrived in the middle of the night on Dec. 11, stopped at the gate outside the church to give thanks, and went to a relative's house to sleep for a few hours.

They awoke at 3:30 a.m. to the clamor of fireworks, brass bands, hymns and cheers.

The people were celebrating Las Mañanitas — the serenading of the Blessed Mother in the early hours of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The couple wound up joining the procession as it passed Mrs. Guillen's family home near the church.

Blessed by God

As a mother, Mrs. Guillen now views matters of faith and cultural identity through the lens of her daughters, ages 5 and 2-and-a-half.

She wants them to be confident and grateful to God for all He has done and continues to do for them.

She wants them to be aware



5 bishops visit St. Martin Church on St. Francis of Assisi's feastday

By Jay Nies

God can work miracles in every person.

"That's what He wants to do with each and every one of you!" Bishop W. Shawn McKnight told the children and teachers of St. Martin School in St. Martins.

"He wants you to perform a lot of miracles — by loving Him intensely and loving our brothers and sisters," the bishop proclaimed in his homily the morning of Oct. 4 in St. Martin Church in St. Martins.

It was a historic day for the growing community just west of Jefferson City — "probably a once-in-a-lifetime experience for us," said Father Jason Doke, pastor of St. Martin Parish.

Bishop McKnight celebrated the Mass with four fellow bishops, including an eparch of an Eastern Rite Catholic Church.

It was the feastday of St. Francis of Assisi.

The visiting prelates included: Bishop Chad W. Zielinski of New Ulm, Minnesota; Bishop Michael W. Warfel of Great Falls-Billings, Montana; Bishop Anthony B. Taylor of Little Rock, Arkansas; and Bishop Bohdan J. Danylo, whose Ukrainian Greek Catholic Eparchy of Saint Josaphat, headquartered in Parma, Ohio, covers all or part of seven states.

All five bishops are members of the U.S. Conference of Catholics Bishops' Subcommittee on the Home Missions (usccb.org/committees/catholic-home-missions).

They were meeting that day in the Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center in Jefferson City.

Bishop McKnight is the subcommittee's chairman.

"Everything to gain"

Bishop McKnight reminded the children in St. Martins that all who are baptized receive a calling from God to love and serve Him and other people.



LEFT: Bishop Anthony B. Taylor of Little Rock, Arkansas; Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City; Bishop Bohdan J. Danylo, eparch of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Eparchy of Saint Josaphat, headquartered in Parma, Ohio; Bishop Michael W. Warfel of Great Falls-Billings, Montana; and Bishop Chad W. Zielinski of New Ulm, Minnesota, gather outside St. Martin School in St. Martins on Oct. 4, the feastday of St. Francis of Assisi. The bishops would meet later that day in Jefferson City as members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions. **RIGHT:** St. Martin School Principal Julie Clingman takes part in the tractor parade after Mass. **BELOW:** St. Martin School students gather for the pet blessing.

— Photos by Jay Nies

"St. Francis lived that vocation very, very intensely," the bishop said in his homily. "He had a very special call. Not everybody has the call to live in a religious life, with the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience."

But because St. Francis decided to embrace the life God intended for him, "he had great joy, even in his poverty."

It took St. Francis a while to get there.

He indulged in worldly pursuits throughout his youth until a spiritual encounter with God changed everything.

In a decaying, neglected chapel, St. Francis heard Jesus, from the cross, tell him to "build My church."

Misunderstanding the call, the young man went about rebuilding the chapel.

"And then he discovered,

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

that's not what God was calling him to do," said Bishop McKnight.

"God was calling him not simply to rebuild the church building, but to help reform the Church, which is the peo-

ple," the bishop stated.

St. Francis spent his entire life fulfilling that vocation, of loving God and his neighbor intensely.

"He discovered that he had nothing to lose and everything to gain by loving God. It's that simple," said Bishop



McKnight.

The bishop told of how Francis's intense love for God led him also to love all of God's creation.

Even the birds and a formerly vicious wolf responded to the saint's preaching and direction.

"You see," said Bishop McKnight, "the person who loves intensely is able to accomplish a lot of things that we think are unimaginable."

He said everyone is called to live with a sense of spiritual poverty — "where we have everything to gain and nothing to lose by accepting all of God's gifts with a profound sense of gratitude."



Bishop McKnight said the most profound expression of that gratitude is the celebration of the Eucharist, through which the people offer God bread and wine made by human hands.

Then, "we're given the great gift of giving Jesus

witness our faith and love for God by how we treat one another."

Pets and tractors

Bishop McKnight thanked everyone "from the bottom of my heart" for the hospitality shown to him and his fellow bishops and for the work of the students and their teachers in preparing for the Mass.

Shortly after the closing strains of "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name," the bishops, the children, their teachers and some parents gathered in the churchyard as Fr. Doke called down a blessing upon the animals.

This is a time-honored Catholic tradition for St. Francis's feastday.

Signs welcoming the bishops and highlighting their home states adorned the walkway outside church.

The bishops and all the children of the school then looked on as a procession of vintage tractors rumbled past the school.

Among the drivers were Fr. Doke and Julie Clingman, principal.

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Bp. Taylor breaks down prayer at all-school Mass in Hermann

By Jay Nies

“Six P’s of prayer ... plus one.”

And $5 \times 4 = 20$.

“Remember that when you go home and tell your parents what you learned today at school!” Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of the Diocese of Jefferson City told the students of St. George School in Hermann Oct. 5.

He was referring to the homily given at Mass that day by Bishop Anthony B. Taylor of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Four Catholic bishops were present for Mass in St. George Church, including an eparch of an Eastern Rite Catholic Church.

They are members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee on the Home Missions (usccb.org/committees/catholic-home-missions).

Bishop McKnight is the subcommittee’s chairman.

They had gathered for meetings the previous day in the Alphonse J. Schwartz Memorial Catholic Center in Jefferson City and were making field visits to various locations in Central Missouri.

Joining Bishop McKnight at the altar were Bishop Taylor, whose diocese includes the entire state of Arkansas, Bishop Michael W. Warfel of

the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, which takes in about half of Montana; and Bishop Bohdan J. Danylo, whose Ukrainian Greek Catholic Eparchy of Saint Josaphat, headquartered in Parma, Ohio, covers all or part of seven states.

Father Philip Niekamp, pastor of St. George Parish and of Church of the Risen Savior Parish in Rhineland, also concelebrated.

Six plus one

Bishop Taylor preached a homily on the reading in the Gospel According to Luke (11:1-4), in which Jesus’s Apostles ask Him to teach them how to pray.

Jesus’s response is commonly referred to as “The Lord’s Prayer” or the “Our Father.”

“I’d like you to notice that

Jesus is not so much telling us what to pray, as He is telling us how to pray,” said Bishop Taylor.

He summed it up with six P’s.

“We start out by praying, ‘Our Father.’ We’re putting ourself in God’s presence,” Bishop Taylor stated.

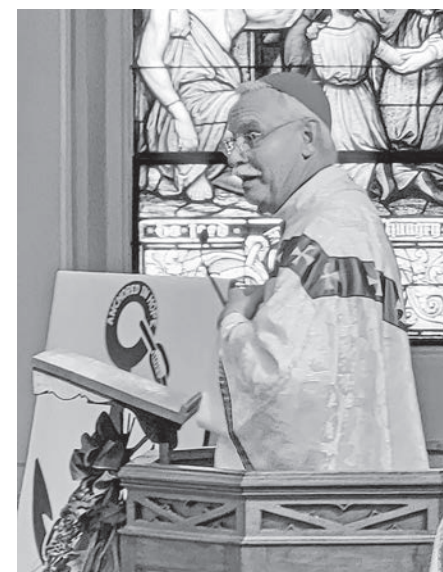
“And then we say, ‘Hallowed be Thy name,’ which means, ‘PRAISED be Your name,’” he said. “So we’re praising God. We remember that He’s our Master, we’re His servants, we depend on Him, and He’s so good to us.”

The next “P” is purpose.

“We say, ‘Thy kingdom come’ — not ‘my kingdom come,’ and ‘Thy will be done’ — not ‘my will be done,’”



LEFT: Bishop Michael W. Warfel of Great Falls-Billings, Montana; Father Philip Niekamp, pastor of the Hermann and Rhineland parishes; Bishop W. Shawn McKnight; Ukrainian Greek Catholic Bishop Bohdan J. Danylo of Parma, Ohio; and Bishop Anthony B. Taylor of Little Rock, Arkansas, concelebrate at an all-school Mass Oct. 5 in St. George Church in Hermann. **RIGHT:** Bishop Taylor preaches the homily.



— Photos by Jay Nies

Bishop Taylor noted. “So we make His purposes our own.”

The next is petition.

“We turn to God with our needs: ‘Give us this day

our daily bread,’ meaning, ‘everything we need,’” he said.

He pointed out that Jesus didn’t say, “Give us this day

our cake and ice cream.”

“It’s not everything we might want, but it’s everything we need,” said Bishop Taylor.

Then comes a request for pardon — forgiveness — and a renewed resolve to extend pardon to other people.

Finally, a request for protection: “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

“So, that’s how we pray,” said Bishop Taylor. “We put ourselves in God’s presence, we praise God, we make His purposes our own, we petition Him for our needs, we seek pardon and extend pardon, and then we put our confidence in God’s protection.”

“So the next time you pray the Lord’s Prayer, make sure that you’re not just saying a bunch of words, but rather that you consciously put yourself in God’s presence, praise Him, make His purposes your own, petition

your needs, pardon others and ask for pardon, with confidence in God’s protection,” he stated.

He noted that in the next verses of Luke’s Gospel, Jesus tells a parable that encourages persistence in prayer.

“And so the seventh ‘P’ of prayer is to pray persistently!” said Bishop Taylor

Five times four

It was the first time in recent memory — if ever — that four bishops were present at the same time in St. George Church.

The preschoolers through eighth-graders filled the 1915-vintage gothic revival edifice with their singing and responses to the prayers.

The choir sang Schubert’s “Ave Maria” in Latin after Holy Communion.

Special decorations for the Mass included pictures of the heraldry symbols and official mottos of each of the bishops on the U.S. Bishops’ Home Missions subcommittee.

Bishop McKnight thanked Fr. Niekamp, St. George School Principal Amy Schebaum and everyone else who helped prepare for the Mass.

“It’s good to be with you this morning, and thank you for your hospitality,” the bishop stated.

He asked the children and their teachers to pray for the committee and for the Church in Home Mission dioceses throughout the country.

“And we pray for you and encourage you as children of

our Church and at this Catholic school, and emphasize the importance of Catholic education as part of our mission as a parish and indeed our mission as a whole Church,” he said.

In honor of the visiting dignitaries, Fr. Niekamp asked Bishop McKnight if he should offer the students five extra minutes of recess for each bishop who was present.

“Go for it!” said Bishop McKnight. “I’m always happy to be a good excuse for extra recess.”

“Hail Mary” times 50

Earlier in the day, Bishop McKnight and his guests toured the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows and the historical St. Martin Museum in Starkenburg and prayed the Rosary in the stone chapel.

They heard the story of the founding of the former St. Martin Parish; the foundation of the community’s devotion to Jesus’s Mother under her title, Our Lady of Sorrows; stories of favors granted by God through that devotion; and the origin of the annual pilgrimages to the shrine and the tradition of carrying in procession an image of the Blessed Mother that had been inexplicably undamaged in a fire.

They also visited St. Peter School and America’s National Churchill Museum, both in Fulton, and the headquarters for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri in Jefferson City.

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

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Messenger

A quarterly publication by the Missouri Catholic Conference

Faithful Citizenship: Forming Consciences

“We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern.”

—Pope Francis, Morning Meditation in the Chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, Monday, September 16, 2013.

The Catholic Church calls for all individuals to participate in political life to promote the common good. To support this calling, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) offers *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, a teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics. This resource offers guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy.

In this issue of the *Messenger*, we will provide resources to assist the faithful with living their responsibility to properly form their consciences; to engage in civil and respectful public dialogue; and to shape political choices in the coming election, and all elections.



As Catholic citizens, we should remember three things:

(From *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*)

1. Respect for the dignity of each person is the core of Catholic social and moral teaching. This is our most basic principle.
2. We focus on the common good, not our own personal interests. We ask, how can we make the world a better place? Not, how can I improve my own personal situation?
3. We have a responsibility—a true obligation—to form our consciences and participate in the civic life of this nation.

How to Apply Faithful Citizenship:

Be true to the teachings of the Church. Read Scripture, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, teachings from the Holy See, and the statements of our bishops. Read *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* at faithfulcitizenship.org. We need to be sure that our reasoning and judgments are well-grounded in our faith.

Stay well-informed about issues through judicious and reasoned engagement with the immense world of information in the twenty-

first century. Just as all issues are not equal, all sources are not equal. For example, an individual’s blog—while potentially very insightful—may not have the same fidelity to factual truth as our media sources that hold themselves to professional standards of journalistic ethics, imperfect though they are.

Remain in contact with our representatives in local, state, and federal government. Our responsibility to form our consciences leads to an obligation to be *active citizens*. We communicate regularly with our leaders—not only during election seasons.

Engage in reasoned, compassionate, and loving dialogue with others—Catholics and non-Catholics alike—about the issues and choices that we are facing as a nation. Remember that we are called first to witness the Gospel, and through that witness, to share our social teaching, to highlight the moral dimensions of issues, and to participate in debate on public policy.

The dual calling of faith and citizenship lies at the heart of what it means to be a Catholic in the United States. We stand on the shoulders of many Catholics who have gone before us, who have helped the United States of America become a better country because of their faith in a loving God.

continued from previous page...

(Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et Spes*, no. 43)

13. In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. "People in every nation enhance the social dimension of their lives by acting as committed and responsible citizens" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 220). The obligation to participate in political life is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person. . . . As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life" (nos. 1913-1915).

14. Unfortunately, politics in our country often can be a contest of powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites, and media hype. The Church calls for a different kind of political engagement: one shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good, and the protection of the weak and the vulnerable. As Pope Francis reminds us, "Politics, though often denigrated, remains a lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good. . . . I beg the Lord to grant us more politicians who are genuinely disturbed by the state of society, the people, the lives of the poor!" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 205). The Catholic call to faithful citizenship affirms the importance of political participation and insists that public service is a worthy vocation. As citizens, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group. When necessary, our participation should help transform the party to which we belong; we should not let the party transform us in such a way that we neglect or deny fundamental moral truths or approve intrinsically evil acts. We are called to bring together our principles and our political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a civilization of truth and love.

15. Clergy and lay people have complementary roles in public life. We bishops have the primary responsibility to hand on the Church's moral and social teaching. Together with priests and deacons, assisted by religious and lay leaders of the Church, we are to teach fundamental moral principles that help Catholics form their consciences correctly, to provide guidance on the moral dimensions of public decisions, and to encourage the faithful to carry out their responsibilities in political life. In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Church's leaders avoid endorsing or opposing candidates. As Pope Benedict XVI stated in *Deus Caritas Est*,

The Church wishes to help form consciences in political life and to stimulate greater insight into the authentic requirements of justice as well as greater readiness to act accordingly, even when this might involve conflict with situations of personal interest... The Church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible. She cannot and must not replace the State. Yet at the same time she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice (no. 28).

16. As the Holy Father also taught in *Deus Caritas Est*, "The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society is proper to the lay faithful" (no. 29). This duty is more critical than ever in today's political environment, where Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and too few candidates fully share the Church's comprehensive commitment to the life and dignity of every human being from conception to natural death. Yet this is not a time for retreat or discouragement; rather, it is a time for renewed engagement. Forming their consciences in accord with Catholic teaching, Catholic lay women and men can become actively involved: running for office; working within political parties; communicating their concerns and positions to elected officials; and joining diocesan social mission or advocacy networks, state Catholic conference initiatives, community organizations, and other efforts to apply authentic moral teaching in the public square. Even those who cannot vote have the right to have their voices heard on issues that affect their lives and the common good.

To access the entire document, visit the USCCB website: www.usccb.org/resources/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf

Important Dates To Remember:

Oct.
25

In-person absentee voting begins, under a new elections law. The no-excuse absentee voting period requires a valid photo ID at the polls.

Oct.
26

The last day to request an absentee ballot online or by mail by 5 p.m.

Nov.
8

Election Day: Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Absentee ballots must be returned or postmarked by Election Day. A valid photo ID is required.



Bishops Issue Statement on Amendment 3 (Recreational Marijuana)

We, the Catholic Bishops of Missouri, issue this statement to express our concerns with Amendment 3, which would legalize the recreational use of marijuana in the state. We believe that marijuana legalization will negatively impact Missouri families, health outcomes, communities, and workers.

While some are focused on the increased state revenues that will be generated by a taxable marijuana industry, we are concerned with the social costs of increased marijuana usage. Although usage will be restricted to age 21 and older, legalization sends the message that marijuana is safe and socially acceptable. Many states that have legalized marijuana have the highest teen usage rates. We know that regular marijuana use has been connected to respiratory problems; mental health issues (including increased anxiety and suicidal thoughts); and learning, memory, and attention loss.

We are also concerned with how legalization could impact the state's workforce. In addition to impacting worker productivity

and safety, increased marijuana use could hinder individuals' ability to find or keep meaningful employment, especially in jobs that require drug testing.

Pope Francis has said that reducing drug addiction "will not be achieved by the liberalization of drug use." Instead, we must address those underlying social and economic issues that can lead to substance abuse. For these reasons, we urge Catholics and all persons of good will to oppose Amendment 3.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF MISSOURI



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Archbishop of St. Louis



+ James V. Johnston, Jr.

Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.
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+ Shawn McKnight

Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight
Executive Chairman
Bishop of Jefferson City



+ Edward M. Rice

Most Reverend Edward M. Rice
Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Approved September 30, 2022

Questions to Ask Candidates

The following are suggested questions to ask candidates to determine their position on issues of importance to voters. These questions address legislation that the Missouri Catholic Conference supports as part of the MCC's public policy priorities:

- **Protecting Human Life:** Do you support/oppose enhancing support for new mothers and children? Do you support/oppose maintaining bans on abortion?
- **Death Penalty Repeal:** Do you support/oppose a trial judge being required to give a life sentence if the jury cannot unanimously decide on the death penalty in a capital murder case?
- **Criminal Justice Reform:** Do you support/oppose parole for non-violent offenders over 65 years of age who have served at least 30 years for their crime and have a good prison record?
- **Immigration:** Do you support/oppose comprehensive reforms that offer a path to citizenship for the undocumented who live in the U.S. and do not have a criminal record, expand family reunification, secure our borders, and establish humane border enforcement?
- **Education:** Do you support/oppose legislation that would expand educational choices for families?

MCC Annual Assembly Goes Virtual (Again!) New Podcast Series Available



MCC FROM THE
CAPITOL



Scan here to listen

The 2022 Annual Assembly will once again be held in a virtual format, featuring opening remarks from Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski. Keep an ear out for the newest series from MCC from the Capitol; we invite you to tune in to this year's episodes to hear even more engaging conversations about important topics. Visit our website at mocatholic.org or scan the QR code to listen to new (or old) podcast episodes!

Annual Assembly | Podcast Episodes:

Faithful Citizenship: Bishop Shawn McKnight (Diocese of Jefferson City) discusses how Catholics can form their consciences in order to answer the Church's call to faithful citizenship.

Consistent Life Ethic: Aimee Murphy, a Catholic, describes why she created Rehumanize International, a nonpartisan, secular organization dedicated to bringing an end to all aggressive violence against humans.

Immigration and The Church: Marie Kenyon, attorney and director of the Peace and Justice Commission for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, details her experience at the border and explains how Catholics are called to support immigrants and the law.

History of Catholic Education: Mike Hoey, former director of the Missouri Catholic Conference, explains the history of the Blaine Amendment in Missouri and how its anti-Catholic language kick-started the MCC's role in defending Catholic education at the capitol.

Biodiesel's Impact on Climate Change: Donnell Rehagen, CEO of Clean Fuels Alliance America, headquartered in Jefferson City, discusses the impact biodiesel fuel has on the environment, public health, and the state of Missouri.

Thanks to Knights of Columbus

The Missouri Catholic Conference wishes to thank the Missouri Knights of Columbus for their financial support of the MCC Messenger.

Many thanks, MO K of C!



CONNECT

From page 4

women here and one another with kindness, graciousness, and realizing how sacred we all are in the Body of Christ.

"May all who share in this meal be blessed," she prayed. "And let us remember who we are and Who God is as we reach out in kindness and hope to provide a wonderful meal to these men and women."

I.C. parishioner Mary Beth Hoey said she had been looking for ways help people who are homeless but didn't know where to begin.

When Mrs. Saucier invited Mrs. Hoey to help with the lunch, she jumped at the chance.

"It's a very good way to start," Mrs. Hoey stated. "I hope I find other opportunities, as well."

Parishioner Natalie Daimler said volunteering is a good way to give back to the community.

"I'm not homeless and not in fear of becoming homeless, so I try to help those who are in need," she stated.

She said it was impossible to miss God's animating presence among all the people taking part in Project Homeless Connect.

"He's here among all the people who keep coming in here to help," she said.

"Do what we can"

The Rev. Karen Taylor, pastor of missions and discipleship for First United Methodist Church, touched base with the lunchroom volunteers before the event began.

First UMC maintains a vigorous outreach to people who are homeless.

"One of our wildly important goals is ending homelessness in Jefferson City," said Rev. Taylor. "Which we know we won't do by ourselves. But it's one of the important things that we're working on."

She said Project Homeless Connect is a great example of people in the community uniting behind an important effort.

Why?

"Because they're children of God," she answered.

"Anybody deserves to be treated like a human being," she stated. "And if there's something we can do to help

remove barriers to them getting off the street, we want to do what we can to help them out."

She noted that many of the churches and organizations participating in the day's events are members of the city's Homeless Task Force, which helped organize the first Project Homeless Connect eight years ago.

The format was based on other similarly successful events in Columbia and other communities.

Member congregations also established a local Room at the Inn (RATI) winter overnight homeless shelter based on similar operations in Columbia, Mexico, Moberly and other communities.

"We just kind of dove in, in part because COVID shut down the Salvation Army shelter for a time," said Rev. Taylor.

Also, since that shelter houses families, some people are not eligible to stay there.

"So, Room at the Inn here focuses on adults," said Rev. Taylor. "If there's any families with children, then we would refer them to the Salvation Army."

Staffed by volunteers, RATI will be open each night, beginning in January, in the community room in the Catholic Charities Center.

Shortage of housing

St. Peter parishioner Mary Telthorst, who is now president of the parish's conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, volunteers for Project Homeless Connect each year.

She's always pleased to see so many agencies gathered in one place, united to take on homelessness.

She said the medical and dental services from local agencies are essential to people who are sick and uninsured.

"Things like vision screening or medical follow-up for high blood pressure are services you can't get if you're homeless with limited means and you don't have insurance," she said.

She noted that one of the biggest obstacles to people finding a home is the shortage of affordable housing.

"People are coming and



Seventh-graders from Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City prepare to serve lemonade and iced tea during lunch at Project Homeless Connect Sept. 30 in Jefferson City. — Photos by Jay Nies

saying I have a Section 8 voucher and can't find anywhere to live," she said.

Some are staying in local shelters because there are no openings, or landlords won't return their calls.

"It's just a vicious cycle," she stated.

A lot of need

Diane Struempf, a member of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, helped answer questions and give out information about Building Community Bridges, for which she serves as secretary and food-pantry coordinator.

Earlier that day, she picked up food donations from local merchants and brought them to the event.

This included 15 cases of bananas from Aldi.

"Those are going over very well," she noted.

Building Community Bridges is a nonprofit organization that helps local children and families in need.

It operates a food pantry twice a week and provides tutoring and an array of after-school activities for children.

Mrs. Struempf got involved in the organization in the aftermath of the 2019 tornado that ravaged parts of Jefferson City and Eldon.

"Being able to help the community is fulfilling — knowing that you're helping people that don't have money for food," she said.

"There's a lot of poverty, a lot of need," she added.

For new mothers

Nearby, a husband and wife

who are pregnant with twins laughed with joy while holding up one of the realistic models of a baby who has been developing for 12 weeks in the womb.

The models are an eye-catching draw to the services available from Jefferson City Birthright.

"We're giving people information about the services we provide to new mothers and women who are pregnant," said Mary Davis, a member of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Taos, who was helping to staff the Birthright table.

She said Project Homeless Connect is a great way for Birthright to network with other organizations and publicize the services and donated items they offer — including maternity clothes, baby clothes, diapers, wipes and other baby items.

The Birthright volunteers let the models on the table — showing a pre-born baby's size and weight at 12, 16 and 24 weeks, either with light or dark skin — speak for themselves.

"That's a replica, but when people see it and realize 'that's what growing inside of me,' there's never a question about it," said Cathedral of St. Joseph parishioner Anne Rapp.

"You can talk until you're blue in the face, but seeing is believing."

"It changes everything"

Mrs. Telthorst said it was great to see members of neighboring church groups united in purpose and cooperating to do God's work. Individual congregations can only do so

much, but networking and putting people in touch with various faith- and community-based resources "goes a long way in helping somebody's life," she said.

Mrs. Saucier spoke of abundant avenues of continuing to help people who are homeless and in need: from volunteering to assist with Room at the Inn, to helping prepare and serve hot daily meals at the Salvation Army, to providing other services for people who are homeless and in need.

"People are looking for opportunities to do this kind of thing," said Mrs. Saucier. "That's why they're here today."

She said spending time with people who are in need of these services is an unforgettable encounter with Christ.

"It changes you," she said. "It changes everything. You get to know their names. They're your friends. You can't pass them up when you see them."

Keeping good company

The morning after Project Homeless Connect, Ms. Daimler wrote to God in her gratitude journal, "Thank You for this day and for giving me this chance to serve other people."

Ms. Stoll, with Catholic Charities, said she gives thanks every day for being chosen to do this kind of work and have these kinds of experiences.

"We get to experience Jesus every minute!" she said.

Fr. Flatley said he hopes everyone who participated, especially the young people, came away understanding that the people they're serving are worthy of their love and care.

"I hope it reminds us all that we're one Body and that Jesus's last plea before His crucifixion was to love each other the way that 'I have loved you,'" Fr. Flatley stated.

"And it seems that Christ spent a lot of time with those on the margins!" the priest added. "He seemed to spend most of his time with sinners. I have a feeling that he might have preferred their company."

UKRAINIAN

From page 1

was coming to a close.

The students followed attentively as Bishop Danylo spoke before the final blessing.

“Prayers for Ukraine? You know what I mean,” he stated. “There’s a war happening over there right now.”

He asked the children to remember three things:

“First of all, pray for your family and be thankful that you have them with you,” he said. “Because there are so many children that have to leave their home. They can no longer even be with Mom and Dad.”

Often, a mother and her children flee the danger in Ukraine while the father has to stay behind, said Bishop Danylo.

“Second, pray for this school,” he suggested. “There are so many children in Ukraine who have nowhere to study — either in a basement or the subways.”

They cannot go to school because their school has been destroyed.

“So every time you wake up in the morning and sometimes not that happy to go to school, say a prayer for those kids who cannot go to school,” said Bishop Danylo.

Finally, he advised them to pray for their parish and community — “thanking God for being able

to spend time together and gather for prayer.”

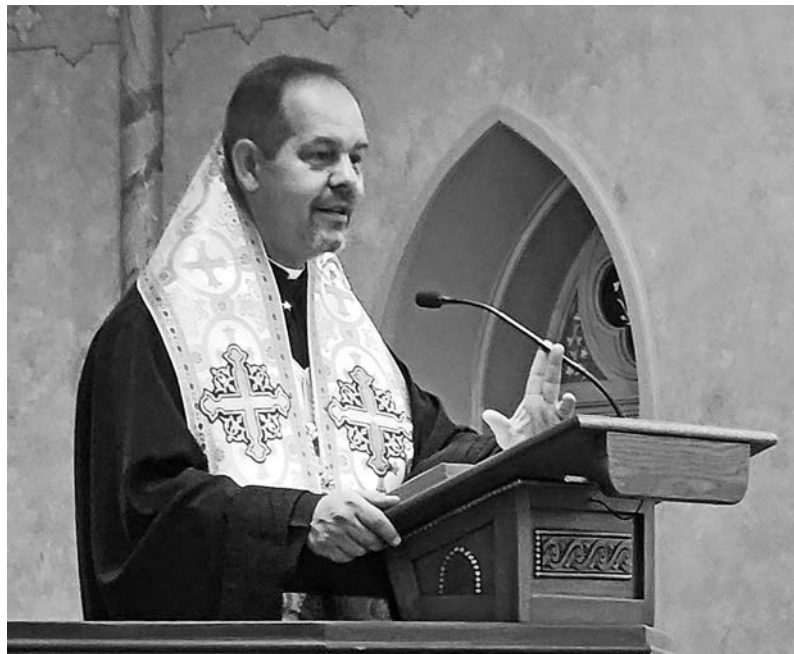
“God bless you!” he said. “And once again, count your blessings, especially family, school and your community.”

Made for sainthood

Joining Bishop Danylo and Bishop McKnight at the altar was Bishop Michael W. Warfel of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, Montana, who preached the homily.

Father Jeremy Secrist, pastor, also concelebrated.

Students outside church held signs welcoming each of



Ukrainian Greek Catholic Bishop Bohdan J. Danylo of the Eparchy of Saint Josephat in Parma, Ohio, speaks to the students of St. Peter School in Jefferson City at the end of an all-school Mass on Oct. 6. — Photo by Jay Nies

the bishops before and after Mass.

“You look like a very holy group of students,” Bishop Warfel stated in his homily.

He talked about saints in heaven and why the Church honors them, especially on their feastdays.

“When someone does something great, it’s common to have a party for them, a banquet in order to celebrate something that they’ve done,” he stated.

“Of course,” he said, “we honor the saints here in church with the Banquet of the Lord.”

He said it’s appropriate to stop and appreciate someone who lived a very holy life and attained the purpose for which God created every single human being — “which is getting to heaven — being a member of the Communion of Saints.”

“So, we honor the saints for their response to the grace of God in their lives,” said Bishop Warfel. “We also seek their intercession.”

Everyone in the Church is part of the mystical Body of Christ, and the saints in heaven are closest to God.

“If you have a particular need, you’re going to turn to

someone who you know to be a holy person,” said Bishop Warfel. “You’re going to turn to that person and ask them to pray for you.”

All the while, it’s good to learn about saints and the witness they continue to offer about leading a holy life.

“Every one of us has been created by God to be a saint!”

FR. CÉSAR

From page 7

the Apostles: “You will be My witnesses,” (1:8).

It’s a message that resonates with Fr. Anicama, whose ties to this diocese go back to priests from here who served in the missions in Peru.

“You and I can be a missionary wherever we are,” he noted.

“Being a missionary is to tell of the glory of God to all the earth,” he said. “The people who need to hear about the love of God are in our own workplaces, in our own schools, in our own families, wherever we are.”

Retired Bishop Sheridan of Colorado Springs dies at age 77

Catholic News Service

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Retired Bishop Michael J. Sheridan, a St. Louis native who served as the bishop of Colorado Springs from 2003-2021, died peacefully at Penrose Hospital Sept. 27, the diocese announced.

He was 77. No cause of death was given.

the bishop stated.

“All the billions of people who have ever existed, God has created them for Himself,” he said, “that they may attain heaven — life in the Communion of Saints!”

Bishop Warfel said God gives everyone the precious gift of time and the opportunity to respond to His grace in order to become the holy people He created them to be.

The bishop recommending turning to the Lord each day with confidence, seeking His help in becoming the holy saint He created each person to be.

“So that as we go through our life, we can become that holy, saintly person that God desires and created us to be,” he stated.

Catholic Home Missions

The bishops also visited St. Martin Church and School in St. Martins, the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg, St. George School in Hermann, St. Peter School and the America’s National Churchill Museum in Fulton,

and the Catholic Charities Center in Jefferson City.

Bishop McKnight noted that the visiting bishops’ home dioceses are in many ways like the Jefferson City diocese — “a little bit more rural, perhaps not having as many Catholics, but nonetheless very vibrant.”

Nearly 40 percent of Catholic dioceses in the United States and its territories are classified as Home Missions dioceses.

For many reasons, including geographic isolation and a high instance of poverty among the larger population, they need outside help in providing basic pastoral ministry to all or some of their people.

Grants from the Catholic Home Missions, supported by an annual collection taken up in parishes throughout the United States, help fill the gaps.

For instance, the Jefferson City diocese has received Home Missions grants for Hispanic ministry.

“The Catholic Home Missions Collection supports dioceses like ours and the works of the Church,” said Bishop McKnight.

As World Mission Sunday approaches, Fr. Anicama requested prayers for more priestly and religious vocations in the Church.

“I’m the only priest in the diocese who’s a native Spanish-speaker,” he said. “I tell the people we need priests from the Hispanic community.”

He also asked for prayers “for God’s healing hand to be placed on the poorest and most abandoned people, and for those who have lost loved ones.”

named him an auxiliary bishop of St. Louis in 1997.

The pope named Bishop Sheridan as coadjutor of the Diocese of Colorado Springs Dec. 4, 2001.

He automatically became its bishop in 2003 upon the resignation of Bishop Richard C. Hanifen, then 72, and was installed Jan. 30, 2003.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 7 at Holy Apostles Church, with Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York as the principal celebrant.

Born March 4, 1945, in St. Louis, he was ordained a priest of the St. Louis Archdiocese May 29, 1971.

Pope St. John Paul II

STEWARDSHIP

From page 1

Hispanic ministry and the diocese's efforts to strengthen and streamline diocesan and parish communications.

These and other diocesan ministries bolstered by the CSA have a direct impact on each parish's efforts to promote discipleship and build up the Church.

Shared responsibility

This year's \$1.1 million CSA goal is lower than last year's, due to the number of parishes that have already moved over to a stewardship model of supporting the work of the Church.

Each participating parish's individual goal was increased by 2 percent from last year's.

Once again, this year's CSA funding formula highlights the crucial relationship among individual parishes and the diocese as a whole.

After the diocesan goal has been met, any parish meeting its individual goal is eligible to receive a rebate of 10 percent of the parish's goal, plus 90 percent of any funds raised above that goal.

Parish goals must be met with cash and/or pledges received by March 15, 2023, and fulfilled by the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

Moving toward renewal

Next year at this time, all parishes and missions in the diocese will conduct a parish-based Catholic Stewardship Renewal (CSR), as part of the diocesan pastoral plan for carrying-out the mission of the Church more effectively.

About one-third of the parishes have already made the transition to the stewardship model.

Under that model, parishes support the work of the diocese by tithing their offertory collections.

The focus for those parishes this year and for all parishes in the diocese next year will be on making a formal commitment to support their parish through prayer, participation and sacrificial giving.

Father Stephen Jones, diocesan director stewardship, said the CSR is much more than a piece of paper.

"It's the culmination of a

yearly examination of our relationship with God and our commitment to serving Him with gratitude," Fr. Jones stated.

He likened the CSR to how Catholics renew their Baptismal promises every year at Mass on Easter Sunday.

"We joyfully do that every Easter at the culmination of our Lenten preparation," he said.

Likewise, the Catholic Stewardship Renewal comes after thoughtfully and prayerfully REVIEWING one's own commitment to help-

ing sustain the work of the Church; REDIRECTING, if necessary, any of those efforts towards work in the Church that one is better suited or more passionate about; RE-NEWING the passion for service in God's name; and formally RECOMMITTING to another year of full participation and support.

"I call those 'the Four Rs,'" Fr. Jones stated.

In parishes that have adopted the stewardship model, the Catholic Stewardship Renewal process includes hearing Christian witness from

fellow parishioners as well as spiritual guidance from the pulpit at Mass.

"The actual renewal should be a crescendo, a moment where we necessarily make a public affirmation and commitment," said Fr. Jones.

"It's our way of publicly stating that we are a part of the parish community and that we support the mission and its vision of the parish," he stated.

Committed to communion

Fr. Jones applied the same principle to the parishes that

are taking part in their final Catholic Stewardship Appeal this year.

"Anytime we give of ourselves sacrificially for the CSA or our parish, or the second collections that support the universal Church, we're doing what the stewardship model asks us to do," he said.

"Namely, we are demonstrating our understanding that our parishes are fully part of the Church Universal — at the local, diocesan and international levels, through communion with our bishop and the Pope," he said.

OSMAN

From page 6

McKnight on special projects.

On Sept. 30, Jacob Luecke, her successor as diocesan communications director, released Bishop McKnight's statement on the news of her papal appointment.

"I am delighted that Helen's commitment to the Church is being utilized by the Dicastery for Communication, with her professional expertise and wide range of experience in Church communications," the bishop stated.

"Helen is both a leader in our chancery as well as an internationally-recognized advisor on Catholic communications," he said. "I trust her insights will help expand the voice of our Church, strengthen our global communion and lead to a growing faith in God."

"Listening and dialogue"

"My Grandma Luebbering is smiling down on me today," Mrs. Osman said in reaction to the announcement.

She pointed to all the people in her family who had made sacrifices while encouraging her and paving the way for her success.

"We stand on the shoulders of giants," she said, "and we're all connected."

She called to mind the rural environment she was raised in, in which each member of the family had an important role in getting the work done on the farm.

"I believe it's the best way to grow up as a kid and the most difficult way to earn a living as an adult," she stated.

She said it instilled in her a sense of responsibility and knowledge that everyone, regardless of age, needs to pitch in and help do what needs to be done.

"It's a discipline you acquire, and through that, you learn the value of the

common good," she said. "We are all dependent on one another, and 'it's not about me.'"

Those insights apply to all things, including parish life.

"In this diocese, we call that co-responsibility," she said. "It means more than just being affiliated. It means being involved and knowing that it can cause real problems if you don't do your part."

That's where peace and reconciliation come in, which are core elements of SIGNIS's mission to promote the Gospel around the world.

"And peace is not the absence of con-

house arrest by local governments and can't speak out against injustices.

"These people aren't looking for nice phrases, they're looking for honest hope," she said. "And they believe listening and dialogue and encounter are ways to bring true Christian hope."

For the common good

Mrs. Osman asks for prayers to be able to continue appreciating God's humor and the joy that comes with it.

"Because whenever you take yourself too seriously, you're in big trouble!" she said.



flict," Mrs. Osman pointed out. "Peace is WORK! It is going into all of that messiness, and focusing not so much on what divides us, but understanding what unites us.

"That to me is the core of being in communion," she said. "It's about listening to each other and figuring out what's best for the common good."

She believes the Church can be an effective antidote to the growing polarization and isolation around the world, often rooted in fear of change and fear of "the other."

"Pope Francis is telling us, 'Let's go to the periphery, let's encounter each other, let's see where the Holy Spirit takes us,'" she stated. "That message is really encouraging to Catholic communicators around the world."

Some of them live and work in places where Christians are the miniscule minority, some live in places being overtaken by rising oceans and violent storms.

In some dioceses, bishops are under

This summer, she attended SIGNIS's international congress in South Korea.

Usually held every four years, it had to be delayed for a year by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There were so many rich presentations," she said. "And of course, we had people from 80 different countries attend."

She visited a shrine built in memory of Korea's 19th century martyrs, most of whom were laypeople.

"They stood their ground because they believed in a God Who says everyone has dignity," she noted. "And they wanted that not just for themselves but for the good of the whole community and all the people who would come after them."

That brought to mind her own forebears in faith.

"I don't know how to trace a direct line, but I do know that there are people who loved me, very simply," she said. "And in some ways, what I'm now doing is a response to that love."



By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

1. This puzzle features strange, unusual, even weird characteristics of ____ in Mo.
7. "A rose by any other ____ would smell as sweet," —"Romeo and Juliet," Shakespeare.
11. ____ are used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.
12. Batman's younger partner.
13. "Pere John Vianney was terrified to ____ that in the long roll of the ages not a single (diocesan) parish-priest had been raised to the Church's altar as a saint," — *The Secret of the Cure d'Arz*, Henri Gheon.
16. Town in Belgium where many WWI battles were fought.
18. ____ Reynolds Tobacco Company.
19. The southwest corner of Jefferson and Dunklin streets in Jefferson City has had a continuous, and colorful, history as a saloon-bar-restaurant-taproom since at least 1860. The ECCO ____ continues the legacy today.
21. "When my mom received Communion, a real peace came over her and she began to glow. And I knew the Eucharist was real. I knew I would ____ leave the Eucharist," —Lynn Adelman in "Why I Love Being Catholic," *Dynamic Catholic*.
23. "Like all vanishing species, the (old mountain guides) insisted on being themselves ____ matter what anybody else thought," — *Switchbacks: True Stories from the Canadian Rockies*, Sid Marty.
25. "Sister Fidelma stared in bewilderment at the woe-____-gone expression of the usually smiling Abbot Laisan," — *The Spiteful Shadow*, Peter Tremayne.
26. "He didn't say much, kinda quiet and ____, and if you spoke at all, you just said hi, to Big John," —"Big Bad John," 1961 song composed and sung by Jimmy Dean.
28. Letters for Public School.
29. Startle a LADY BEETLE and you get a stinky surprise. When threatened, the brightly colored insects release blood from their ____ joints. The blood smells and tastes awful, which makes most beetle-eaters quickly lose their appetites.
30. "Mozart composed his music not for the ____, but for everybody," —Andre Rieu.
31. After years of searching in Mark Twain Cave in

Hannibal, the long-sought signature of ____ Clemens (aka Mark Twain) was finally found in the cave in 2019.

32. We had a choice between the buffet or the ____ carte dinner (2 wds.).

33. "You can't ____ around feeling sorry for yourself, and expect good things to happen. It doesn't work that way," —*HpLyrikz.com*.

36. As the name suggests, GROUNDHOGS prefer to stay on the ground. However, when its tummy starts rumbling it will climb into ____ to snack on paw-paws, persimmons, and other fruits.

40. Democracy is as American as motherhood and apple ____.

41. Like many insects a WOOD ROACH'S body can survive for weeks without its ____ (!) Even weirder, its detached noggin can remain alive and sense its surroundings for several hours until it runs out of energy.

43. Abbr. meaning "in other words."

44. ____-huh; slangy yes.

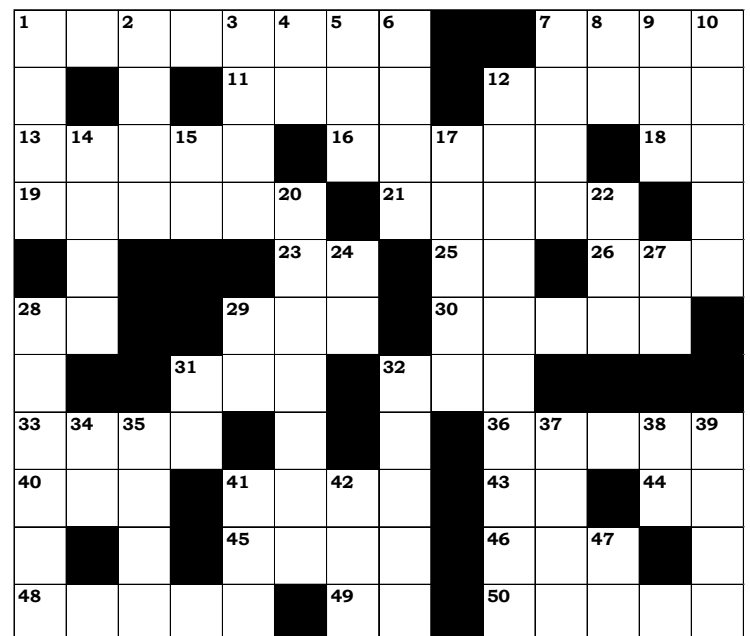
45. Tennis great Arthur ____ ; won 3 Grand Slam singles titles.

46. "____ Clear Day, You Can See Forever," —1970 musical comedy-drama film starring Barbara Streisand (2 wds.).

48. When an ELK bugles, it actually makes two sounds at once: a low-pitched roar and a high-pitched whistle. To do this, it blows through its ____ and nose together — like playing a trumpet and a kazoo at the same time.

49. "It ____ part of my business to know things that I have not been told," —*Sherlock Holmes and the Devil's Grail*, Barrie Roberts.

50. "But for us who want ____,



God is silence," —*The God Who Comes*, Carlo Carretto.

DOWN

1. "Let's assume that people and animals both have at least a basic level of free ____ when it comes to deciding how to act," —*The Inner Life of Animals*, Peter Wohlleben.
2. Hawaiian feast.
3. Because their bodies are ____ and skinny, most SNAKES have only one lung. Like people, they have a windpipe that splits into two smaller airways. The right airway ends in a lung. The left ends in a tiny, useless pouch.
4. Pope Saint John Paul ____.
5. The chicks of RUDDY TURNSTONE birds learn to ____ when they're 19 days old. Two days later, they migrate thousands of miles south, mostly over the open water of the Pacific for winter. The adults have already left (!) so these youngsters cross all by themselves.
6. Cable sports channel.
7. A PEREGRINE FALCON can dive at speeds over 200 mph. To keep air from surging up its ____ and popping its lungs like over-filled balloons, it has little bumps in its nostrils that slow down the rush of air.
8. Stomach muscle.
9. Russian word for "peace"; also, the name of a USSR space station.
10. "It was not necessary that Holmes and I talk incessantly in order to ____ good fellowship," —*The Jewel of Covent Garden*, Wayne Worcester.
12. Last book of the Bible.
14. Lots and lots of years.
15. Professional patient caregiver.
17. "...if you are obedient to (the Lord) and do not ____ against the Lord's command...well and good," (1 Samuel 12:14).
20. "...love your ____, and pray for those who persecute you," (Matthew 5:44).
22. Q-U.
24. Bashan king (Psalm 136:20).
27. "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if ____ does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses," —Pope Paul VI.
28. Part of a cheerleader's gear.
29. Two of these follow "tra."
31. Prefix for cure or cede.
32. South Am. mountain chain, the longest continental mountain chain in the world.
34. Letters for Owens-Illinois; the iconic and world's leading glass bottle manufacturer.
35. The Jefferson City diocese had missions in this South Am. country for over 40 years.
37. Nevada city.
38. Letters for the European Union.
39. "The old ____ comforts, the new pinches. But given time enough, the new comes to be the old, and fits as gently," —Brother Cadfael in *The Raven in the Foregate*, Ellis Peters.
41. ____! That'll teach you!
42. A type of tuna.
47. Letters for artificial intelligence.

ANSWERS on page 23



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Responding in faith to a warming world change: My little hemlock

By Mike Hoey

Ten years ago, I bought an Eastern Hemlock and planted it at the edge of a wooded ravine in my backyard.

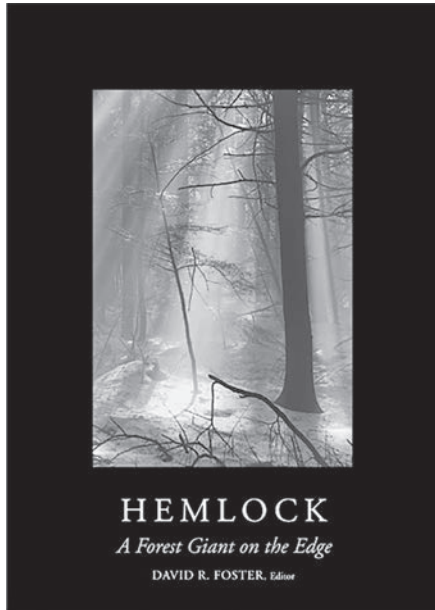
I knew I was tempting fate. *Tsuga canadensis* is an important species in New England and the Great Lakes region and ranges south into the Appalachian Mountains, but the tree likes cool, moist uplands and is not native to most of the Midwest and is certainly no fan of Missouri's hot summers.

I mostly plant native trees, meaning I normally exercise some common sense, but I couldn't resist the little hemlock. Visions of Henry David Thoreau walking in the deep shade of a cathedral-like stand of Hemlocks led me to throw caution to the wind.

Hemlock groves have always fascinated me, and I am not alone. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow sang their praises long ago: "This is the forest primeval. The murmuring pines and hemlocks/Bearded with moss, and in garments green, indistinct in the twilight."

Despite my foolish romantic impulse, my little hemlock has somehow managed to survive,

probably because I planted it in the shade of some large oaks and hickories, which has pro-



tected it to some degree from Missouri's hot summer days.

Most conifers don't like shade, but hemlock is very shade-tolerant and can grow slowly in almost complete shade. They can bide their time in the dark understory of a forest for a century and then, after some disturbance, such as lightning or fire, pick up their growth rate and race toward an opening in the forest canopy.

My hemlock is now 8 feet high and about the same

width. Last year, the utility company cut down a few of the old oaks which were too close to the power lines, giving my hemlock more sunlight. It seems to be growing faster but I will never live to see it as some feathery giant as in a New England forest.

Of course, the little hemlock may not even survive my lifetime. The white oaks I have planted have a better chance of doing that; they're native to Missouri, adapted to our state's hot and humid summers.

Within its range, however, hemlock can become the dominant species, forming a forest canopy that sheds deep shade. Light received by the forest floor may be only 1 percent of the light received at the top.

This deep shade suppresses undergrowth and creates a

micro-climate where summer temperatures can be 10 degrees cooler than the surrounding countryside. The forest floor becomes a deep, soft, almost spongy place favored by many insects adapted to these unique conditions.

It offers an ideal habitat for red-backed salamanders that thrive in the cooler environment amid fallen logs.

Shaded hemlock streams feature cold water, and trout like that; one study found that brown trout and brook trout are two to three times more prevalent in heavily shaded hemlock streams than in hardwood streams.

In winter, deer take refuge in hemlocks to avoid cold winds and deep snow; hardwoods can't compare in providing this kind of shelter.

Old growth stands of hemlock also take up carbon dioxide and store it for centuries,

reducing the greenhouse gas emissions.

But hemlocks are in trouble. The woolly moth adelgid, a tiny insect, just a half a millimeter in size, can kill an entire grove of giant hemlocks (some over 120 feet in height) in five years.

The woolly moth adelgid was accidentally introduced to this country in 1951 when a Japanese hemlock was shipped to a backyard garden in Virginia. Since then, the tiny assassin has spread to 18 states and killed millions of our native hemlocks.

Bearing witness to this unfolding tragedy and trying to understand it are foresters

See HEMLOCK, page 27

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Visit the diocesan EVENT CALENDAR at diojeffcity.org/events.
Want your event listed?
Fill out the ONLINE FORM at diojeffcity.org/event-listing.

Fundraisers & Social Events

Oct. 14-15

St. Robert, St. Robert Bellarmine Ladies Altar & Rosary Society annual Fall sale, 9 am-5 pm

Oct. 15

Jefferson City, K of C Council 14906 BBQ, 11 am-4 pm, McCarty Street Plaza (next to Immaculate Conception Church)

Oct. 16

St. Anthony, St. Anthony of Padua Parish fall supper, 11 am-4 pm; **Westphalia**, St. Joseph Parish fall festival, 11 am-6 pm

Oct. 23

Eldon, Sacred Heart Parish picnic, 11 am-6 pm

Oct. 28

Hannibal, Holy Family Parish CCW Soup Day, 11 am-6 pm, St. Michael's Hall

Oct. 28-29

Columbia, Sacred Heart Parish craft & fabric moving sale, Fri. 1-5 pm, Sat. 10 am-3 pm, Activity Building

FR. DOYLE

From page 8

front to God? To the celebrant? To your fellow parishioners? (Maryland)

A. First, to your question as to "How late is acceptable?" Half a century ago, it was common for moral theologians and liturgists to speak of the "three principal parts of the Mass" — that is, the offertory, consecration and Holy Communion. If you missed any of these, you were not supposed to "count" the Mass.

That minimalist approach has been set aside, lest it encourage the weak of heart to arrive as late as possible. The Mass is now viewed as an integrated whole, a single act of worship from the entrance rite through to the final blessing and dismissal. The current Code of Canon Law says simply, "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass" (Canon 1247).

Those who habitually arrive late need to rethink their priorities, and a gentle reminder from time to time in the parish bulletin might be in order. (I would not do it from the pulpit — for fear of embarrassing and perhaps "turning off permanently" someone sitting in front of me.)

It strikes me that if someone were invited to a state dinner at the White House, he wouldn't call and say he'd be a little late. Forgive me if I sound unpatriotic, but the eucharistic meal trumps a state dinner. I even think that we should get to Mass a few minutes early — to relax, pray and prepare ourselves spiritually to meet Jesus in Holy Communion.

Oct. 30

Crocker, St. Cornelius Church 60th Anniversary, 11:30 am-2 pm, to RSVP email barbarabritt82@gmail.com; **Jefferson City**, St. Peter Parish Holy Name Society pancake breakfast, 7:30-11 am, Selinger Centre; **Monroe City**, Holy Rosary Parish fall dinner, 10:30 am-1 pm

Nov. 3

Jefferson City, Pregnancy Help Center of Central Missouri annual banquet, 6:30-8:30 pm, Capitol Plaza Hotel, for info or to register visit friendsofphc.org

Nov. 6

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception Parish turkey dinner, 10:30 am-1:30 pm; **Camdenton**, St. Anthony Parish turkey dinner, 11 am-3 pm; **Jefferson City**, Immaculate Conception Parish Holy Name pancake breakfast, 7:30 am-noon, Kertz Hall; **Taos**, St. Francis Xavier Parish fall supper, 11 am-6 pm

Nov. 13

Glasgow, St. Mary Parish drive-thru fall dinner, 11 am-2:30 pm, school parking lot/K of C Hall

Meetings/ Workshops

Oct. 18

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

Oct. 19

Jefferson City, "Equipping Catholic Leaders" DREYM Team Workshop, 9:30 am-2 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, for info or to register contact maureenquinn@diojeffcity.org

Oct. 20

Jefferson City, "Season of Hope: Responding in Faith to a Warming World," presentation on the response to a changing climate as a community of faith, 6:30-8:45 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info visit icangels.com/upcoming-events

Oct. 29

Moberly, St. Vincent de Paul Society orientation, 9 am-3 pm, St. Pius X Parish, for info call 573-356-4254 or email ca.nierling@gmail.com

Nov. 1

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

Nov. 15

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

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

octubre 29

Columbia, Taller de Preparación de Quinceañeras, 9 am-2 pm, Parroquia Sacrado Corazon, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 por su celular o en WhatsApp o por correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org

octubre 29-30

Lake Ozark, Retiro de Inicio, 8:30 am, Nuestra Señora del Lago, para más infor-

mación contacte a Rosa o Luis Campos al 471-321-2091 o por correo electrónico a r.campos.agui@gmail.com

noviembre 5-6

Sedalia, Retiro de Crecimiento, Parroquia San Patrio, para más información contacte a José Resendiz al 660-281-4058 o por correo electrónico a jehresendiz@gmail.com; **Marshall**, Retiro de Crecimiento, Parroquia San Pedro, para más información contacte a Marchelino Chávez al 660-631-3748 o por correo electrónico a chelin2657@gmail.com

noviembre 19

Jefferson City, Encuentro de Liderazgo Diocesano, 8:30 am-3:30 pm, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 por su celular o en WhatsApp o por correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Oct. 18 & 25

Jefferson City, "Tuesdays with Faith" fellowship group video series with Fr. Dave Pivonka and Wild Goose Ministries, 6:30-8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall

Oct. 22

Taos, "Keeping a Mary Spirit Throughout a Martha Day," with Donna Cori, 10 am-3 pm, St. Francis Xavier School cafeteria, to register call 573-395-4401

Nov. 1, 8, 15 & 22

Jefferson City, "Tuesdays with Faith" fellowship group video series with Fr. Dave Pivonka and Wild Goose Ministries, 6:30-8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall

Nov. 8

St. Martins, "Praise, Pizza and Pitchers" evening of prayer and fellowship for adults 40 and older, second Tuesday of each month, 5 pm Rosary and Mass at St. Martin Church, followed by dinner at Pizza Haus, for info visit Facebook @Praise, Pizza and Pitchers

Liturgical

Oct. 18

Columbia, St. Luke healthcare Mass, 7:30 am & 12:30 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center

Nov. 8

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

Youth & Young Adults

Oct. 16

Jefferson City, Young Adult Mass, third Sunday of each month, 5 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

Oct. 23

Fulton, Mid-America TEC 45th anniversary gathering, 2-6 pm, Mass at 2 pm, food & fellowship following, St. Peter Church

Nov. 2

Jefferson City, Rooted/Connected/Searching in Community young adult faith sharing group, first Wednesday of each month, 6-7:30 pm, Prison Brews, for info visit icangels.com/youngadults

Nov. 7

St. Martins, "Pews and Brews" evening of prayer and fellowship for young adults in their 20s and 30s, first Monday of each month, 5:30 pm Adoration and Confession, 6 pm Mass at St. Martin Church, followed by fellowship at Last Flight Brewing in Jefferson City, for info visit Facebook @Pews&Brews

Nov. 20

Columbia, Viva Christo Rey: Global Celebration of Young People, featuring food trucks, speaker Brian Greenfield, Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament and Benediction with Bishop McKnight, 1:30-5 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish; **Jefferson City**, Young Adult Mass, third Sunday of each month, 5 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

Nov. 21

St. Martins, "Pews and Brews" evening of prayer and fellowship for young adults in their 20s and 30s, first Monday of each month, 5:30 pm Adoration and Confession, 6 pm Mass at St. Martin Church, followed by fellowship at Last Flight Brewing in Jefferson City, for info visit Facebook @Pews&Brews

Health & Wellness

Oct. 23

Jefferson City, Blood drive, 8 am-noon, Immaculate Conception Parish's Kertz Hall

Anniversaries

Argyle, St. Aloysius
Mark & LeAnn Meyer, 25 years

Indian Creek, St. Stephen
Chuck & Pat Kendrick, 60 years

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception
Tony & Carolyn Bruemmer, 65 years

Mokane, St. Jude Thaddeus
Cameron & Jamie Hall, 10 years

St. Martins, St. Martin
Michael & Linda Kesel, 55 years

Westphalia, St. Joseph
Virgil & Darlene Berhorst, 45 years
August & Janice Boessen, 45 years
Kenny & Theresa Rehagen, 45 years
Vernon & Gloria Schmitz, 45 years
Caleb & Stephanie Dake, 15 years

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels
Jeremy & Aly Burk, 10 years
Steven & Rebecca Rodgers, 10 years

Baptisms

Macon, Immaculate Conception
— **Jackson Vann Ulrich**, son of Jonathan & Bobbi Jo Ulrich

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows —
Ada Lynn Henson, daughter of Payden & Samantha Henson

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior
— **Daniel Rohlfing**, son of Kevin & Charlotte Rohlfing

Marriages

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Audrey Bruemmer & Jacob Mebruer; Claudia Burcham & Garrett Luetkemeyer**

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels — **Vicky Fuemmel Nanneman & John Weimer**

To submit **Baptisms, Birthdays** for ages 90 and older, **Anniversaries** of 10+ years in increments of 5 ONLY (e.g., 15, 25, 45 years, etc.), **Elections, Honors and Appointments**, please go to:

diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence

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

Birthdays

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception
— **Marjorie Ellison**, her 96th on Oct. 5

Mokane, St. Jude Thaddeus — **Freida Krenzler**, her 96th on Oct. 25

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior
— **Bernie Bahr**, his 90th on Sept. 25

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Irene Boessen**, her 91st on Oct. 16; **Eldora Hoecker**, her 91st on Oct. 21

Deaths

John Berhorst Sr., 86 — grandfather of Father Brad Berhorst, associate pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, adjutant judicial vicar in the diocesan Matrimonial Tribunal and Head Master of Ceremonies for the bishop — on Oct. 5. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Oct. 8 in St. George Church in Linn, with Fr. Berhorst presiding. Burial was in St. George Cemetery in Linn.

Fulton, St. Peter — **Valerie Neudecker**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Richard Dennis; Kyle Hentges; John McCasland; Lee Redmond, III; Lillian "Bea" Veit**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **David Kliethermes**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Joseph Lehman**

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels — **Kenny Boss; Wanda Nanneman**

R.I.P., Canon Jordan, active promoter of Fr. Tolton's sainthood cause

Norbertine Father A. Gerard Jordan, 54, special assistant to the diocesan postulator for Venerable Fr. Tolton's sainthood cause, died on Sept. 27.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Oct. 8 in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

A member of the Order of the Canons Regular of Prémontré, Fr. Jordan entered religious life after serving in the U.S. Marine Corps., raising a family and retiring from a successful career in business administration and real estate.

He professed solemn vows as a consecrated religious brother in 2014 and was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on July 9, 2016, the anniversary of Fr. Tolton's death.

Fr. Tolton (1854-97), born into

a family of enslaved people in Brush Creek, Missouri, overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles toward becoming the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

In 2013, while still in the seminary in Chicago, Fr. Jordan was appointed as special Assistant for Fr. Tolton's sainthood cause.

He became a Special Assistant to the Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry of Chicago, diocesan postulator for Fr. Tolton's saint-



Father A. Gerard Jordan, O.Praem.

hood cause.

Fr. Jordan was elevated to Promoter of the Cause and traveled the country telling the story of this Servant of God and his entire family.

He often reminded anyone who would listen, that he was bringing the essence of his diaconate forward within him into his priestly ministry, and the Fr. Tolton cause allowed him to be of service in that way.

As of Sept. 17, 2020, he became the inaugural executive director of the newly established Tolton Spirituality Center in Chicago (toltonspirituality.org).

The Center is a clearinghouse and community hub designed for parishes and community institutions to share their insights and practices that encourage living with the values and virtues that defined Fr. Tolton's life and ministry.

It was created with a \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment that Fr. Jordan secured.

At the time of his death, he was serving as full-time priest chaplain at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Most of the information in this article came from an obituary published on the website of the Diocese of Lake Charles, Louisiana (lcdioocese.org).

MARROCCO

From page 9

of fire. His suddenly powerful voice seemed angry in a way, but with an anger that pierced through things to the center, rather than destroying things. Not only did he know the Bible through and through, he lived and breathed it. He was preaching on the text, "I have come to set the earth on fire" (Lk. 12:49), not the fire of destruction, but the fire that purifies, cleanses and renews our own hearts.

The listener's heart could not but burn within, as the frail priest showed

how the Scriptures show the way. Not the way to become activists, fix the world or tell others what to do — but the way of Christ, which brings us all to the truth.

How else could we break through the destructive fear, shame and anger that keep us hiding, and show forth the light we carry? "To flame out, like shining from shook foil."

Marrocco can be reached at mary.marrocco@outlook.com.



May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Crossword puzzle answers

E	S	I	O	N	S	I	H	J	U	O	M
O	V	N	O	E	H	S	V	R			O
H	U	I	E	D	V	E	H	E	I	d	
S	E	R	J	N	I	E	d	O	M		
			V	A	M	V	S				O
E	J	L	I	E	T	E	G	T	E	S	d
Y	H	S	E	N	B						
O			V	E	N	L	N	G	N	O	T
J	R	S	E	R	S	R	N	N	R	V	E
N	I	O	B	I	L	O	I	U	I	I	
E	M	V	N	E	E	I	E	I	L	I	W

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Homecoming in Macon



Students of Immaculate Conception School in Macon ride the school's float in the Macon High School Homecoming Parade on Sept. 30. — Photo from the Immaculate Conception School Facebook page

Mary's special day in Marceline



Students of Fr. McCartan Memorial School in Marceline celebrate the Blessed Mother's birthday on Sept. 8. — Photo by Livia McCauslin

Montgomery City Prayers at the Pole




Students of Immaculate Conception School in Montgomery City gather around the flagpole outside their school the morning of Sept. 28 for communal prayer and a quick devotional in observance of national "See You at the Pole" Day. — Photo from the Immaculate Conception School-Montgomery City Facebook page


Mums and pumpkins in Wardsville





Members of the St. Stanislaus School's Student Council in Wardsville decorate the entrance to their school for autumn on Sept. 30. — Photo from the St. Stanislaus School Facebook page

Viva Cristo Rey
 Sunday, November 20
 GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

 1:30pm Food Trucks
 OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH
 COLUMBIA, MO

 3pm Speaker
 BRIAN GREENFIELD
 SPEAKING TO 7TH-12TH GRADE

 4pm Holy Hour
 EXPOSITION, ADORATION, BENEDICTION
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Jesus says the humble will be exalted

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

One day, the Pharisees asked Jesus a question.

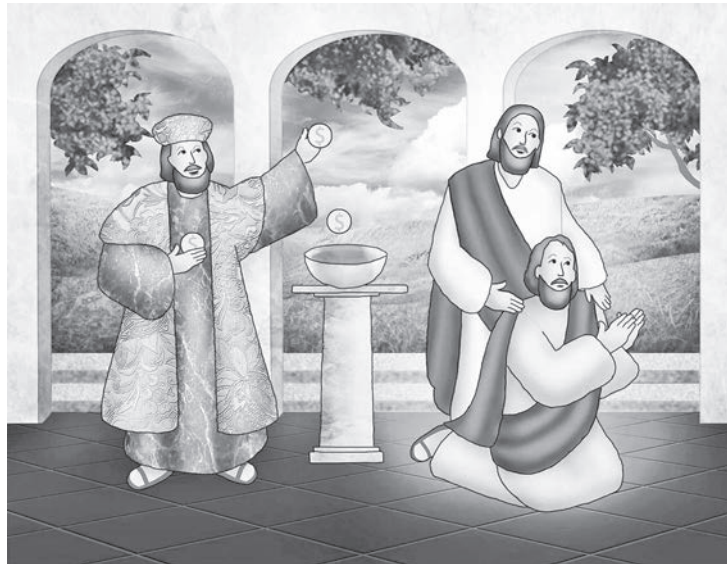
They wanted to know when they could expect the kingdom of God to come.

“The coming of the kingdom of God cannot be observed, and no one will announce, ‘Look, here it is,’ or, ‘There it is.’ For behold, the kingdom of God is among you,” Jesus replied.

Afterward, He continued talking to the apostles about the coming of God’s kingdom.

“The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it,” He said.

“There will be those who will say to you, ‘Look, there He is,’ (or) ‘Look, here He is.’



Do not go off, do not run in pursuit. For just as lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be (in His day). But first He must suffer

greatly and be rejected by this generation.”

Then Jesus told His friends two parables.

The first parable explained the necessity of always pray-

ing without becoming weary. It was about a persistent widow who repeatedly asked a dishonest judge to make a decision in her case. After being asked so many times, the judge finally decided to deliver a just decision for the widow.

The second parable addressed those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else.

One day, Jesus said, two people, a Pharisee and a tax collector, went up to the Temple area to pray.

The Pharisee took up his position and spoke a prayer to himself.

“O God, I thank You that I am not like the rest of humanity — greedy, dishonest, adul-

terous — or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income,” the Pharisee prayed.

But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven.

“O God, be merciful to me a sinner,” the tax collector said as he beat his breast.

Jesus looked at His friends.

“I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted,” He said.

**Read more about it...
Luke 17 & 18**

1. How many parables did Jesus tell?

2. Which man went home justified?

Bible Accent

In Luke 19, we can read about Jesus’ encounter with a tax collector.

As Jesus and His friends were entering the city of Jericho, a resident named Zacchaeus was eagerly awaiting his chance to see Jesus.

Zacchaeus, a wealthy chief tax collector, was short in stature and could not see over the crowd. So, he ran ahead, climbed a sycamore tree and waited for Jesus to pass by.

Jesus looked up as He came

near the tree that Zacchaeus had climbed.

“Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house,” Jesus said.

Zacchaeus immediately scrambled down from the tree and received Jesus with joy.

People in the crowd began to grumble that Jesus was going to stay at the house of a sinner.

During Jesus’ time, some of the most hated people were tax collectors. Not only did

they work to collect tax money from fellow Jews on behalf of the oppressive Roman Empire, they greedily charged more than was owed and kept the extra money for themselves.

Zacchaeus knew what the people of Jericho thought of him.

“Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over,” he said to Jesus.

Jesus looked pleased with what Zacchaeus had promised.

“Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham,” Jesus said. “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.”

Saint Spotlight

St. Martin of Tours

St. Martin of Tours was born a pagan in fourth-century Hungary. After moving



to Italy with his father, a Roman army officer, he became a catechumen and converted to Christianity. Martin became a soldier like his father. According to tradition, he gave half of his cloak to a beggar and later had a vision of Jesus wearing it. He entered religious life after his military service and founded the first monastery in France. Even though he became bishop of Tours, France, in 372, he continued to live a monastic life. Martin, who died in 397, was the first nonmartyr to be venerated as a saint and given a liturgical feast day. We remember him on Nov. 11.

Puzzle

Draw a line from the name of Jesus’ parable to the description of what the parable teaches. Hints have been provided.



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. The 10 virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) | A. You cannot serve God and mammon |
| 2. The dishonest steward (Luke 16:1-13) | B. Forgive others so you can be forgiven |
| 3. The two sons (Matthew 21:28-32) | C. Watch for Jesus’ return |
| 4. The unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:21-35) | D. Changing one’s mind and believing |

Trivia

After Jesus told the two parables, whom did He call to Him?
(Hint: Luke 18:16)

Answer: The children.

Answers: 1. C.; 2. A.; 3. D.; 4. B.

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Open letter: Papal document on ecology hits screens to increase action

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Highlighting the Church's approach of coupling the power of prayer with active and committed care for the earth, the Vatican wrapped up the monthlong Season of Creation Oct. 4 with the launch of new initiatives.

A special gathering was held that afternoon at the Casina Pio IV in the Vatican Gardens featuring top Vatican officials, global climate representatives, government leaders and ambassadors to celebrate "this important step taken the Holy See" and to strengthen the international community's commitment to join together for the common good, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said after the high-level conference.

It was the global premiere of a documentary inspired by "Laudato Si," Pope Francis' encyclical letter on caring for creation.

While current challenges are "numerous," many "impressive" initiatives have been created since the letter's publication in 2015, Cardinal Pietro Parolin said. And it's these efforts and projects like the new film "that help us make this demanding but also stimulating culture of care for our common home into a concrete reality."

Titled, "The Letter: A Message for Our Earth," the film is "a new letter to boost the old letter," Tomás Insua, executive director of the *Laudato Si'* Movement, said at the premiere.

He spearheaded the idea of inviting an award-winning director to create a visually compelling reminder of the pope's message and to include the voices of those on the peripheries experiencing the urgency of the climate crisis.

In partnership with the *Laudato Si'* Movement and in collaboration with the Dicastery for Communication and the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the film was written and directed by Emmy-winner Nicolas Brown.

Brown told Catholic News Service Oct. 4 that he came into the project "with a lot of prejudice" against people of faith, having "walked away" from his evangelical Christian roots and believing religion and science were at odds.

"When reading *Laudato Si'*, I realized that that perception is wrong and flawed, and so I literally went from being someone who wrote off the faith communities" as having any role to play in the issues of climate change and biodiversity loss to now believing that these problems "cannot be solved without, if not a religious, then

a spiritual component," he said.

So much of science and policy focuses on "technocratic aims" and "the how," he said. What has been missing "is the 'why.'"

"That moral foundation that the pope has offered is fundamental and crucial" in deciding values, purpose and behaviors that emphasize responsibility for others and stewardship, he said.

Besides filming during a pandemic, he said, the big challenge was turning a largely philosophical-theological document into a proper story.

Brown said he wanted to mirror the pope's broader message of "getting outside our bubbles" and reaching out to include the voiceless in "this dialogue that the pope so urgently calls for."

The film's protagonists, he said, represent four groups who are paying a steep price for climate change: Chief Cacique Odair "Dadá" Borari from the Amazon rainforest in Brazil to represent Indigenous people; Ridhima Pandey, a 13-year-old climate activist from India to represent young people; Arouna Kandé, a climate refugee from Senegal to represent the poor; and U.S. coral reef scientists Greg Asner and Robin Martin representing wildlife.

For the plot, Brown said he imagined a motif like the one in "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz,"



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

A thoughtful explanation of Christ's real presence

For Real? Christ's Presence in the Eucharist, by Deacon Dennis Lambert. Liguori Publications (Liguori, Missouri, 2022). 182 pp., \$16.99.

By Mitch Finley
Catholic News Service

In some Catholic circles — especially academic ones — the term "apologetics" gets little, if any, respect.

It's true that some efforts at apologetics are little more than Catholic fundamentalist attempts to prove "us" right and "them" wrong.

Yet, rooted in intellectually responsible Scripture studies and theology, apologetics can help Catholics to embrace a better, more adult understanding of their faith and cultivate an ability to explain it to others. Dennis Lambert, a deacon in the Diocese of Phoenix, serves up just such an approach to apologetics.

In this case, Lambert's focus is on the Catholic concept of Real Presence, a traditional term that sums up the Catholic doctrine — shared, in one form or another, by some mainline Protestant churches — that in the Eucharist the Risen Christ is present, body and blood, soul and divinity, and therefore (to paraphrase the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*), the whole Christ is truly, really and substantially contained in the consecrated bread and wine of the Eucharist.

Motivation comes, the author explains in his book's preface, from a 2019 Pew Research Center study that revealed that "more than one-third of all Catholics who attend Mass at least once a week 'don't believe that the Communion bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Christ.'"

Rather, they believe with many Protestant/evangelical Christians that Holy Communion is "merely a symbol or remembrance of the Last Supper."

At the same time, in the

months just following the publication of the Pew study, more than a few theologians, liturgists and sociologists expressed their concern that the Pew study was not without its flaws.

Some objected to the ways the Pew study formulated its survey questions; others questioned the meanings the survey apparently took for granted for terms such as "symbol" and "sign."

Lambert's research is thorough and his insights helpful for anyone who would gain a better understanding of Catholic beliefs about the Eucharist and Holy Communion.

His discussion of what both Old and New Testaments contribute to these beliefs is well done, as is his summary of the teachings of the early Fathers of the Church on the topic at hand and his overview of official Church teachings.

While Lambert's book is insightful and clearly stated, it would have been refreshing to learn a few things about some of the creative insights suggested by contemporary sacramental theologians.

For example, one Catholic thinker suggests that today's educated adult believer may gain a deeper understanding of the Real Presence by supplementing "body and blood, soul and divinity" with "whole person of the Risen Christ."

The final chapter of this book, "Evangelizing the Eucharist: Sharing the Truth of the Real Presence," is exquisite and powerful.

Readers both Catholic and otherwise will find *For Real?: Christ's Presence in the Eucharist* worth reading slowly and thoughtfully.

Finley is the author of more than 30 books on popular Catholic theology, including "The Rosary Handbook: A Guide for Newcomers, Old-Timers and Those In Between," "The Joy of Being a Eucharistic Minister" and "The Joy of Being Catholic."

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See LAUDATO SI', page 27

On air

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HEMLOCK

From page 21

and scientists associated with Harvard Forest, a 3,750-acre experimental forest owned by Harvard University.

This forest, located 70 miles west of Boston in north-central Massachusetts, features a mix of white pine and hemlock stands, along with deciduous trees such as birch and red maple.

For over a century, the staff of Harvard Forest and visiting scientists have studied this forest and other New England woodlands for changes in forest composition.

They have also looked at the deep past of these forests. Taking core samples from lake sediments, they have traced the history of these woodlands back thousands of years, mapping out the rise and fall of dominant tree species.

Hemlock has often dominated in New England forests, but the tree suffered an abrupt decline about 5,500 years ago, which lasted 1,500 years. This was a period when a warmer climate prevailed.

Some scientists theorize that drought-weakened hemlocks became more susceptible to attacks from insects such as the eastern hemlock looper, a voracious inchworm that can infest and defoliate hemlocks.

Today, history may be repeating itself. Hemlock decline is most catastrophic in the warmer, southern portions of its range, in the Appalachians.

Now, as hotter summers and milder winters visit the Northeast, the woolly moth adelgid is spreading further and faster.

David Foster, the director of Harvard Forest, has edited

a handsome volume — *Hemlock: A Forest Giant on the Edge* — that focuses on the hemlock tree as a foundation species and how climate change and infestations of the woolly moth adelgid may be interacting to bring about another abrupt decline in hemlock stands.

The book includes black-and-white photos dating from the 1920s of scientists conducting studies in Harvard Forest.

Just as medieval monks sought to preserve ancient manuscripts for the edification of future generations, these scientists are trying to read the forest, its past and present, in order to uncover clues as to what the future may hold.

Foresters refer to hemlock as a foundation species. Hemlocks are like the stone foundation to a large cathedral, taken for granted at times, but essential to the food web of this very unique eco-system.

What will happen if they disappear? Loss of hemlock stands may reduce habitat for snowshoe hare, porcupine and bobcat.

Bird species that specialize on hemlock woods, such as the black-throated green warbler and the hermit thrush, may see steep population declines.

Yet overall, the loss of hemlock groves — and conservationists don't like to hear this — will lead to *more* biodiversity as yellow birch, red maple and red oak take over these forests, letting in more sunlight, leading to the more understory trees and bushes that deer and other wildlife can browse and thrive on.

Forests are dynamic and have tremendous reserves of resil-

ience; one species declines but another succeeds it. At the same time, the loss of the old hemlock groves is a great loss for anyone who appreciates the unique ecosystem created by these great and noble trees, the cool, dark and still understory lauded by American poets since colonial times.

In his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis declares: "Everything is interconnected."

The pope's declaration highlights how human beings are part of the web of life on earth. We are no island set apart.

As our climate changes, there are winners and losers. Hemlocks are one of the losers, at least for now.

Some small stands of these trees are showing resistance to the woolly moth adelgid. Maybe hemlocks will make a comeback. But it is sobering to know that it took about 2,000 years for hemlocks to recover after their abrupt decline 5,500 years ago.

Harvard Forest, meanwhile, is carefully monitoring this transformation from hemlock to oak, maple and birch forests.

It is sad in many ways, but much can be learned by listening to what the hemlocks have to say. In 1859, Emily Dickinson penned a verse worth pondering today:

*I robbed the Woods -
The trusting Woods -
The unsuspecting Trees
Brought out their Burs and
mosses
My fantasy to please -
I scanned their trinkets curious -
I grasped — I bore away -
What will the solemn Hemlock -
What will the Oak tree say?*

LAUDATO SI'

From page 26

in which "we're going to meet the pope" and tell him their challenges, needs and dreams.

After the five follow Rome's cobblestone road to Pope Francis, it's much like meeting the wizard in the children's story, he said. "There's not a lot he can do for you. He gives a fantastic sermon, but at the end of the day, you realize that it's up to you. You have to dig within yourself."

Then, on a whim, he said, he decided to bring the film's protagonists, "who came all this way" to Italy, on to Assisi "to understand more deeply" why the pope chose the name Francis and discover the saint's legacy.

"The real magic of the film actually happens after we meet the pope," Brown said. The ac-

tivists form an alliance, "a bond that is deeply human and, really, I think is the deeper message of *Laudato Si'*" where people are moved by compassion after witnessing the crosses others bear.

Lorna Gold, who accompanies the group in the documentary, said at the film's preview that, despite the worsening climate crisis, there is hope "when we come together" to build bridges and alliances.

Distributing the film for free on YouTube Originals and *TheLetterFilm.org* is meant to "bring the letter to new audiences," she said.

People are encouraged to watch it together with others and "create a movement" with dialogue and coordinated action, she said.

Daily Readings

Sunday, Oct 16

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
Ex. 17:8-13
Ps. 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
2 Tm. 3:14-4:2
Lk. 18:1-8

Monday, Oct 17

St. Ignatius of Antioch, bishop
and martyr
Eph. 2:1-10
Ps. 100:1b-2, 3, 4ab, 4c-5
Lk. 12:13-21

Tuesday, Oct 18

St. Luke, evangelist
2 Tm. 4:10-17b
Ps. 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18
Lk. 10:1-9

Wednesday, Oct 19

Ss. John de Brébeuf and Isaac
Jogues, priests, and compan-
ions, martyrs (USA)
Eph. 3:2-12
Lk. 12:39-48

Thursday, Oct 20

St. Paul of the Cross, priest, USA
Eph. 3:14-21
(Ps.) Is. 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6
Lk. 12:49-53

Friday, Oct 21

Eph. 4:1-6
Ps. 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19
Lk. 12:54-59

Saturday, Oct 22

St. John Paul II, pope
Eph. 4:7-16
Ps. 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
Lk. 13:1-9

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for October:

We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

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Diocese of Jefferson City contributes to hurricane relief

In response to the suffering caused by Hurricane Ian on people living in Cuba, the Dominican Republic and the

southeastern United States, a \$10,000 donation from the Diocese of Jefferson City has been sent to a special fund of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The USCCB's Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund sup-

ports the pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church, along with the efforts of Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services, the official relief agencies of the U.S. Catholic Church, as they and their local agencies/partners respond

to immediate emergency needs and aid in long-term rebuilding and recovery efforts.

"This gift reflects the generosity and mercy of the faithful here in Central and Northern Missouri through our annual appeal and our new Catholic Stewardship Renewal (CSR) being implemented in our parishes and honors our spiritual commitment to helping all those in need," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

"In addition," he stated, "our Catholic community offers our prayers to all people who have been impacted by Hurricane Ian, and we ask God to bring them help and comfort as they recover from this tragedy. We also pray for the safety of the rescue workers and everyone who is assisting in the recovery effort."

Supporting hurricane disaster response

In the wake of the destruction caused by Hurricane Ian, many are looking for ways to help with disaster relief efforts.

As the domestic disaster relief agency of the USCCB, Catholic Charities USA coordinates nationwide disaster response, and has established a fund to support relief efforts in affected areas of Florida.

You can give your support with an online gift by visiting catholiccharitiesusa.org.

All donations received — 100% — will be distributed to Catholic Charities member agencies providing services to those impacted in affected areas.



12TH ANNUAL PREGNANCY HELP CENTER BANQUET

NOVEMBER 3, 2022 • 6:30-8:30 PM
CAPITOL PLAZA HOTEL
JEFFERSON CITY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Robert G. Lee, Comedian
EMCEE: Jay Ashcroft, Missouri Secretary of State

Register online by October 21 at www.friendsofphc.org or call 573.644.6635

Pregnancy Help Center

Holy Rosary Fall Dinner

Turkey Dinner with trimmings. Dine-in, drive through, carry-out, and home delivery as needed. Call 573-719-6403 for delivery. Prize drawings. Everyone invited!

Where: Knights of Columbus Hall
424 S Locust St, Monroe City

When: Sunday, October 30
beginning at 10:30 am

Cost: \$10 per meal




FALL FESTIVAL

DRIVE-THRU ONLY

OCTOBER 16th - 11am - 6pm

ST. JOSEPH PARISH, WESTPHALIA

\$15.00/MEAL  GERMAN POT ROAST, FRESH PORK SAUSAGE, REAL MASHED POTATOES, GREEN BEANS, SAUERKRAUT, BREAD & PIE

Prizes, Country Store & Kettle Corn

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
TAOS, MISSOURI

FALL SUPPER

Turkey and sausage, mashed potatoes & gravy, fried apples, green beans, Heritage dressing, homemade bread & dessert

Adults — \$15
Children 6-12 — \$7
Children 5 & under free

Meal tickets, bulk sausage, Country Store and more in gym!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6
11 am - 6 pm




SACRED HEART Parish Picnic

SUNDAY, OCT. 23

Dine-in or Carry-out 11am-6pm
HOME-COOKED CHICKEN & HAM DINNER
Adults \$15 • Children (6-11) \$6 • Under 6 free

3 PM QUILT AUCTION & other TREASURES | **CRUISE-IN** Antiques, Classics & Street Rods Welcome

REFRESHMENTS • SANDWICH & SODA STAND
CHILDREN'S GAMES • CRAFT VENDORS
MUSIC & DANCING UNDER THE PAVILION!

**540 N MILL STREET
ELDON, MO**

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Diocese of Jefferson City