

## “The gift of who we are”

Eleven women from throughout the Jefferson City diocese have completed a certification program in order to be spiritual companions, offering a service that’s in high demand.  
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# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

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Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## Cathedral renovations echo hope for a renewed Church



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight helps lead a handful of clergy, laypeople and media representatives on a tour of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, which is undergoing a substantial renovation and expansion.  
— Photo by Dan Bernskoetter

By Jay Nies

“Wow. Just wow! It’s coming together really great!”

A Cathedral of St. Joseph parishioner marveled at the wide-open spaces and heavenly graces that are slowly unfolding in the mother church of the diocese.

A handful of clergy, laypeople and media representatives joined architects, construction supervisors and Bishop W. Shawn McKnight Oct. 14 for a “hard-hat tour” of the Cathedral, which is undergoing a yearlong, \$15 million renovation, expansion and renewal to upgrade its aging systems while enhancing its beauty, functionality, capacity for hospitality and uniquely Catholic identity.

“All of this allows us to rededicate ourselves as Catholics by looking at our revitalized Cathedral as something beautiful that unites all of us,” one of the people on the tour stated.

Father Louis Nelen, pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, said work on the downstairs Undercroft is on target for completion in time for the parish to begin offering Masses down there by the end of November.

Sunday worship has been held in the school gymnasium since the Cathedral renovation work began in February.

The Undercroft includes a kitchen and large meeting hall.

Upstairs in the Cathedral, the preliminary structural and mechanical upgrades are nearly completed, and the various newly defined spaces are taking shape.

The Oct. 14 visitors encountered a bright, wide-open canvas upon which a prismatic array of new, sacred artwork will soon be applied.

See CATHEDRAL, page 19

## Deanery-based discernment under way for new effort in diocesan planning

See Bishop McKnight’s “Making Connections” column in English and Spanish on Pages 3 and 4

By Jay Nies

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight wants parishes to think big and forge new bonds throughout an ambitious new process of discerning and planning for their future.

“This is a time for bold ideas and bold creativity,” he told deans, deanery council members and parish leaders in a video message seen simultaneously in five locations throughout the diocese on Oct. 18.

At that time, he officially launched the Shaping Our Future Together regional process, focusing on stronger collaboration among parishes within the geographic regions of the diocese, known as deaneries.

“Our ultimate objective is to have thriving Catholic parishes throughout the diocese,” he said.

Thriving parishes are an essential part of carrying out the Church’s mission, which is to lead people to Christ and help them prepare to spend eternity in heaven with Him.

Toward that end, Bishop McKnight is entrusting the deans, who are pastors appointed by the bishop to help him with Church governance in each deanery, with laying the groundwork for the whole process.

Over the next month, each dean will work with the parishes in his deanery to develop a six-month planning process tailored to the specific needs of that deanery.

The process will build on the positive work already being done in the individual parishes and the collaborative planning that is already under way in the diocese.

When work began on the current diocesan pastoral plan, *A Steward’s Journey: Our Call to Greater Communion*, in

See PLANNING, page 21

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## Pray for deceased priests

Oct. 30 — **Msgr. Patrick J. Gilfillan**, Immaculate Conception, Macon (1964)

Nov. 7 — **Msgr. Denis P. Mulcahy**, Immaculate Conception, Brookfield (1967)

Nov. 10 — **Fr. J. David Maher**, Annunciation, California (2019)

Nov. 11 — **Fr. Leo P. Holdener**, St. Stephen, Indian Creek (1972)

## Christ the King celebration for youth

**DATE: November 20**

**TIME: 1:30 - 5 pm**

Sunday, Nov. 20, is the Feast of Christ the King and is the Global Celebration of Young People as promulgated by Pope Francis.

The Jefferson City diocese will hold its inaugural Celebration of Young People that day in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 903 Bernadette Drive near Stadium Boulevard and I-70 in Columbia.

The theme will be “Viva Cristo Rey” which is Spanish for “Long live Christ the King.”

The day will include:

•**FELLOWSHIP:** Food Trucks will be available at 1:30

p.m. as people arrive (please bring money for this portion only).

•**REFLECTION:** Brian Greenfield, a dynamic speaker who was emcee at the 2021 National Catholic Youth Rally (NCYC) and on the stage at numerous Steubenville Con-

ferences, will present at 3 p.m.

•**PRAYER:** Bishop W. Shawn McKnight will join participants for Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Adoration and Benediction at 4 p.m.

Visit [diojeffcity.org/viva-cristo-rey](http://diojeffcity.org/viva-cristo-rey) for information.

## Charismatic Mass, Nov. 6 in Columbia

**DATE: November 6**

**TIME: 5 pm**

A Charismatic Mass will be celebrated at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 6, in the St. Thomas More Newman Center, 602 Turner Ave. in Columbia.

It will include: songs of praise; prayers in the Holy

Spirit for healing and revelation, for forgiveness and praise; and time to share the gifts from the Holy Spirit, such as healing, prophecy, and the ability to speak in tongues.

“This Mass will last lon-

ger than the usual Mass as we praise and celebrate His Word, and pray for God’s perfect love to pour over us through His Most Holy Spirit! Come Holy Spirit,” organizers stated.



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### The Catholic Missourian

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

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# Bishops offer prayers after deadly St. Louis school shooting

By Rhina Guidos

Catholic News Service

Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of St. Louis and Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City offered prayers after three people died following an Oct. 24 shooting at a high school in St. Louis.

“Once again people in our city have experienced the tragic loss of lives and the trauma of a school shooting,” tweeted Archbishop Rozanski. “I am holding our neighbors in the Central Visual & Performing Arts High School community in my prayers.”

Bishop McKnight, too, extended his prayers.

“Please join me in praying for all affected by the shooting at Central Visual and Performing Arts high school in St. Louis,” he tweeted. “We seek God’s guidance and comfort as we try to make sense of this tragedy.”

A 61-year-old woman and a 16-year-old student were killed in the incident, said Interim Commissioner of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Lt. Col. Michael Sack. He said authorities responded to the school within minutes of reports of the shooting and entered an area where they heard gunfire and killed the suspect.

Sack identified the gunman as Orlando Harris, a 19-year-old who is said to have graduated from the school last year. He died at a hospital, Sack said.

At least eight people were taken to the hospital with various injuries, he said, but the victims of the subsequent trauma are more than the injured and the dead. They extend to the students who escaped, officers and other first responders who saw the carnage, he said.

Archbishop Rozanski said the shooting was “a sad irony” given that “this tragedy comes the day before the multi-denominational Vigil to Save Children’s Lives and Interfaith Gun Safety Initiative launch.”

Some news reports say students were jumping out of windows and erected barricades as the shooting unfolded.

“It’s terrible to think about. Here is this place where kids go to learn, to grow, to develop and something like this happened, which is heartbreaking,” Sack said during a news conference.

He said officers entered “as kids were fleeing out of the building” and police were trying to locate where the gunfire was coming from.

“They talked to some of the kids who told them that there was a shooter with a long gun,” he said. “The officers began to clear the building looking for the shooter. Upon hearing gunfire, they ran to the gunfire, located the shooter and engaged that shooter. In an exchange of gunfire, the suspect was struck.”

San Antonio Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, who tended to families who had children killed during a Mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas, in May, also offered condolences on social media.

He has been a constant voice against gun violence and gun control.

“We pray for those who died in St. Louis. Again the use of arms. Why do we kill each other in the U.S.? What’s happening?” he asked.

## Submit song selections for St. Cecilia Sing

**DATE: November 20**

The diocesan chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians will hold a St. Cecilia Sing event on Sunday, Nov. 20, in the St. Thomas More Newman Center, 602 Turner Ave. near the University of Missouri campus in Columbia.

This event will feature an evening of sung prayer in honor of the patron saint of musicians.

All musicians are invited to participate, including choirs, organists, song leaders and others.

To avoid repetition, those interested in participating are asked to submit two songs by Nov. 1. Songs can be submitted to [jeffersoncitymo@npm.org](mailto:jeffersoncitymo@npm.org). The number of songs used will depend on the number of participants.

## Senior Bookkeeper



The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking a full-time senior bookkeeper with advanced bookkeeping and elementary accounting work in the maintenance, review and analysis of detailed financial records throughout the entire accounting cycle. This individual will perform a variety of moderately complex to advanced bookkeeping/accounting tasks and procedures. Experience with general ledger, investments, insurance administration and payroll is strongly desired. Employer offers a comprehensive benefit package including health, dental, vision, and matching 403b retirement plan.

Experience with Sage Intacct accounting system would be considered a plus. Knowledge and preparation of worksheets and financial statements and general ledger account classification is required.

Qualified candidates should send their resume to [HRDir@diojeffcity.org](mailto:HRDir@diojeffcity.org).

# MAKING CONNECTIONS



## Bishop McKnight

### Our goal: Thriving Catholic parishes

I believe every Catholic in our diocese deserves to belong to a thriving parish — and we are beginning a new effort to make that possible.

On Oct. 18, leaders from across the Diocese of Jefferson City came together to begin a process called Shaping Our Future Together. This process is part of our ongoing effort to build a stronger foundation for the future of our diocese as we work to enhance the parish experience in our diocese.

Parish life is at the heart of Catholic life.

A parish is where Catholics encounter the grace of the sacraments and communion with their fellow believers — where we experience our belonging to the Church of Christ.

But today, the experience

of living as a Catholic in our diocese can vary greatly.

We have parishes in our diocese that are doing very well. Others, however, are struggling.

As we embark upon Shaping our Future Together, I am setting a high standard for what our parishes will look like in the future. Again, I want every Catholic to belong to a thriving parish.

So, what does a thriving parish look like? Let me try to paint you a picture.

A thriving Catholic parish is one where the Most Holy Eucharist is the center of the parish and in which Mass and the sacraments are accessible to everyone. The liturgy and music reflect the beautiful timelessness of our faith. The

sacraments are celebrated in such a way that they draw everyone closer to God — that God's closeness to His people is made known.

A thriving parish is one that, like Christ, welcomes all. It is known for its warmth and hospitality, both as a center of charity and sanctuary of mercy.

A thriving parish safeguards the well-being of its clergy. It also obeys canon law, while celebrating and defending the teachings of our Church in an ever more secular society.

It is a community that is actively working to nourish the faith of its members — throughout their lives — so that they may experience the saving love of their heavenly father.

A thriving parish has the necessary resources, both human and financial, to support these efforts while ensuring all employees are provided just compensation for their professional work.

A thriving parish is also built on a foundation of Catholic stewardship, where everyone recognizes that their abilities and resources are gifts from God. It's a place where the laity are empowered to live out their co-responsibility for their parish, with charity and mercy as guiding values.

With all these elements working together, a thriving Catholic parish, above all, serves as a powerful beacon in its community, calling souls to Christ and leading people to salvation — fulfilling our mission as the Church of Christ.

That is what a thriving Catholic parish looks like, and I hope this vision inspires you. This is what we are working to create for the more than

75,000 Catholics across our diocese as we shape our future together.

Right now, we are in the early stages. You might be aware that the 38 counties of our diocese are subdivided into five deaneries — each led by a priest who serves as dean.

With Shaping Our Future Together, our deans are assembling teams that will be dis-

leaders at the diocesan level craft a plan and the parishes implement it.

That's not what we are doing in the Diocese of Jefferson City.

Our process is being led by the parishes and orchestrated at the deanery level, so that everyone will have a chance to have a voice and share their knowledge.

As we discern our path forward in the coming months and years, I urge you to watch for communications from your deans and parish leadership. As you are called, please engage in the process and share your ideas.

Our success in this effort will require bold ideas as we develop new forms of collaboration between parishes.

We are living in a historic time for our diocese as we begin this process of Shaping Our

### Shaping Our Future Together

Heavenly Father,  
Send your Holy Spirit upon us  
to inflame our hearts and enlighten our minds  
as baptized members  
of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church  
present in the Diocese of Jefferson City.  
Help us to discern Your holy will for our Church  
as the Body of Christ in the world.  
May we shape our future together  
by embracing our mission  
to be sanctuaries of mercy  
and centers of charity.  
Open our hearts and minds  
so that the parish communities of our deanery  
will thrive in the spirituality of stewardship  
and with a culture of co-responsibility.  
May we be ever more strongly united  
in our Catholic faith, prayer and communal life.  
This we ask through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

DIocese of Jefferson City

### Veterans Day Mass at St. Peter in J.C.

**DATE: November 11**  
**TIME: 9:30 am**


Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, vicar general of the Jefferson City diocese and pastor of St. Michael Parish in Russellville, will preside and preach the homily at this year's Veterans Day Mass in Jefferson City.

It will be at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 11, in St. Peter Church, 216 Broadway, near the State Capitol.

The Mass is offered for the men and women in uniform who have served this country in war or peace.

The Mass will be livestreamed on the St. Peter Church Facebook page: [facebook.com/saintpeterchurch](https://www.facebook.com/saintpeterchurch).

Veterans and service personnel are encouraged to wear their caps and/or uniforms.



## Bishop McKnight's Calendar

**NOVEMBER**

<b>Nov 1</b>	Dinner with Retired Priests, 5:30 pm, Bishop's Residence
<b>Nov 6</b>	Confirmation Mass, St. Martin Parish, 1 pm, St. Martins
<b>Nov 7-8</b>	Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Awards and Board Meeting, Washington, DC
<b>Nov 11-17</b>	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Fall Plenary, Baltimore, MD

cerning strategies for creating thriving parishes for the Catholics living in their deaneries.

Because of the diversity of our diocese, each deanery will develop its own unique plan to accomplish this goal.

That's what makes Shaping Our Future Together quite different from the traditional model other dioceses have used, where the bishop and

Future Together — alongside our continued efforts to grow in the stewardship way of life and the ongoing renovation and renewal of our spiritual home, our Cathedral of St. Joseph.

Let us all pray that through these efforts we may thrive together as a Catholic community, living in the image of Christ.

#### Bishop McKnight's November prayer intention for our Local Church

Recognizing the many blessings God has bestowed upon us, may we embrace the spirituality of stewardship and avoid any sense of entitlement in our relationship with God. We pray to the Lord.

#### Intención del mes de noviembre del Obispo McKnight por nuestra Iglesia Local

Reconociendo las muchas bendiciones que Dios ha derramado en nuestras vidas, abracemos la espiritualidad de la "buena administración" y evitemos cualquier sentido de merecimiento en nuestra relación con Dios. Roguemos al Señor.

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



# CREANDO CONEXIONES

obispo McKnight



## Nuestra meta: Parroquias católicas florecientes

Considero que todos los católicos de nuestra diócesis merecen pertenecer a una parroquia floreciente, y estamos comenzando un nuevo esfuerzo para que eso sea posible.

El 18 de octubre, líderes de toda la Diócesis de Jefferson City se unieron para comenzar un proceso llamado: "Dar forma a nuestro futuro juntos". Este proceso es parte de nuestro esfuerzo continuo en construir una base más sólida para el fu-

turo de nuestra diócesis mientras que juntos trabajamos para mejorar la experiencia parroquial en nuestra diócesis.

La vida parroquial es el núcleo de la vida católica.

Una parroquia es el lugar donde los católicos encuentran la gracia de los sacramentos y la comunión con sus hermanos en la fe, es allí donde experimentamos nuestra pertenencia a la Iglesia de Cristo.

Pero la experiencia de vi-

vir hoy día como católico en nuestra diócesis puede variar mucho.

Tenemos parroquias en nuestra diócesis a las que les está yendo muy bien. Otras, sin embargo, tienen dificultades.

Al embarcarnos en Dar forma a Nuestro Futuro Juntos, estoy estableciendo un estándar alto sobre cómo serán nuestras parroquias en el futuro. Nuevamente les comparto, que mi deseo es que cada católico pertenezca a una parroquia floreciente.

¿Cómo es una parroquia floreciente? Permítanme tratar de describir una imagen.

Una parroquia católica floreciente es aquella en la que la Santa Eucaristía es el centro de la parroquia y en la que la Misa y los sacramentos son accesibles a todos. La liturgia y la música reflejan la hermosura perdurable de nuestra fe. Los sacramentos se celebran de tal manera que todos se acercan a Dios y se da a conocer la cercanía de Dios con su pueblo.

Una parroquia floreciente es aquella que, como Cristo, acoge a todos. Es conocida por su calidez y hospitalidad, tanto como centro de caridad como santuario de misericordia.

Una parroquia floreciente salvaguarda el bienestar de su clero. Obedece también el derecho canónico, al mismo tiempo que celebra y defiende las enseñanzas de nuestra Iglesia en una sociedad cada vez más secular.

Es una comunidad que trabaja activamente para alimentar la fe de sus miembros — a lo largo de sus vidas — para que experimenten el amor salvífico de su Padre celestial.

Una parroquia floreciente posee los recursos necesarios, tanto humanos como

económicos, para así apoyar estos esfuerzos y garantizar que todos los empleados reciban una compensación justa por su trabajo profesional.

Una parroquia floreciente también se construye sobre la base de la buena administración católica, donde todos reconocen que sus habilidades y recursos son dones de Dios. Es un lugar donde los laicos se sienten empoderados para vi-

decano.

Con el proceso Dar Forma a Nuestro Futuro Juntos, nuestros decanos están formando equipos que discernirán estrategias para crear parroquias florecientes para los católicos que viven en sus decanatos.

Debido a la diversidad de nuestra diócesis, cada decanato desarrollará su propio plan único para lograr esta meta.

Eso es lo que hace que

Dar Forma a Nuestro Futuro Juntos sea bastante diferente del modelo tradicional que han usado otras diócesis, donde el obispo y los líderes a nivel diocesano elaboran un plan y las parroquias lo implementan.

Eso no es lo que estamos haciendo en la Diócesis de Jefferson City.

Nuestro proceso está siendo dirigido por las parroquias y coordinado a nivel de decanato, para que todos tengan la oportunidad de tener una voz y com-

partir su conocimiento.

A medida que discernimos nuestro camino a seguir en los próximos meses y años, les insto a estar atentos a las comunicaciones de sus decanos y líderes parroquiales. Cuando los llamen, participen en el proceso y compartan sus ideas.

Nuestro éxito en este esfuerzo requerirá ideas audaces a medida que desarrollamos nuevas formas de colaboración entre parroquias.

Estamos viviendo un momento histórico para nuestra diócesis al comenzar este proceso de Dar Forma a Nuestro Futuro Juntos, junto con nuestros esfuerzos continuos para crecer en el estilo de vida de la buena administración y la renovación continua de nuestra casa espiritual, nuestra Catedral de San José.

Oremos todos para que a través de estos esfuerzos podamos florecer juntos como comunidad católica, viviendo a la imagen de Cristo.

## St. Robert Bellarmine Parish's 'A Blessing of Our Pets'

By Maxine Heidbreder

What can we say about our pets?

They are our companions, they are loyal and devoted, they provide comfort and unconditional love, they steal our hearts and they become family members!

With that said, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in St. Robert recently hosted A Blessing of Our Pets event.

Welcoming a beautiful October morning, parishioners with their pets congregated at the St. Gregory Pavilion located on the church grounds.

Father Michael Murphy, pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish and St. Jude Parish in Richland, provided a preliminary service, followed by prayers and an appropriate reading from Genesis. Fr. Murphy then worked his way through the gathering of



**Fr. Michael Murphy provides a blessing to Sadie, a German shorthaired pointer, during St. Robert Bellarmine Parish's "A Blessing of Our Pets" event. Sadie is one of several dogs and cats individually blessed during this event. She is owned by Heather Javersak, a member of St. Robert Bellarmine parish.**

— Photo by Maxine Heidbreder

parishioners and their furry friends, blessing each pet with a gentle sprinkle of holy water.

All were calm, although one solitary cat boldly sang a song of his ancestors, protesting his confinement in a carrier.

See PET BLESSING, page 22

### Dando forma a nuestro futuro juntos

Padre celestial,  
Envía tu Espíritu Santo sobre nosotros para inflamar nuestros corazones e iluminar nuestras mentes como miembros bautizados de nuestra Iglesia que es una, santa, católica y apostólica presente en la Diócesis de Jefferson City. Ayúdanos a discernir tu santa voluntad para nuestra Iglesia como Cuerpo de Cristo en el mundo. Que podamos darle forma a nuestro futuro juntos abrazando nuestra misión de ser santuarios de misericordia y centros de caridad. Abre nuestros corazones y nuestras mentes para que las comunidades parroquiales de nuestro decanato prosperen en la espiritualidad de la buena administración (stewardship) y con una cultura de corresponsabilidad. Que estemos cada vez más unidos en nuestra fe católica, oración y vida comunitaria. Esto te lo pedimos por Cristo nuestro Señor. Amén.

DIÓCESIS OF Jefferson City



# Spiritual Companions finish discernment, are sent to share what they've received

By Jay Nies

Just as people who want to keep their bodies healthy schedule regular doctor visits, those who are pursuing spiritual growth and equilibrium often benefit from regular interaction with a spiritual companion.

Eleven women from throughout the Jefferson City diocese recently completed a two-year certification program to prepare them to engage in this important ministry.

"The greatest gift that we share is the gift of who we are," said Sister Madeleine Lane of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who led the program.

"Spiritual companioning helps you become your best self," she stated. "Your personal spirituality is your life-line. It's who you are."

Spiritual companions, also known as spiritual directors, help people by listening to their story with an ear to what is holy and divine.

"It is a confidential conversation in which God's Spirit is present as you share with your companion," said Sr. Madeleine.

A spiritual companion is not a counselor or a therapist but is a one-on-one listener who helps others become aware of God's presence and more open to the action of God's Spirit in everyday life.

## Heart languages

With the blessing of their pastors, women entered the program to discern whether God is calling them to this important work, and to prepare for it.

LeAnn Korsmeyer, recently retired director of women's ministry for the diocese, and Sister Kathleen Wegman of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, formerly diocesan director of parish and charitable services, invited Sr. Madeleine to lead the program here.

Sr. Madeleine has taught in the graduate programs in spirituality at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska; and Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis.

She is the founder of a St.



Sister Madeleine Lane SSND, Lori Watson, Courtney Benson, Kyle Clark, Carol Steinman, LeAnn Korsmeyer, Sister Kathleen Wegman SSND, Msgr. Robert A. Kurwicki, VG, Nancy Massman, Donna Long, Anita Ruga, Kristen Bexten and Paula Gough gather in the reception area of the Alphonse J. Schwartz Memorial Catholic Center in Jefferson City after Mass where 11 women received certificates for completing the two-year preparation for becoming spiritual companions.

— Photo by Father Paul Clark

Louis nonprofit that offers spiritual direction and family therapy, and is a retreat director and facilitator.

The diocese's invitation to St. Madeleine to lead the class came in response to a great need; people were calling Mrs. Korsmeyer's office in search of a spiritual companion, but few were available.

The certification program was challenging but rewarding for the women who participated and now seek to put what they learned into practice.

One participant called it the most growth-filled experience of her adult life.

"I experienced tremendous personal, spiritual and professional growth, and that has led to deep transformation, growth and fullness of life," she said.

"My faith is much deeper now," another participant stated. "I find that things that I may have fretted about two or three years ago no longer bother me because I know there is a plan that our Creator has lovingly prepared for me."

Her prayer life has also noticeably advanced.

"We examined different types of prayer, and I found

that different methods spoke to me in different ways," she stated. "I am more open to letting the Holy Spirit move in my life rather than being apprehensive about whether or not I feel like I can do something."

Another participant talked about her newfound ability to embrace "the sacred pause — to truly sit with God and discern the holy in my life before a decision is reached."

"Words and emotions can get in the way," she said. "It's the quiet reflection and prayer time that give us peace and joy. Sometimes, we just need a safe space to speak our truth. Companioning allows the ear to hear what the heart is saying."

## Life-changing

The certification process was partly based on the joy-filled relationship the Blessed Mother and her cousin Elizabeth cultivated before the birth of Jesus and St. John the Baptist in the Bible (Luke 1:39-56).

"It's based on your spirituality — how you pray, the image you have of God — and how you move away from your childhood image of God" and toward something much deeper and more mature, Sr. Mad-

eleine stated.

As leader of the program, she helped each participant take a deep look inward.

This was necessary and helpful for individual growth.

"As humans, it's typical for us to examine all that is 'wrong' in ourselves on a surface, worldly level," one of the participants noted. "But this process made me examine the graces I have been given and to accept those gifts."

It helped her recognize that those graces far outweigh the negatives, "because the gifts we receive from God are far more powerful than what the world tells us is 'wrong' with us," she said.

Another participant said she learned the value of God's first language: silence.

Early on, she also learned about "benevolent glancing," a practice of looking upon all people with unconditional love.

"I use the word 'practice' because it does take a lot of practice," she stated. "But it is another tool that has allowed me to grow in many ways."

In the process, she discovered some unresolved grief and previously unrecognized unforgiveness in her heart.

See COMPANIONS, page 18



## Refresh Your Space

Tackle those long-awaited home projects.

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## Food Shipments Funded by US Catholics Are Bringing Relief to Families at Risk of Malnutrition

To combat hunger in developing countries, Cross Catholic Outreach has a simple but effective plan: Ship in Vitafood.

Vitafood is a fortified rice product specifically designed to fight the effects of child malnutrition, and it can be packed in large shipping containers and cost-effectively sent to Catholic schools, orphanages and other local partners serving the poorest of the poor. A single container can keep crucial feeding programs running or provide immediate relief when disasters strike.

“Credit for the success of our Vitafood outreaches should really go to the compassionate Catholics in the U.S. who help us secure and ship these self-contained meal packets to Catholic missions around the globe,” said Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a Vatican-recognized charity serving missionaries in the developing world. “Church leaders in Haiti, Guatemala and other developing countries are eager to help the hungry poor in their communities, but they need us to supply them with resources like this food. Getting a steady supply of Vitafood is critical to their programs. In some cases, where hunger is extreme, these meals can even save lives.”

According to Cavnar, Vitafood is also an extremely flexible resource. It comes in several different varieties and can be prepared with additional spices and ingredients to suit local tastes. Vitafood provides the optimal balance of vitamins, minerals, protein, fiber, fat and carbohydrates that a child’s hungry body needs. These meals are also important to the health and physical well-being of children and adults who

are healthy but at risk of becoming malnourished.

What’s more, because Vitafood meals are donated to us by respected faith-based organizations, Cross Catholic Outreach only needs to cover the cost to ship the meals to hungry families. This means that for every dollar donated, 14 nutritious meals can be sent to a community in need.

“There are very few donations a person can make that achieve this much bang for the buck,” Cavnar pointed out. “Some of our donors are so impressed with the impact that they sponsor the shipment of an entire 40-foot container filled with food, effectively supplying the poor with tens of thousands of meals.”

Support for this outreach is particularly important now, according to Cavnar. The COVID-19 pandemic, the military conflict in Ukraine and widespread inflation have made obtaining food much harder for overseas missions.

“Our goal is to support those struggling Church leaders by bringing in the food they need. The health of poor families is at risk if we don’t,” Cavnar said. “As I see it, this is our opportunity to be a blessed instrument of mercy. It is our chance to further the work of the dedicated priests, sisters and Catholic lay missionaries who are doing everything they can to respond to this threat.”

**Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach food programs and other outreaches to the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02270, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The**



*A young girl waits for the meal to be served at her school in Nicaragua. Cross Catholic Outreach and its U.S. benefactors play a critical role in making this and other school lunch programs possible by sponsoring the food shipments these ministries need.*

*ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission*

*Partner or write “Monthly Mission Partner” on mailed checks so we can contact you about setting up those arrangements.*

## Unique Christmas Catalog Created to Bless Donors — and the World’s Poor

If you are like most people, your mailbox is choked with Christmas catalogs and sales flyers every fall. In fact, their arrival has almost become a sign of the season, like the appearance of house lights and department store decorations.

This Advent and Christmas season, Cross Catholic Outreach intends to offer a catalog too — but theirs is a very different offering with a very different purpose. It has been designed to bless both givers and receivers by using the holiday gift-giving tradition

to help the world’s poorest families.

Rather than offer gizmos, gadgets, neckties and jewelry, the Cross Catholic Outreach Christmas catalog gives Catholics with a concern for the poor an opportunity to share the blessings in their own lives with needy families by sponsoring practical and urgently needed items such as vitamins, milk powder, seeds for farming, access to safe water and materials to build homes. Of course, it also offers blessings for children, including toys and sports equipment, so individuals

can choose to sponsor both practical items suitable for families and gifts to bring children joy.

“Like most Christmas catalogs, ours offers lots of items so donors can choose to give something specific. That said, they can also make a general gift to address the poor’s greatest needs,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. “When donors choose to give to the Greatest Need category, they provide us and the Catholic missions we serve the freedom to address any urgent need. The priests and religious

sisters we support really appreciate that flexibility. It’s the best way to empower their work among the poor.”

This unique Christmas catalog is easy to access. Readers will find a link for it at the ministry’s website (CrossCatholic.org) or they can reach it directly by entering the web address CrossCatholic.org/Christmas.

“Our hope is that everyone will be blessed by the experience,” Cavnar said. “It’s a wonderful way for us to celebrate the birth of our merciful Lord!”

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# Catholic Missions Use School Lunch Programs to Feed Hungry Children in Poor Communities

Extreme hunger has been on the rise in developing countries around the globe, but Catholic missions have developed an effective way to combat the problem — especially where children are at risk. They have instituted school lunch programs to ensure needy boys and girls in the poorest communities receive at least one nutritious meal.

Sadly, for some of the participating children, that school lunch is the *only* food they will eat all day.

“I once met a poor father who grieved every time the weekend approached because he had no money and no food to offer his children on those days. He knew his kids would eat when they went to the Catholic school on weekdays, but when his kids were home on the weekends, they often went hungry,” shared Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a respected relief and development ministry working in these impoverished areas. “We eventually found a way to deliver general food supplies to his community, but his story indicates just how critical Catholic school lunch programs are to the children in developing countries like Haiti, Guatemala and Nicaragua.”

Once you have seen the extreme poverty families face in the developing countries Cavnar listed, it is easy to understand why hunger is such a frightening prospect to the parents in those places. Life is very hard for poor families in those nations, but it is particularly challenging to those living in rural areas where whims of weather can so easily disrupt their incomes and their lives.

“Most rural families are subsistence farmers,” Cavnar explained. “They work very hard, but it is still a struggle for them to feed their families. When the weather doesn’t cooperate or pests destroy their crops, their children go hungry — and some even fall prey to malnutrition. That’s a very dangerous condition because it puts their sons and daughters at risk of long-term mental and physical impairments. It also weakens immune systems, which produces additional problems when an illness such as COVID-19 strikes. In fact, almost any serious illness or disease can be deadly when your immune system is compromised.”

Solving this hunger problem required Cross Catholic Outreach to find a solution that would cost-effectively reach a significant number of children



*Catholic schools in countries such as Haiti, Guatemala and Nicaragua rely on Cross Catholic Outreach’s shipments of Vitafood to provide daily lunches. These prepackaged meals can be supplemented with meats and vegetables from local sources.*

in one place and at one time.

“Catholic schools were identified as the most logical place to host a feeding program, so we made it a priority to supply them with food for lunches,” Cavnar said. “We have other methods of getting food out to hungry families, but the school-based feeding programs are the most effective ways we can put healthy meals in the hands of needy boys and girls. We also supply Vitafood to those schools whenever possible because the meals are specifically formulated to be both highly nutritious and culturally appropriate to the countries we serve.” (See related story on the opposite page.)

Beyond satisfying the hunger of children, the program also has an important educational impact, according to Cavnar.

“Hungry children struggle to concentrate in school, and eventually they fall behind. When a family finds it hard to make ends meet and their children don’t seem to be progressing in their studies, those

parents are tempted to pull their sons and daughters out of school altogether. We can’t let that happen. We need to ensure these children are able to succeed in school so they can eventually break free from the poverty that has plagued their families for generations.”

While Cavnar believes the school-based feeding programs currently underway are successful, he believes

even more can be done if Catholics in the United States remain committed to the cause and generously support the Church’s efforts.

“Now that they understand the hardships hunger creates, I’m optimistic my Catholic brothers and sisters in the U.S. will be eager to help,” he said. “That’s because every meal we are able to ship can have a life-transforming impact on a child.”

## How to Help

**To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper, or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02270, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.**

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





## QUESTION CORNER

## Can prayers clinch heaven? / Priest at non-Catholic wedding

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service



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

**Q. I was given a prayer folder that tells me that I will suffer no purgatory and be taken directly to heaven when I die, provided that I say these prayers daily for 12 years. (Missed days can be made up.) I am about ready to start the third year, but a dear Catholic friend has just told me that this promise is not true. The prayers are called "The Seven Sorrows of Mary, as given to St. Bridget and The Twelve-Year Prayers of St. Bridget on the Passion of Jesus," and I have read that these prayers were confirmed by Pope Clement XII and Pope Innocent X. I don't really mind doing the prayers, but I would like to know if I can guarantee my salvation. (Fayetteville, Arkansas)**

A. No prayer — not even one said every day for 12 years — can "guarantee salvation." Even a plenary indulgence, which remits all of the temporal punishment due to sin, covers only those sins committed up until the time the indulgence is gained; it is not "prospective."

The surest way to eternal happiness is to live out the teachings of Jesus Christ as learned from the Gospels. (I quote as my witness Jesus Himself, Who explained in Matthew 7:21 that "not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My father in heaven.")

It strikes me as a bit like magic to think that the mere recitation of certain words could by itself win joy that is eternal. After all, a plenary indulgence requires, in addition to the particular prayer or action, the reception of the sacraments of penance and the Eucharist (as well as prayers for the pope's intentions).

Having said this, I would still encourage you to continue the recitation of the prayers you mentioned. Most often, the effect of prayer — as well as comforting the soul — is to bring one closer to Jesus in thought and action, which is the goal of our lives and the safest path to salvation.

**Q. I am getting married in Cancun, Mexico, and the pastor of my Christian church (Valley Point Church) here in Pennsylvania is coming to marry us. (We will actually get married civilly at the courthouse here at home before we travel to Mexico, in order to be sure that the wedding will be recognized in the U.S.) My brother-in-law is a Catholic priest here in Pennsylvania, and I have invited him to be present (not officiate) at our wedding on the beach in Cancun. He says that he is not allowed to attend since it is not a Catholic wedding in a church and that he can only come to the dinner afterward at the resort restaurant. Is that true? (Everyone I talk to says that this can't possibly be a rule for Catholic priests.) (Pennsylvania)**

A. I take it from your question that you are not a Catholic, since your church would seem by its name to be a nondenominational Christian one. I do not know whether your husband-to-be is Catholic, and my answer hinges on whether he is.

If he is not, I don't see why your brother-in-law should feel that he cannot attend the wedding. If, however, the man you are marrying is a Catholic, his responsibility is either to be married by a Catholic priest in a Catholic church or to receive the necessary permissions for the marriage to be performed by someone

See FR. DOYLE, page 18

## Papal Audience October 26, 2022

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on discernment, we now consider what the spiritual masters call "desolation," those moments when we experience interior darkness, unrest and distance from God and from the consolations of faith. For our spiritual growth, it is important to confront these dark nights of the soul and to discern what the Lord wishes to tell us through them. At times, desolation can be a summons to acknowledge our sinfulness and to embrace God's offer of love and forgiveness. St. Thomas says that our souls, like our bodies, can experience a kind of pain that makes us aware of threats to our spiritual health. At other times, the experience of desolation can be a temptation to grow slack in prayer and in the discipline of the Christian life. Here too, the great spiritual teachers urge us not to yield to this temptation, but to persevere, confident that by this testing the Lord will guide us to a fuller understanding of His gracious plan for our lives and a deeper union with Him in faith, hope and love.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims taking part in today's audience, especially those from England, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Malta, Indonesia, the Philippines and the United States of America. Upon all of you I invoke the joy and peace of Christ our Lord. God bless you!



## R.I.P., J.C. native Sr. Rose Ann Kaiser

Jefferson City native Sister Rose Ann Kaiser, 89, of the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, died peacefully on Sept. 23 at Victory Noll in Huntington, Indiana.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Sept. 26 in the Victory Noll Chapel. Burial was in the convent cemetery.

Sr. Rose Ann was born on July 15, 1933, in Jefferson City, a daughter of Lawrence and Johanna (Thessen) Kaiser.

She was part of the former St. Peter High School's Class of 1951, its largest graduating class, and one of five from that class who entered religious life (four sisters and one brother).

She entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters ([olv.org](http://olv.org)) on Sept. 6, 1960, and professed first vows on Aug. 5, 1963.

Commonly known as Victory Noll Sisters, the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters are a Pontifical Congregation founded in 1922 by Father John J. Sigstein.

They proclaim the Gospel in creative and flexible ways in order to promote the reign of God in justice and peace.

Sr. Rose Ann served as a catechist, pastoral associate and director of religious education in Texas, California, Massa-



Sister Rose Ann Kaiser OLV  
(1933-2022)

chusetts, Indiana, Michigan, Utah, Missouri and Illinois, including as a pastoral associate for Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City from 1990-94.

She was part of a team of sisters who wrote and produced a television series for parents of preschool children.

She served as the coordinator of the sisters' Community Arts Program in Illinois and on many committees of the Victory Noll congregation, as well as coordinator for the Covenant Associates.

"From the very beginning of our foundation in 1922, associates have been an important part of Victory Noll," Sr. Rose Ann told *The Catholic Missourian* in 2010. "They are

our partners in mission, men and women who share, in their own setting, the spirit and charism of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, addressing the needs of the poor and oppressed, working for peace and justice, and reaching out in a variety of ways with their skills, service and prayer to bring healing and reconciliation."

At that time, she was working at the Julia Center in Chicago, a welcoming center for immigrants, serving as an advocate for social justice, and representing her congregation at the 8th Day Center for Justice.

"I have learned to appreciate and treasure the richness and variety of the cultures and backgrounds, the giftedness that has contributed so much to this country," said in 2010.

She said of her first 50 years in religious life: "It's been a joyous, exciting, freeing adventure with ever-expanding new ways of being part of God's mission and entering deeper into communion with God."

She was living of the Saint Anne's Community at Victory Noll at the time of her death.

Surviving are a brother, Larry Kaiser of Phoenix, Arizona; other family members, friends and her fellow Victory Noll Sisters, with whom she shared life and community for 62 years.



## The wisdom of night prayer

By Laura Kelly Fanucci  
Catholic News Service



*“Lord, now let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled.”*

Thus begins the Canticum of Simeon, the prayer drawn from the words of the prophet who held the baby Jesus in the Temple at the presentation (Lk. 2:29-32), a prayer often known by its Latin name *“Nunc Dimittis”* (“now dismiss”).

A canticum is a hymn of praise, and the church’s daily prayer through the Liturgy of the Hours includes multiple canticums.

The Canticum of Zechariah (Lk. 1:68-79, known as the *“Benedictus”*) begins the day in morning prayer, and Mary’s Magnificat (Lk. 1:46-55) is lifted up in evening prayer. Add in the Canticum of Simeon for night prayer, and the whole day is wrapped round in praise to God.

But the wisdom of Simeon’s song can speak to us not just at night when we release to God’s mercy all that has been done and undone in the day. Its words also bring truth to each stage of life and each moment in which we need to ask God’s help in closing a chapter.

This fall I found myself praying the words when I pictured my sister and brother-in-law as empty nesters, launching their last child off to college: “Lord, now let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.”

The words can speak to both parents and children, caught up in the endless dance of drawing close and letting go. The canticum came to mind again as I watched my fourth son leave for his first day of kindergarten, the lump welling in my throat as it did for all his brothers.

Let him go in peace into this new chapter that’s beginning. Let me go in peace from this stage that’s now ending.

Picture those you know who are transitioning into retirement, leaving behind single life for marriage, starting

a new stage in life or watching a child do the same.

A thousand times in the span of a human life, if we’re lucky, we can lift up our hands to heaven and pray the prophet’s words as our own hope: “My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared.”

The Church’s wisdom invites us to remember Simeon’s words each night. This short canticum reminds us of God’s providence, preparing a way for salvation, and our own humanity, humbled to praise God for what we have witnessed even as we step back in surrender.

Imagine if we could truly end each day, each week or each year in peace, trusting in God’s word and believing in God’s care. The practice of prayer invites us to engrave these words on our hearts as we engrain these truths in our souls: What God has spoken will be fulfilled.

Even if it takes a lifetime to see. Even if some days we fear it will never come.

Each year on the feast of the Presenta-

tion of the Lord, I love to picture Anna and Simeon holding the Christ Child as His parents watch in wonder. I catch echoes of grandparents meeting grandchildren, the joy of older faces beholding brand-new ones for the first time.

Simeon’s wisdom invites us to behold — and to let go. To marvel at what God is doing in our lives, in each chapter’s opening and closing.

Then to let ourselves step back, slipping into the silence of the night or the dawning of a new stage, trusting that what comes next has been prepared for us, too.

May *“Nunc Dimittis”* become your own prayer wherever you find yourself tonight: “Lord, now let Your servant go in peace.”

*Fanucci is a writer, speaker and author of several books, including “Everyday Sacrament: The Messy Grace of Parenting.” Her work can be found at laurakellyfanucci.com.*

## The seasons of Ordinary Time

By Lucia A. Silecchia



Recently, I enjoyed one of my favorite rites of autumn — the search for perfect pumpkins for home, office, and anywhere else that might be brightened with glorious gourds. In a long drive through quaint corners of the countryside, I relished the splendor that is autumn.

Yes, the pumpkins were the excuse for the journey. But the trip was made more beautiful by the showy splash of autumn surrounding the corn fields gone gray and the farmhouses hung with Halloween wreaths. There was enough of a crisp chill to announce that summer was gone. Yet, the bright sun that bounced off the red, orange and gold in the trees heralded a new season with a loveliness all its own. I rejoiced in the simple beauty of a world made new.

It will not be long until I marvel again when I awaken to the first snow that dusts my city streets. The silent brightness of that blanket, the sound of my neighbors’ shovels that beckons me out of bed, and the hot chocolate I promise myself when I am back inside are all part of a new type of wonder. (I would rather ignore the icy sidewalks and high heating bill that will follow!) In this, I will rejoice again in the simple beauty of a world made new.

Just when the snowy season starts to lose its charms, there will be shy crocus-

es rising tentatively from the earth, faint traces of green in lawns coming back to life and trees getting ready to burst forth in the lacy splendor of spring. As the days lengthen and the sun grows brighter, I will rejoice again in the simple beauty of a world made new.

While I might, in the fullness of May, doubt that I would ever want to bid farewell to spring, a day will come when the days last long into the night, tomatoes ripen on the vine, and the beach beckons. Summer will hold joys of its own, and yet again I will rejoice in the simple beauty of a world made new.

I am deeply grateful to live in a corner of the world where seasons change around me and every few months life feels different.

Yet, it is not just in the world around us when seasons change. Life, too, has its own seasons.

Some of the people I admire most are those who have the faith and hope that allows them to welcome each new season of life with the same joy I have when I welcome the new seasons of the world around me.

Some seasons of life are filled with excitement and eager anticipation as the start of the adventures of a new school, new job, new home, marriage and parenthood. Some of those that are most important are those we do not remember well, like the transition from infant to toddler. Some are filled with angst — the so-called terrible twos and the terrible teens — and others with peace.

### REFLECTION

## No going back

By Mark Saucier

“What is the purpose of belief if even God can’t put the world back the way you worshipped it?”

This is the question a character in Shubangi Swarup’s novel *Latitudes of Longing* asks as he watches the flames of the funeral pyre slowly devour the body of his beloved wife.

It is a question that we, too, may ask when a painful tragedy or disruption destroys the customary comfort of the world in which we live.

It is a question that may challenge one’s belief in a Power out there Who can fix things and make them right.

But it is a question that might shed some light on our own desires and expectations.

So many of our prayers seek restoration.

We have a friend struggling with cancer and we pray for the restoration of their health.

We have a child struggling in a marriage and we pray that they rediscover the love that brought them together in the first place.

We have a loved one in the grip of some addiction and we pray for a return to sobriety.

We look at the turmoil of our country and pray that we can return to some sense of normalcy, honesty and mutual respect.

We watch wars in foreign lands and we pray for a peace that will make those embattled countries as tranquil and un-newsworthy as they used to be.

There is nothing wrong with these prayers. They are genuine and caring.

But they are asking God to put the world back to the way it was, and that is not going to happen. Everyone involved, from the sick friend to the victim of war, and including ourselves, has been changed by these experiences.

Like the old Greek philosopher said, “No man can step into the same river twice.”

And it’s not just Heraclitus, but the Jewish prophets and then Jesus who talk about change and turning, not to the past, but to the future to which God beckons us.

That demands a much more unsettling, much more vulnerable prayer. We have to give up the world as we worship it and seek what it means for us to be faithful in the world that is to be.

We still pray for those suffering people, but we also pray for ourselves in light of them, imagining how the God of Life is calling each of us to the future through one another.

We can’t doubt God until we’ve done our part.



# El Puente Hispanic Ministry expands presence, opens new office in former California rectory

By Jay Nies

Father Anthony Viviano prayed a blessing and sprinkled holy water into every room.

Then came the ribbon-cutting, a litany of thank-yous, self-guided tours and hospitality.

With that, El Puente Hispanic Ministry's new office in the former Annunciation Rectory in California was open for business.

"El Puente" is Spanish for "The Bridge."

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.

"Everything we do is thanks to all of you," Cristhia Castro, El Puente's executive director, told board members, parishioners and volunteers at the Oct. 22 grand opening. "We can do none of this without your support and the love you have for our community."

Annunciation Parish contributed about \$25,000 to the cost of thoroughly renovating the rectory, along with a five-year lease to El Puente.

El Puente met that investment with another \$40,000.

Volunteers helped with the work, which included all new windows, new plumbing and air-conditioning, new floor covering and paint, and a new sump pump in the basement.

"El Puente really stepped up with the finances and the manpower and the commitment," said Fr. Viviano, pastor of Annunciation Parish and of St. Andrew Parish in Tipton. "It's going to serve a lot of people."

## "Taking the initiative"

After the ribbon-cutting, Mrs. Castro placed half of the autumn-hued ribbon over the shoulders of Nena Neal, who has been serving as a bilingual social services provider for El Puente since 2004.

Program Associate Aurora



Parishioners, board members, volunteers and friends of El Puente Hispanic Ministry gather outside the extensively renovated Annunciation Rectory in California to bless and dedicate El Puente's new location there.

— Photos by Jay Nies

Guillen spoke directly to Sister Peggy Bonnot and Sister Margaret Snyder of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, who were tuned in to the ceremony by livestream.

They, along with Incarnate Word Sister Marianne Kramer, now deceased, founded El Puente in 1999 "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."

"Sr. Peggy, Sr. Margaret — thank you for taking the initiative," said Mrs. Guillen. "To us as members of the Hispanic community, this means a lot that somebody saw the need and took a step to start something like this that has helped so many people and will continue to do so, God willing."

Portraits of the three founding sisters adorn the foyer of the renovated building.

## "Win-win"

Mrs. Castro said the renovation project required "a lot of volunteer hours, a lot of passion from the community."

She lauded the Annunciation parishioners who were eager to bring life back to their rectory and see it put to good use.

Fr. Viviano lives in the rec-

tory in Tipton.

"It was like a win-win situation for them and for us — collaborating, putting our efforts together to make this



happen," said Mrs. Castro.

She said the goal is to provide at the California office all of the educational and social services that are available at the Jefferson City location.

The programs in California will likely evolve over time, depending on local needs and whether any other agencies are helping to meet them.

"We always try to collaborate with other organizations so we're not duplicating services," said Mrs. Castro.

## Much to offer

El Puente's staff of four will take turns rotating between the Jefferson City and California locations until ad-

ditional staff can be hired.

El Puente is currently servicing over 700 individuals in over 500 households.

With the help of volunteers and a dedicated board of directors, the staff works with various community and Church organizations to identify and satisfy Hispanic people's material and spiritual needs.

In addition to accompanying people to doctor's appointments and providing language-interpretation services, the staff and

volunteers provide information about personal finances and high blood pressure along with nutrition classes and connect people with short-

"Some of the people need a lot of help."

Language can be a serious barrier when receiving good healthcare, she noted.

Mrs. Neal was serving as a bilingual hospital interpreter in Orange County, California, in 2002 when she and her husband came to Jefferson City to visit his mother.

They were hoping to raise their children closer to the children's grandparents, who had a farm in Cole County.

Mrs. Neal happened to see a want-ad Sr. Peggy had posted for a medical interpreter for El Puente.

"I sent in my resume, she called me in for an interview, and that's how I got started here," Mrs. Neal recalled.

Since then, she has been present at nearly every birth in Jefferson City to parents who speak Spanish rather than English.

That, Mrs. Guillen noted, has involved "staying up all night in the hospital countless times, worrying and praying her heart out if it was a hard labor and texting her friends in the middle of the night to pray with her."

The oldest of those babies is now in college.

"Nina's a mom and grandmom to all of them," Mrs. Guillen noted. "And a godmother, too."

## With God's help

The ministry continues to grow. Mrs. Castro noted that the Jefferson City location is expanding to accommodate more services, including after-school tutoring.

She emphasized that most of El Puente's support comes from contributions.

"We need a lot of volunteers and financial support," she stated. "Everything we do, we do it based on donations."

Mrs. Neal asked for prayers "for the people we help, and those that are still in need of our help"

Mrs. Castro requested prayers for El Puente staff to continue the legacy of service to the neediest with the passion and love of the Gospel.

[elpuentemo.org](http://elpuentemo.org)



## St. Luke Day Masses offered for God's servants in health care

By Jay Nies

St. Luke the Evangelist went from healing the body to ministering to the whole person.

Once he believed the Good News, he could never go back.

"Christ, the Divine Physician, taught him to be a servant of the healing arts, not a master," stated Father Daniel Merz, pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia.

"When St. Luke realized that we are body and soul and that we're not created just to die, he understood he had to work for healing the soul, as well as the body," the priest stated from the ambo of the Newman Parish Church.

It was the parish's inaugural St. Luke Health Care Mass, celebrated on Oct. 18, the feastday of the patron saint of doctors, nurses and all who minister in the health care profession.

Masses with a special blessing were celebrated at 7:30 a.m. and at noon to accommodate people working different shifts.

Father Paulinus Aneke, associate pastor, presided at the morning Mass, Fr. Merz, pastor, presided at noon.

Deacon Mike Berendzen, director of Columbia Catholic Hospital Ministry, assisted.

Preaching the homily at both Masses, Fr. Merz spoke of St. Luke as a learned man whose command of the Greek language is unmatched in all of Scripture.

St. Luke's Gospel and his Acts of the Apostles make up about one-fourth of the New Testament.

Luke's Gospel reflects its

author having found something wonderful and wanting everyone else to have it, too.

Luke's unbridled joy is evident throughout his writing — including his exclusive account of Jesus restoring life to a widow's only son and of His parables of the widow celebrating having found her lost coin, and the forgiving father who runs to embrace and welcome his repentant son.

"He was someone who encountered the Lord and was overwhelmed by the gifts of God's love," said Fr. Merz.

While Luke never met Jesus in the flesh, he did have an encounter with Christ, perhaps through St. Paul's teaching.

"And his life changed forever," Fr. Merz stated.

### The greatest healing

St. Paul refers to Luke in the Letter to the Colossians as "the Beloved Physician" — one who showed caring and love and stood by Paul when everyone else had abandoned him.

"St. Luke passes on to us what he learned from the Divine Physician — from the Risen Christ — that the greatest and most important healing comes from being LOVED," Fr. Merz stated.

That's an important lesson for any person of faith who ministers to the sick.

So is the understanding that physical death is not the worst



**Father Paulinus Aneke, associate pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia, elevates the Most Blessed Sacrament during a St. Luke Mass on the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, patron saint of health care professionals. Father Daniel Merz (right), pastor, concelebrated the Mass and preached the homily. Deacon Michael Berendzen (left), coordinator for Columbia Catholic Hospital Ministry, assisted at the altar. — Photo by Jay Nies**

outcome, "because death is not the end," said Fr. Merz.

He noted that ordained clergy are often engaged in a different kind of healing, but

priests and health care workers are subject to some of the same perils.

"Both of our ministries can be exhausting and draining

and dangerous if we start to think of ourselves as the masters and not the servants," he said.

He pointed out that people seeking help are always God's beloved children, and He entrusts professionals in physical and spiritual healing to care for them and never neglect their dignity and their sovereignty.

"And that's not always easy, because those beloved children of the Father aren't always grateful," the priest noted with a chuckle.

But God is always there to help.

"We need to ground ourselves again and again, first as servants of the healing arts, but also as servants of the healing that goes beyond only the body, beyond only what we can see," Fr. Merz stated.

He promised the Church's continued prayers for all people who are affiliated with the healing professions.

"Thank you for the healing that you offer of body, mind, heart and soul," he said. "Thank you for your attention to the dignity of those you serve. And may the Divine Physician minister to your hearts and souls and bodies as you minister to His beloved children, day in and day out."

Deacon Berendzen said he was happy with the turnout for this year's St. Luke Masses and hopes they will become an annual tradition.

## Vatican II was 'necessary,' retired pope writes to U.S. conference

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

The Second Vatican Council was "not only meaningful, but necessary," Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said in a letter to a conference about his theological work at the Franciscan University of Steubenville.

A theological understanding of the world's different religions, the relationship between faith and reason and, especially, the nature and mission of the Church in the modern world were challenges the Catholic Church needed to face, the retired pope wrote in the message read Oct. 20.

The Vatican-based Joseph Ratzinger-Benedict XVI Foundation sponsored the conference Oct. 20-21 on "Joseph Ratzinger's Vision of the Church and Its Rel-

evance for Contemporary Challenges."

In his letter to conference participants, the retired pope said he hoped their discussions and an understanding of his theological work before, during and after Vatican II would "be helpful in the struggle for a right understanding of the Church and the world in our time."

As a priest and theologian, Father Ratzinger attended all four sessions of the council as a theological adviser — a "*peritus*" — to the archbishop of Cologne, Germany.

Pope St. John XXIII's decision to call the council, he said in the letter, was a surprise to everyone and many people initially thought it would "unsettle and shake the church more than to give her a new clarity for her mission."

But "the need to reformulate the question of the nature and mission of the Church has gradually become apparent. In this way, the positive power of the council is also slowly emerging," he wrote.

Explaining his focus on ecclesiology, the theological study of the Church, the retired pope said it had long focused on the Church as an institution, but after the First World War "the wider spiritual dimension of the concept of the Church was now joyfully perceived" in the work of influential theologians.

On the other hand, "the complete spiritualization of the concept of the Church, for its part, misses the realism of faith and its institutions in the world," he wrote. "Thus, in Vatican II the question of the Church in the world finally became the real central problem."



## Brandy Meeks leading Vitae Foundation into post-Roe era

**Succeeds Debbie Stokes as Vitae Foundation president**

By Jay Nies

Brandy Meeks and longtime Vitae Foundation President Debbie Stokes were both at the Pro-Life Women's Conference in Indianapolis when the U.S. Supreme Court issued its *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* ruling.

The Court's decision reversed the 1973 and 1992 rulings that had legalized abortion-on-demand throughout the United States, and returned the authority to regulate abortion back to each state.

"I wanted to be joyful, I wanted to be grateful, and to an extent, I was," Mrs. Meeks recalled. "But the joy was coupled with an overwhelming sense of responsibility — that God needed something more from me in this next phase."

That phase began for Mrs. Meeks the minute she said "yes" to succeeding Mrs. Stokes as Vitae's president.

"When Debbie and the Vitae board came to me, it gave me a sense of relief, of peace, to be able to see the next step on the stairway, to know that God was putting the pieces of the puzzle together," said Mrs. Meeks.

Vitae Foundation is a non-denominational, national media outreach organization headquartered in Jefferson City.

Its purpose is to use cutting-

edge research and media outreach to assist women who are facing unplanned pregnancies and to help create a culture in which abortion is unthinkable.

"Vitae leads the world in its research of abortion decision-making, tests its findings using digital media campaigns, and shares best practices at no cost to pro-life peers worldwide to encourage a culture of life," Mrs. Meeks noted.

With the unanimous approval of the Vitae board of directors, Mrs. Meeks assumed the role of president on Sept. 1.

"Now is the time to finish the mission," she stated. "It's so much bigger than saving babies. It's saving babies and helping women be able to choose life, and helping families reach their fullest potential.

"And it's about saving generations from the heartache and loss and grief of abortion," she said.

### "A powerful force"

Mrs. Meeks returns to Vitae, fortified with an impressive network of experience and contacts, as well as a passion for collaboration.

She previously served as Vitae Foundation's director of marketing and research application before working alongside former Planned Parenthood director turned pro-life advocate Abby Johnson.



**Brandy Meeks, incoming president of Vitae Foundation, and her successor of four years, Debbie Stokes.**

— Photo from the Vitae Foundation October 2022 newsletter

Mrs. Meeks has been working in the pro-life movement for over 10 years, including time as a pregnancy resource center director and as co-founder of Cornerstone Marketing Strategies, which helps life- and faith-affirming agencies.

She's excited to be back at Vitae, helping to chart the organization's course into a new era, brimming with potential.

"Brandy brings experience, passion, energy and a deep faith to every challenge she takes on," said Mrs. Stokes, who will continue serving in an advisory role. "She will be a powerful force leading Vitae into the future."

Mrs. Meeks said it's imperative for Vitae to "keep working to make abortion unthinkable in this Post-Roe era."

"Vitae's research and messaging can absolutely influence that change," she said. "I'm humbled and honored to lead Vitae Foundation with new innovative strategies and collaborations at such a critical moment in our nation's history."

### "Every person"

Mrs. Stokes focused on promoting Vitae's research efforts throughout her four years as president — including two large-scale research studies in the past year, in addition to several smaller, supporting studies conducted in later phases.

She said the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision to

overturn *Roe* was a significant factor in her decision to step aside.

"Vitae has great potential to change the culture," she said, "and it needs leadership that has the energy and expertise to make that happen. Brandy is that person."

With all the opportunities in the post-*Roe* landscape come new challenges and potential obstacles.

"This is a very important time, and something we've been building up to," said Mrs. Stokes. "We're reaching back to our roots and working on building up a culture of life, a culture where every person is valued, not just the unborn."

Only within that context can abortion ever become truly unthinkable, she said.

Vitae's work falls into three categories: research, application of that research, and societal education.

Mrs. Meeks said current developments will prompt Vitae to shift some of its focus within those categories.

She cited the ease of ordering chemical abortifacients online, along with big tech companies' efforts to squelch Vitae's targeted digital outreach to abortion-minded women searching the Internet and social media.

"Now more than ever, we need to get out in front of all of that, continue to do the research and build on our past research to understand the window we have and the words

we can use to help these women," she said.

She called to mind Vitae's famous "Think About It" TV ads from the 1990s, which were designed to help lead people of all ages away from the prevailing abortion-first mentality.

"We've always been about making abortion unthinkable," she noted. "That requires a cultural change. We have to make sure we're going back to connect with our audience and help them see why life is so valuable."

Three decades of Vitae research has yielded invaluable information not just on how to speak to women who are pregnant and abortion-minded, but to break that down by age, geography and numerous other factors.

"It's about people truly being able to see the value of human life," said Mrs. Meeks. "We have to understand the psychological impact of abortion and all the life issues. We have to continue to do the research. We have to finish the mission."

### "Stepping up"

Mrs. Meeks noted that while elective surgical abortions have all but ceased in Missouri, abortion-causing drugs remain available.

"That's one more reason why our research is so important," she said. "We need to educate women about the risks and side-effects of the abortion pill."

She said taking the doctor out of the equation and having women complete the entire process on their own will amplify the symptoms of post-abortion syndrome.

"It's terrible enough that it ends the life of the child," Mrs. Meeks stated. "But it's even more complicated what she's going to have to deal with — having to deliver her child at home by taking the abortion pill."

She believes the first step toward galvanizing public opinion against abortion is to present it as the human-rights issue that it is.

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## Sedalia Public Rosary in the Square



Twenty-four parishioners from St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County gather outside the Sacred Heart Chapel in Sedalia at noon on Saturday, Oct. 15, for an annual public Rosary Rally prayer.

## Salisbury prayer garden dedication



Father Boniface Kasita Nzabonimpa, pastor of the Salisbury, Brunswick and Wien parishes, joins St. Joseph School Principal Kelsey Emmerich and 142 students and parishioners, including 99-and-a-half-year-old Lauren Meissen, at the prayer garden outside St. Joseph Church in Salisbury to bless the new statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title, "Mary Seat of Wisdom." "Mary is the person who, through her most intimate relationship, is totally receptive to the Wisdom of God," said Fr. Nzabonimpa. "This prayer garden is open for everyone who wants to pray and seek the intercession of the Blessed Mother. May all the people who will come here to pray in this prayer garden be filled with the wisdom of God."

## St. Anthony CCD Walking Rosary



The St. Anthony of Padua Parish Confirmation class leads a Walking Rosary through the streets of St. Anthony the evening of Oct. 19. Community members and CCD students gathered in front of St. Anthony Church to begin the Rosary. The group then proceeded around the block surrounding the church hall while stopping at different "beads" colored on the street by students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It gave the students an opportunity to express their faith while walking the streets of town.

— Photo by Lauren Kliethermes





# Cathedral mosaic finds a bright new home in Catholic Center

By Jay Nies

A familiar mosaic depicting the Blessed Mother under her title Our Lady of Perpetual Help now adorns one of the most visible locations in the Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center in Jefferson City.

The Italian mosaic was originally created for a side wall inside the Cathedral of St. Joseph, which is undergoing its first major renovation in its 54-year history.

Construction workers recently installed the image in a well-lit new niche behind the reception desk near the entrance to the Catholic Center.

“We found a good home for

it,” said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

The original, 15th-century Byzantine icon on which the mosaic is based was entrusted by Blessed Pope Pius IX (1846-78) to the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, known as the Redemptorist Fathers, in 1866. Since then, the icon has adorned the space behind the altar of St. Alphonsus Liguori Church in Rome.

The icon depicts Jesus’s mother looking compassionately on all people even as she comforts her Child from premonitions of His eventual crucifixion and death.

In entrusting the image to



Construction workers install a mosaic of Mary under her title Our Lady of Perpetual Help behind the reception desk near the entrance to the Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center in Jefferson City. For 53 years, the mosaic, created in Italy, adorned a side wall of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, which is undergoing a major renovation.

— Photo by Annie Williams

The chapel in the center is named in honor of St. Alphonsus Liguori.

Two of Bishop Gaydos’s uncles were Redemptorist Fathers. He served for six years as pastor of a parish in the St. Louis archdiocese that was founded by Redemptorist priests not far from the site of their former seminary in Kirkwood.

*The Catholic Missourian* and the *St. Louis Review*, newspaper of the St. Louis archdiocese, announced his appointment as third bishop of Jefferson City in their issues dated June 27, 1997 — the feastday of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Bishop Gaydos remembers looking out from the sanctuary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph for the first time during his Ordination and Installation Mass and seeing the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

“With that, I knew I was home,” he said.

the Redemptorists, the longest-reigning successor of St. Peter asked them to “make her known throughout the world.”

Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos, who led the Jefferson City diocese from 1997-2018, offered his first Mass under the original Our Lady of Perpetual Help icon in Rome on Dec. 18, 1968 — four days before

Bishop Joseph M. Marling C.P.P.S., founding bishop of Jefferson City, offered the first Mass in the then-brand-new Cathedral of St. Joseph.

St. Alphonsus Liguori, founder of the Redemptorists, is the patron saint of the late Alphonse J. Schwartze, in whose memory the Catholic Center was built and named.

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# Stunning sunrise in Loose Creek



The rising sun and autumn leaves shoot vibrant colors all around the 1877-vintage Immaculate Conception Church in Loose Creek the morning of Oct. 24. "What a beautiful way to start a marvelous Monday! Thank you God!" stated Immaculate Conception School Principal Anne Nelson in a Facebook post that day .

— Photo by Anne Nelson

*"As fades the glowing orb of day, to Thee, great source of light, we pray; blest Three in One, to every heart, Thy beams of light and love impart."*  
— "Iam Sol Recedit Igneus"

# Woman clothed in the sun



Autumn colors fill the trees on the hill above the Our Lady of Fatima shrine outside St. Louis of France Church in Bonnots Mill. — Photo by Brenda Starke

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# Sr. Kathleen McGuire ASC, known as one of the five Martyrs of Charity, remembered 30 years after their deaths

By Jay Nies

"We were privileged to have experienced their love and concern for their fellow persons. We shall never forget their memories."

The words of Archbishop Michael K. Francis of Monrovia, Liberia, still resonate with people in the Jefferson City diocese.

Archbishop Francis was responding to the murders of five sisters who were Adorers of the Blood of Christ, 30 years ago this month.

Two of the sisters had served in this diocese before discerning a call to mission in the war-ravaged West African nation of Liberia.

Sister Agnes Mueller ASC had served in the diocese's Religious Education Office for two years in the early 1970s.

Sister Kathleen McGuire ASC had served for four years as director of Catholic campus ministry at Lincoln University in Jefferson City.

Joining them in giving their lives were Sister Shirley Kolmer, Sister Mary Joél Kolmer and Sister Barbara Ann Muttra.

## Holy and humble

Sr. Kathleen in particular left indelible memories with people in this diocese.

"She had the life and love of God shining through her in every move she made," said Carolyn Saucier, who was a member of the Lincoln University Newman Center's board of directors during Sr. Kathleen's time in Jefferson City.

"She was really a holy, humble woman," Mrs. Saucier stated. "We all felt so cherished by her. And she was cherished by us."

Mrs. Saucier remembers a time when her husband was out of town and one of their young children knocked over the mantle and broke all the family's First Communion mementos.

"I was at the end of my rope," Mrs. Saucier recalled. "Then, guess who shows up at the door just as I was breaking down — my friend, Kathleen."

The impromptu visitor insisted on taking care of everything right then, giving Mrs. Saucier a much-needed rest.

Sr. Kathleen was great with

college students. Through deep spirituality, a magnetic personality and reflexive hospitality, Sr. Kathleen drew together a core community of faith on the Lincoln U. campus.

Members gathered regularly for Mass and communal prayer, and for festive celebrations.

"Several of the people were musicians and they would put on these parties for all the kids we knew," Mrs. Saucier recalled.

Jefferson City native Sister Peggy Bonnot of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word worked with Sr. Kathleen on the Vocation Committee for the diocesan Sisters Organization.

She "was very welcoming to everyone and provided a place for the young students attending Lincoln U. to gather," Sr. Peggy recalled. "I enjoyed working with her. She had a great desire to go to the missions."

## "The right questions"

"The grief, the heartache, it's still right here," said Sister Kate Reid ASC who worked closely with Sr. Kathleen in several roles.

"There are times I really miss the kindred spirit that she was, and her courage," Sr. Kate stated.

Sr. Kathleen's passion for justice and global solidarity permeated her work as an educator and Catholic school administrator as well as her ministry in Jefferson City.

From here, she moved back to southern Illinois to serve as the ASC province's peace and justice coordinator.

Her Catholic upbringing in a rural locale had helped instill in her a practical piety expressed by helping people and setting them free from injustice.

She met her first ASCs when she was 6 and decided to grow up to be one of them.

She entered the ASC no-

vitate in Ruma in 1955 and professed final vows in 1961.

The ASC foundress, St. Maria De Mattias (1805-66), advocated boldly for people who were poor and disregarded by the rest of society.



These five sisters — Sister Barbara Ann Muttra, Sister Kathleen McGuire, Sister Shirley Kolmer, Sister Mary Joél Kolmer and Sister Agnes Mueller — of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ (ASC) congregation were killed in Liberia while serving there during that country's civil war.

— Image from the [adorers.org](http://adorers.org) website

"(Sr.) Kathleen picked that up and really led with it, and I was blessed to help," said Sr. Kate.

Sr. Kathleen knew how to ask the right questions.

"She had a gift for analysis and discernment, and the ability to say, 'We've finished analyzing this, now what are we going to do?'" said Sr. Kate.

By the mid-1980s, a growing number of religious groups in this country were harboring people who had come here fleeing violence in Guatemala and El Salvador.

Late in 1985, after months of prayer and formal discussions, an overwhelming majority of ASC sisters in the Ruma province voted in favor of harboring refugee families in their motherhouse.

"When you're able to put the steps together and guide people to a free decision to break the law because that's what the Gospel requires of us — that's just such a grace," said Sr. Kate.

Modeled on how ASC sisters in Europe helped Jewish people

during World War II, Sr. Kathleen helped the sisters of her province discern what God expected of them.

"She helped us be brave and bold and be our best, be truest to our charism as Adorers," Sr.

in 1990.

Late in 1991, with the cooling of hostilities and with the blessing of their congregational leaders, four ASCs decided to return to their posts as educators and healthcare workers there.

Sr. Kathleen was convinced it was time to join them.

Equipped with degrees in English, a doctorate in education and years of experience in fostering communities of faith committed to justice, Sr. Kathleen responded to requests to train teachers and to manage school finances.

She also facilitated processes that helped teachers and others explore the societal ills that became fuel for a civil war and then consider steps to remedy the causes and build an enduring peace.

Along with other sisters and a candidate for the sisterhood, she worked with parishioners organizing themselves into neighborhood faith-based communities.

She also embraced the ministry of homemaker.

She wrote to Mrs. Saucier from Liberia that she had finally found her true ministry — a ministry of hospitality.

"Hospitality was her gift — so welcoming, so affirming, so wonderful," Mrs. Saucier stated.

She was an accomplished cook and hostess and understood the significance of food and table fellowship in the context of prayer and celebration.

"Kathleen made me very aware of the power of breaking bread — that it's not just a sacred symbol for Mass; it's powerful for any group gathered in prayer," said Sr. Kate.

## Women of letters

Sr. Kate kept the letters Sr. Kathleen sent her from the sisters' convent in the Gardenville

See ADORERS, page 17



## ADORERS

From page 16

neighborhood of the capital city of Monrovia.

The letters started out humorous and optimistic. Sr. Kathleen wrote about how her camping skills came in handy when it came to cooking before the war-damaged gas and electric utilities were restored.

On Sept. 4, she wrote of receiving a visit from a mother and child. Sr. Kathleen sifted through donated clothing to find a pair of pants for the boy and a skirt and blouse for the mother.

"She was so happy," Sr. Kathleen wrote. "She danced and laughed and hugged and kissed me. She made me so happy with her own joy but also gave me a good healthy feeling of being so 'small-small.'"

In October, she wrote of having figured out how to bake by placing pots of smoldering charcoal inside an unused electric oven.

"It's not top-rate but it works and I've baked pie crusts, cookies, cakes and brownies so far," she noted.

She wrote about facilitating a healing workshop with the faculty of St. Patrick School in her neighborhood, focused on getting past the ugliness of the war and planning for a united future.

"Such mysteries!" she wrote. "I would never have dreamed a few short months ago how the group-process experience I've had would be of use to people who have endured maybe the cruelest civil war in history."

She wrote about gathering people into small communities to help rebuild their society from the ground up.

Without such communities developing, "Liberia will not recover from the war," she wrote.

In a February 1992 letter, she wrote of a submitting a request for funding to open a cooperative training center to help women learn marketable trades such as sewing.

She wrote of her doubts about the rebel leader's promises to disarm and disband his militia, which was gathered just outside the city.

"The one thing that seems certain is that Taylor will not ever negotiate a peace and unification in good faith," she

wrote. "If something or someone does not stir the people to demand their country back, this debilitating nonsense may continue for years."

At Eastertime, she wrote: "I pray that the Risen Jesus surprises you in the garden or on the road or wherever a friendly face and godly spirit will make your day!"

### "Grief and fear"

On Aug. 25, 1992, Sr. Kathleen wrote of how international relief agencies tried to help 20,000 refugees moving through Monrovia to escape fighting between the rebels and a coalition of peacekeeping forces.

"Just pray that this gets resolved without an attack on Monrovia," she requested.

On Sept. 19, she wrote that the unrest and lack of organized police protection had emboldened armed robbers to terrorize entire neighborhoods at night.

"Sunday night, Sept. 6, they got into our yard and seriously injured both guards before whistle-blowing frightened them away," she wrote.

On Sept. 27, Sr. Kathleen wrote about how much she enjoyed baking bread.

She noted the war had moved into Monrovia in the form of armed rogues. A group of them had robbed a neighboring family twice in one night and wound up killing the father as he was defending his family.

"The grief and the fear have mingled in the neighborhood these past two weeks to create a somber and tense atmosphere," she wrote.

She pointed out that local Church officials had condemned the fighting and terrorizing of civilians.

"But they've got to call upon the people to organize themselves and put a stop to this craziness," she stated.

### "Into God's arms"

Waves of fleeing civilians clogged the roads as Taylor's forces moved through the city late in October in 1992.

On Oct. 23, two of the ASCs living in the convent left with one of their security guards to help his sick child.

Along the way, they were shot and killed in their car.

A few days later, the other ASCs and four young girls who hoped to become sisters were waiting to hear back from them when a group of armed rebels began banging on the gate to the security wall surrounding the convent property.

They demanded money and the keys to the sisters' car.

Sr. Kathleen, knowing what probably would happen, set out to open the gate and try to reason with them.

"I think she knew she was walking to her death," said Sr. Kate. "I don't know how her knees carried her except that she really, really leaned heavily into God's arms."

The rebels immediately shot her and the security guard who went with her.

They then entered the convent, killed the other two sisters and kidnapped the girls.

### "All of them?"

Years of history with the Liberian people convinced the sisters that they might get robbed but that no one would harm them.

That's what everyone back home believed, too.

Word reached the ASC motherhouse and the victims' families in the early hours of Oct. 31.

A friend of Sr. Kate's was up early, listening to the BBC World Service, and called at 5:30 a.m. to tell her the news.

"All of them?" Sr. Kate asked in shock.

"All five," her friend reported through tears.

"By that time, I was already past blaming God for atrocities," Sr. Kate recalled. "I would have felt that God was brokenhearted over it, too."

She felt driven to go visit Sr. Kathleen's mother.

"I needed to be with her mom," said Sr. Kate. "I needed to wrap my arms around her and just be with her."



**This sculpture, titled "Martyrs of Charity," honors the four sisters of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ who were killed while ministering in Liberia 30 years ago during that country's civil war. Sister Kate Reid ASC adorned the figures with colorful shawls woven by women all over the world, to commemorate the 10th anniversary in 2002.** — Photo from the [adorers.org](http://adorers.org) website

Sr. Kathleen's siblings and their children had gathered there. Her mother welcomed them, cried with them, relished their company and eventually told them it was okay to leave.

"I needed to be alone," Mrs. McGuire told Sr. Kate. "Sometimes, you just have to be able to grieve in your own way."

### "At home with God"

Masses and prayer services for the sisters were held throughout the country, including in Jefferson City.

Pope St. John Paul II spoke of the sisters' brutal death after leading the Sunday Angelus in St. Peter's Square on Nov. 1.

"Despite the great danger" brought by the civil war, "until the end the sisters remained alongside the population threatened by the violent battles under way in that city," Pope John Paul stated.

"May the Lord welcome into His joy the deceased religious and give consolation to their families and their sisters," the pope prayed.

Sister Mildred Gross ASC, provincial superior of the ASC Ruma province, spoke at the end of a Memorial Mass in the Cathedral of St. Peter in Bel-

leville, Illinois.

She referred to the slain sisters as "our first martyrs of charity."

"Our sisters are at home with their God," she proclaimed. "Their spirits live!"

The earthly remains of the five sisters were eventually found and sent back to the ASC motherhouse cemetery in Ruma for burial.

### "Love and hope"

A sculpture depicting five sisters standing in a circle with their arms raised to heaven was created for the motherhouse property.

Sr. Kate said she wishes the sculpture would have depicted the sisters with their arms interlocked with women from all over the world.

For the 10th anniversary in 2002, she and Sr. Kathleen's cousin gath-

ered woven cloth from India, Liberia, Mexico, Bolivia and other countries, braided it and wrapped it over and under the arms, heads and bodies of women in the sculpture.

Sr. Kate said the five sisters' untimely deaths left a void in the ASC community that's still being felt.

She is particularly aware of Sr. Kathleen's absence.

"I miss her influence, especially in crucial times of growth," Sr. Kate stated. "She would call us and call us and actually help us build process to move beyond the *status quo*, to be more daring."

Thirty years into grief and hope, Sr. Kate requested prayers "for all who struggle to survive and live with integrity and compassion as agents of a more just and loving world order."

"May we trust that no evil is more powerful than the Spirit of God breathing in each and all who love and hope even in the midst of death-dealing forces," she said.

*This report includes information from Catholic News Service and from the book, The Cost of Compassion, by Barbara Pawlikowski.*



## VITAE

From page 12

to care our fellow human beings," she said. "It's vital that we're stepping up and truly

fighting for the most vulnerable among us, for those who can't fight for themselves."

Mrs. Meeks is keenly aware that pro-lifers never fight alone.

"God can do tremendous things," she stated. "Life is a gift from Him, and that's the root of everything we do here."

to continuing Vitae's research "to deepen our knowledge about abortion and the way it's affecting our current culture."

"We're looking for innovative ways to solve old problems," she stated. "New technology and new research have helped us see things through a clear new lens."

## COMPANIONS

From page 5

"Given the time and the tools to deal with these, I have noticed a more beautiful flow of the Holy Spirit in my life," she said.

Yet another participant said it was a gift just to be able to meet and spend time with so many women who are actively seeking God.

"To journey with others and know we are all on this road through life and that we want to find God in the ordinary things we experience — that in itself helps strengthen my spiritual life," she stated.

She said it's nice to know she has friends who will listen to and really hear her while they move together toward Christ.

"That's what spiritual companionship does!" said Sr. Madeleine. "For those who continue on this journey, it changes one's life! It's a perpetual process of growth."

### Sent on mission

For those who are called to be spiritual companions, this kind of preparation turns their gaze outward toward helping other people grow in their sense of "God, Who is within me today."

Sr. Madeleine noted that people who are spiritually healthy strengthen family life and the life of their parish, because they are aware of their gifts and are committed to putting them to good use for others, in God's name.

"It's not just for me to keep to myself," she said. "It's about mission. We're all growing our spirituality in order to grow our mission."

One participant in the spiritual companions program noted that she has had companions with her throughout every phrase of her life — "people who have been there to listen, to give me a leg-up, to pray with me, to encourage me to help in any way I need as I sought a deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ."

"I hope to do the same for others as we all continue our journey in faith," she stated.

Another participant, also eager to help others who are seeking to deepen their faith life, noted that the faith journey is different for everyone.

"You don't need someone to tell you what to do or how to feel, but it's helpful to have someone to walk with you for support and love while you discover your graces and decide how you want to respond to those graces," she said.

"Our graces are a gift from God that are meant to help us experience life to its fullest," she stated. "We are not meant to be on this journey alone. It's a humbling journey to companion together."

### Bright lights

Sr. Madeleine lauded the sacrifices the 11 women made in completing the program.

"They took the time, spent eight weekends away from their families, and invested their personal resources," she said.

"Most of all, they invested their heart in finding their personal spirituality and helping it grow," she stated. "And

for most of them, it was like watching a light turn on."

"We hope the diocese will provide another opportunity in the future to expand this program for men and women who are seeking to become spiritual companions," she said.

She emphasized that helping the women become spiritual companions was a team effort. Two other instructors assisted her with some of the formation weekends.

Also, all of the candidates were required to have their own spiritual companions to guide them through their discernment and ongoing formation.

The women who completed the program and are now certified to serve as spiritual companions in the diocese are:

- Courtney Benson of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City;
- Kristen Bexten of Sacred Heart Parish in Rich Fountain;
- Kyle Clark of St. Joseph Parish in Edina;
- Paula Gough of St. Mary Parish in Shelbina;
- LeAnn Korsmeyer of St. Stanislaus Parish in Wardsville;
- Donna Long of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City;
- Nancy Massman of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Folk;
- Anita Ruga of St. George Parish in Hermann;
- Carol Steinman of Visitation Parish in Vienna;
- Lori Watson of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City; and
- Sister Kathleen Wegman SSND of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City.

As the newly-certified spiritual companions begin their work in the diocese, Sr. Madeleine asks for prayers for them to "continue to receive in abundance the gift of their own spirituality and continue to share it."

"Our own spirituality is about mission, so when we receive a blessing it continues to bless us and others," she noted. "But we have to care for it and nourish it and water it."

### Familial bonds

Mrs. Meeks and her husband Matt have four sons and a daughter, ranging from college to middle school.

Mrs. Meeks was raised in a family of faith that helped lead her toward a bedrock respect for human life.

"Being a wife and a mother to five kiddos — those values that are instilled in you as a child and teenager become so much more concrete as you're raising a family and seeing the beauty within the kids you're raising — and the struggles," she said.

"It's always an adventure!" she stated. "But it has always been our family's mission to protect life, and we try to look for every opportunity to reinforce those values with our kids."

### "Excitement and energy"

Vitae's transition from president to president has been seamless and organic, based on a shared vision and mutual respect.

"Brandy brings a new level of excitement and energy, and the people here are very excited about that," said Mrs. Stokes, who served Vitae in several capacities since her arrival in 1998 and as president since 2018.

"They see her bringing in new skills and ideas, a keen understanding of marketing and a wide view of the things that are going on out there," Mrs. Stokes added.

Mrs. Meeks said Mrs. Stokes helped build Vitae up to a point where it can truly grow and expand.

"Debbie led Vitae Foundation to a place of immense strength during culturally tumultuous times," said Mrs. Meeks. "There are things we wanted to do that we weren't in a position to do before, but we are now."

She said she's committed

### "Only love"

Mrs. Meeks said she's honored to be able to work alongside Mrs. Stokes and the Vitae Foundation's founder and strategic advisor, Carl Landwehr.

"Carl continues to serve at the organization and is greatly valued for his wisdom that he has continually brought to the table throughout Vitae's 30-year history," she said.

She said she can feel the warmth of God's love when she's engaged in pro-life work "because it's so close to His heart."

She asked for prayers for God to continue to pour wisdom into her, encourage her, and help her surrender to whatever He is asking of her and whatever sacrifices He needs her to make.

"This work is not easy," she noted. "But God not did not call us to be comfortable. He called us to remain faithful."

She believes people can help create a culture of life by engaging in meaningful discussions with friends and family members.

"Not to preach, not to yell, but to engage and listen," she said. "We don't need to cower, we need to be encouraged. We need to know what resources are available out there."

It's also important to know how to lead people to the healing they need after having an abortion, she said.

"Love well, and focus on that," she said.

"We're all about loving people well," Mrs. Stokes added. "No judgement. Only love."



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# CATHEDRAL

From page 1

## Part of something bigger

Bishop McKnight said the goal is to rededicate the Cathedral sometime before Holy Week in March of 2023, “so that we can return to celebrating those important Liturgies in the grandeur of the Cathedral.”

He said the renovation is “one piece of an overall strategy of looking at supporting the mission of the Church in what we teach, in how we live the life of charity, and in how we pray.”

“The complete transformation of our cathedral truly serves as a gift to Catholics and everyone in our diocese,” he told the people on the tour.

He pointed out that private donors are covering the entire cost of the renovation and expansion of the upstairs worship area in the Cathedral.

“Our donors include lay Catholics, deacons and priests who have sent gifts directly in support of the project, going above their regular support for their own parishes,” he said. “Thanks to these gifts, this project is moving forward without any assessments to the other parishes of our diocese.”

Cathedral parishioners are covering the cost of renewing the Undercroft.

Bishop McKnight said the renovations will greatly enhance the hospitality and spiritual functionality of the Cathedral.

“They will also show how new artwork and liturgical features can more fully reflect the beauty of our Catholic faith as well as highlight the culture and rich faith life of our diocese,” he said.

He emphasized that this is the first major renovation of the Cathedral in its 54-year history, and that the building’s mechanical and utilities systems were nearing the end of their useful life and needed to be replaced.

That need, along with people’s willingness to help, presented a unique opportunity to reshape the Cathedral into a



People reviewing progress on the renovation of the Cathedral of St. Joseph contemplate “the beauty that is before us and the beauty that is to come,” in the words of a prayer by Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, vicar general.

— Photos by Dan Bernskoetter

form that is more welcoming, functional and ideally suitable for Catholic worship, pilgrimage and evangelization.

“It’s my hope and prayer that as we renovate this Cathedral and make it home to Catholics throughout this entire diocese, we also renew our faith and become more aware of the importance of showing the beauty of our faith in how we live,” he said.

He emphasized that the Cathedral holds universal significance for the diocese and belongs to all Catholics throughout these 38 counties.

“There is a Cathedral parish, which is particular to the local community right here, but the Cathedral itself is the mother church of the whole diocese,” he said. “There are sister parishes and sister churches throughout the diocese, but only one church is the bishop’s church and therefore is considered the mother church of the whole diocese.”

He pointed out that the work on the Cathedral comes at a time when this diocese has been making significant investments in charitable outreach, most notably through Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri.

The Church in central and northeastern Missouri has also made “some incredible investments in Catholic education over these past few years,” he said.

“We might be small, we might be minority-Catholic, we might be rural, but we’re vibrant as a Church and I’m very proud of that,” he stated.

### “Our best to the Lord”

Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, vicar general of the diocese and former pastor of the Cathedral Parish, announced that a cadre of docents will be convened and made available

to people making pilgrimages to the Cathedral or visiting it as one of the impressive sites in the Capital City.



to people making pilgrimages to the Cathedral or visiting it as one of the impressive sites in the Capital City.

Father Daniel Merz, who was stationed at the Cathedral Parish for the first few years after his ordination, reminisced with Father Frederick Elskamp while exploring the construction of what will become an expanded welcome area at the main entrance.

“It’s monumental,” said Fr. Merz, pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia and chairman of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. “It’s gonna be an amazing catechetical piece. It’s also going to be a beautiful place to celebrate Liturgy. It will be inspiring.”

Why is that important?

“Because we give our best to the Lord!” he said.

Fr. Elskamp, who served as pastor of the Cathedral Parish from 1999-2004, predicted that it could take visi-

tors an entire day to take in the significance of all the sacred artwork that’s being created for the Cathedral.

“These things will certainly raise our hearts and minds to God!” said Fr. Merz.

### “Local, universal, timeless”

William Heyer, architectural consultant for the renovation, addressed the tour participants over a live video feed

forms that are there, the Catholic forms that we’re revisiting, but also some of the ideas that Bishop Marling had that were not implemented at the time for various reasons,” Mr. Heyer stated.

For instance, original plans called for a recessed area in the center of the sanctuary, to highlight the tabernacle and the Blessed Sacrament, but structural limitations prevented that.

“Now, we’re doing it,” Mr. Heyer said. “So we, in a sense, are building Bishop Marling’s original intention and at the same time opening up things in the Church to make it more Catholic.”

Bishop McKnight pointed out that a prominent new crucifix, with a cross fashioned of local wood, will adorn the beam above the altar and tabernacle.

Impressive images of St. Joseph and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, patroness of the diocese, will prominently adorn the sanctuary.

The strong central axis of the Cathedral will be retained, augmented by a secondary axis connecting new shrines dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

“The main axis is reinforced by a larger, new portico and an enlarged narthex, which increases the hospitality and the gathering space for the people who will be worshipping at the Cathedral,” said Mr. Heyer.

Statues of St. Peter and St. Paul will stand prominently near the main entrance.

Outside, real bells will ring out the hours of worship from newly constructed bell towers.

Artwork and sanctuary fixtures are being created by artists from Missouri, other states and other countries.

“So, there’s a sense of local and universal in every material that we’re using,” said Mr. Heyer.

The completed Cathedral will be emphatically Catholic and timeless.

“Every element will have meaning that you can spend

from his studio in Columbus, Ohio.

“The words that I use to describe what we’re doing here with the design are local, universal and timeless,” he said.

He noted that the shape and geometry of the Cathedral as originally envisioned by Bishop Joseph M. Marling C.P.P.S., founding bishop of the diocese, are being retained.

“That includes not only the

See RENOVATION, page 27

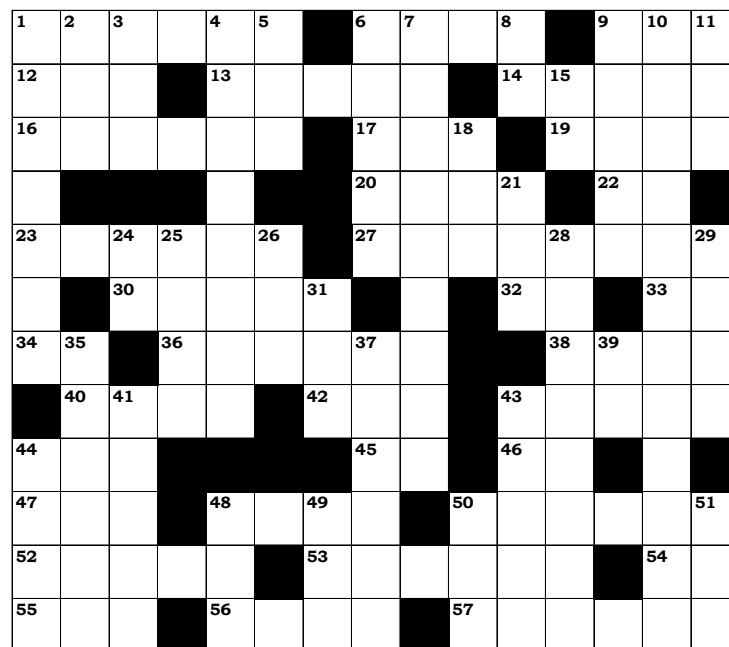




By Father Don Antweiler

### ACROSS

1. Native Americans in Mo. have left their mark. Most prominently, the 24th State of the Union (Missouri) and the \_\_\_\_ river that bisects it (Missouri) are both named for the Missouri native-Am. tribe.
6. "She was not above offering a cut-rate deal — \$1 per person instead of \$3. 'It may \_\_\_\_ be a dollar but it sure looks like a lot sittin' next to nothin,'" — *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, John Berendt.
9. Prefix for dent or cycle.
12. The Economic Development Ad. (\_\_\_\_) is the only federal agency focused exclusively on local/regional-driven economic development.
13. "When I was a boy, we would often spend Sunday afternoons in our basement listening to Cardinals baseball on a transistor \_\_\_\_ while making homemade ice cream," — Fr. Don Antweiler.
14. What we receive on the first Wednesday of Lent.
16. Walt \_\_\_\_ throughout his life always considered Marceline, Mo. as his beloved childhood home.
17. Gun club.
19. "The old adage was true. The \_\_\_\_ way to make a small fortune is to start with a large one," — *Cupid's Arrow*, Marilyn Todd.
20. Columbia AM station featuring Mizzou sports and the Chiefs.
22. Prefix for mark or main.
23. The two bands of Osage native-Ams. (one in central Mo., the other in southern Mo.), left their legacy in the names of the Osage river, Osage \_\_\_\_, the towns of Osage Beach, Osage Bend, Osage City, and even the tree/shrub known as the Osage Orange.
27. "The Lord is my \_\_\_\_; there is nothing I lack," (Psalms 23:1).
30. The full-time vowels.
32. "A dream? A vision? He spoke to \_\_\_\_\_. The words were repeated over and over again: 'In this sign, conquer,'" — *Constantine*, Frank Slaughter.
33. This State's nicknames include Mother of Presidents and Old Dominion (abbr.).
34. 2nd biggest metro area in the U.S. (abbr.).
36. Ever year on Memorial Day, there is a "For The \_\_\_\_" Pow Wow held at the Jaycee Fairgrounds in Jefferson City featuring gourd dancing, intertribal dancing, tribal singing, etc. Open to the public.
38. Junk mail in email.
40. Red and Dead.
42. Distress letters.
43. Abbr. for assistants.
44. Before Common Era (\_\_\_\_) is how archeologists usually refer to the time before A.D.
45. First of the two major parts of the Bible (abbr.).
46. Princess \_\_\_\_; deceased first wife of now King Charles III of England (abbr.).
47. Contraction of over.
48. "As \_\_\_\_ would have it"; phrase referring to the role of chance or fate; first found in Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* written in 1600.
50. Steinway, Yamaha and Baldwin.
52. Little boys are made of "\_\_\_\_, snails and puppy-dogs' tails," according to an early 19th century nursery rhyme.
53. "...she shall bring to the priest...a yearling lamb... and a \_\_\_\_ or turtledove for a sin offering," (Leviticus 12:6).
54. In text, letters standing for No Reply or No Response.
55. Abbr. before the name of a French female saint.
56. A pretty tame curse word.
57. Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone is better known as St. Francis of \_\_\_\_.
8. \_\_\_\_ hoo; an email server.
9. "When the Mo. General Assembly members met for the first time in Jefferson City in 1826, \_\_\_\_ to greet them were 31 families, a general store, a hotel...and a distillery. Accounts tell of abundant amounts of homemade 'likker,'" — *Breweries & Saloons in Jefferson City, Missouri*, Walter Schroeder.
10. Although there are no native-Am. \_\_\_\_ in Mo., indigenous people remain and are having a more visible presence. For ex., the Osage Legacy Monument in Cuba, Mo. and the Land of the Osages Research Center near Gravois Mills, Mo.
11. Suffix for violin or terror.
15. On a baseball scorecard, letters for stolen base.
18. "Ordinary Catholics will not survive this \_\_\_\_, only heroic Catholics will survive," — Fr. John Hardon, S.J.
21. Letters for revolutions per minute (e.g., in an engine).
24. When the two power companies of Ameren and Union Electric merged in 1997, it became Ameren\_\_\_\_; it is now simply Ameren.
25. \_\_\_\_ Valley; California wine area.
26. \_\_\_\_-hoo; a long-time chocolate soda containing fructose corn syrup but also calcium, protein and good-for-you fats.
28. German troops whom the British army hired as auxiliaries in the American Revolutionary War.
29. The former village of Ilasco, just south of Hannibal, was a cement company town. The original plant produced the cement for the Panama Canal, locks and \_\_\_\_ on the Mississippi and projects across the nation.
31. Package delivery company.
35. Jesus' \_\_\_\_ into heaven is recorded twice in the NT: in Luke's Gospel (Luke 24:50-53) and in Luke's Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1:6-12).
37. If you don't know the meaning of a word, \_\_\_\_ up in a dictionary or on Google! (2 wds.)
39. Abbr. for postscript, indicating an addition to a letter after the letter's signature.
41. Strange; weird.
43. Good-bye in Guadalajara.
44. Al Capone was a notorious crime \_\_\_\_ in Chicago in the 1920s prohibition era. He was finally legally taken down, not for his murder, extortion, prostitution or illegal liquor crimes, but for income tax evasion.
48. 1960s hallucinogenic drug.
49. A certified public accountant (\_\_\_\_) is a professional designation attained through a combination of education, experience and licensing.
50. First syllable word for coat or shooter.
51. \_\_\_\_ Lanka; formerly Ceylon, off the coast of India.



### DOWN

1. In partnership with MU's \_\_\_\_ school in Columbia, MU's Research Reactor has become the largest U.S. producer of radioisotopes for biomedical applications.
2. \_\_\_\_ Amin; Ugandan dictator who fled to Saudi Arabia after 8 brutal years of power in the 1970s.
3. Nitrous oxide; also known as "laughing \_\_\_\_."
4. There were 22 \_\_\_\_ with 13 different native-Am. tribes that gave the U.S. title to all the land within Mo.'s present-day borders.
5. Enthusiastic exclamation of triumph, approval or encouragement.
6. Sounds from the sty.
7. In 1673, when whites first visited Mo., the 3 most powerful native-Am. tribes were the Osage in the south, Missouri in the \_\_\_\_, and the Illini Confederacy in the east.



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## PLANNING

From page 1

2019, Bishop McKnight noted that parishes are where most Catholics experience their faith and the essential need for parishes to continually adjust so that people can discover and deepen their relationship with God.

“[Plans don’t] provide us with a mission,” Bishop McKnight said when he released *A Steward’s Journey: Our Call to Greater Communion* on Feb. 6, 2021. “That was already given to us by our Lord, Jesus Christ, 2,000 years ago: to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

“But we do need a plan,” he said then, “a strategy for how all of us, together, will live out the communion of the Church in response to everything that’s going on around us.”

The new process, *Shaping Our Future Together*, allows Catholics to continue “to celebrate the good of parish life and work on key measures to help us grow and thrive together,” Bishop McKnight stated in launching the process.

He said working together in this way will lead to growth, “not merely in numbers but in the quality of parish life.”

“This new direction broadens our focus to the level of the five deaneries, which serve to foster the individual parishes, and help administer our diocesan vision across the broad geography here in central and northern Missouri,” he said.

### Seven essential values

Bishop McKnight pointed to seven values that are essential to the Church’s vision that must be used in pastoral planning:

- for the Sacraments to be accessible and celebrated well;
- for each parish to be known for its hospitality and welcoming spirit;
- for the wellbeing of clergy to be properly safeguarded and for burnout among priests to be avoided;
- for canon law and current Church teaching to be upheld, despite any perceived lack of resources;
- for good faith formation to be provided for children, youth and young adults and families, and for a culture of lifelong formation to be built up for all adults;

•for good stewardship of the human and financial resources available within each deanery; and

•for the diocese’s mission to be carried out as defined in the diocesan pastoral plan, *A Steward’s Journey: Our Call to Greater Communion*:

— promoting the engagement of all parishioners in the mission of the parish through a stewardship way of life;

— fostering a culture of co-responsibility in which there is a mutual respect for the differing roles of the laity and clergy in the life and mission of the Church; and

— strengthening the parish’s capacity as a center of charity and sanctuary of mercy.

“These seven values shape the look of thriving Catholic life in our diocese,” Bishop McKnight stated.

### The upcoming year

The bishop emphasized to parish leaders that they and their fellow parishioners have an important role in shaping their shared future together.

Each deanery will submit to Bishop McKnight by the end of November a proposal for the process they wish to use for *Shaping Our Future Together* in 2023.

Toward that end, each dean will appoint a working group to hash out a draft proposal for review and reaction by the rest of the parish leadership of the deanery.

Bishop McKnight will review the proposals with the Diocesan Pastoral Council and provide any necessary feedback.

Each deanery will implement its approved discernment process from January to June 2023 — “with the identifying of concrete ways to collaborate more effectively to ensure thriving Catholic parishes throughout the diocese,” said Bishop McKnight.

The bishop then will review the proposals from the five deaneries, with the Presbyteral

Council and the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

Approved deanery discern-

ments to set their faith on a strong foundation for the future.

“And our success relies on

leaving it to me and my advisors to make the hard decisions for you, which is a common practice in other dioceses when it comes to decisions about the realignment of parishes with shifting demographics and fewer priests.”

### Bearing good fruit

Bishop McKnight thanked the deans and parish leaders for the leadership they provide and the work they’re already doing.

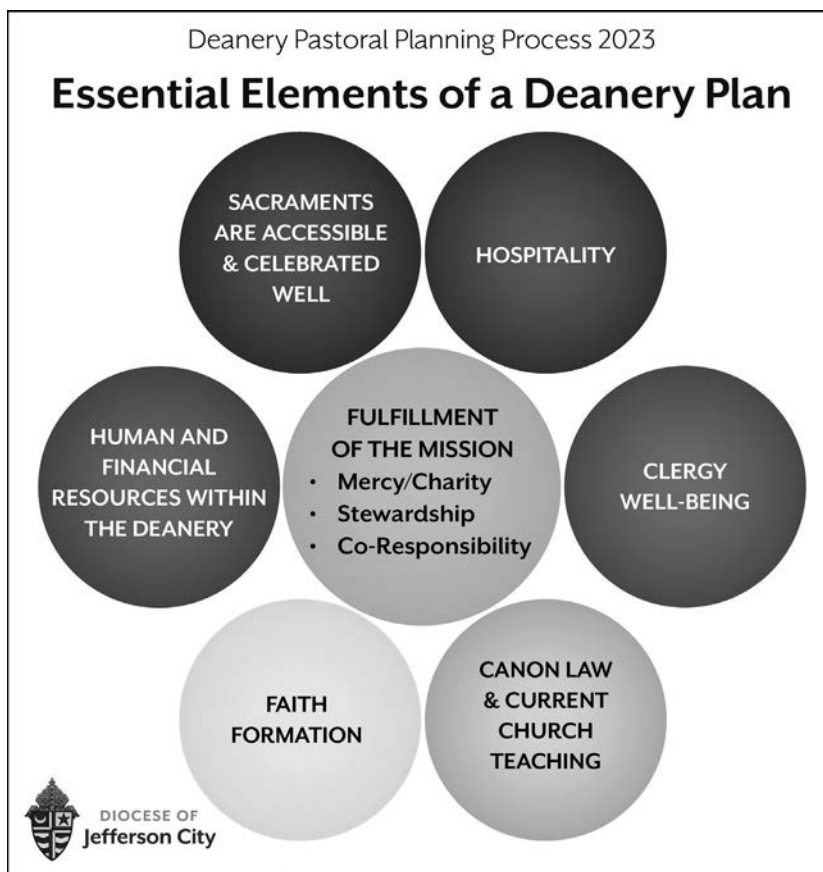
“As pastors, deacons, pastoral council chairs and others, you have been walking with your fellow parishioners to build vibrant Catholic communities,” he said.

“With your engagement and guidance, we are beginning to see the fruits of our ongoing diocesan pastoral plan,” he stated.

He led them in praying a new prayer for the discernment process. The prayer will be distributed and prayed regularly in parishes throughout the diocese.

*Bishop McKnight’s video message in English can be found at:*  
[vimeo.com/760635147](https://vimeo.com/760635147)

*The message with Spanish translation can be found at:*  
[vimeo.com/761616657](https://vimeo.com/761616657)



ment plans will be announced from the Chancery next fall, with implementation beginning in 2024.

### “Starting now”

Bishop McKnight called this “a historic reimagining of our diocese, especially with regard to how our individual communities relate to one another.”

He urged the people in each deanery to be creative in the discernment process that they will propose, mindful of approaches that would work best in their parishes and throughout their deanery.

“You know your neighbors and fellow parishioners, the local challenges and opportunities, better than anyone else,” he noted.

He emphasized that this is a process of discernment — trying to understand and do what God wants — rather than advocating for personal preferences.

“We are to be open to the will of the Holy Spirit for us and our parishes,” he stated. “And we must be attentive to the Spirit’s promptings.”

He reiterated that this is a prime opportunity for Catho-

each of you engaging with this opportunity, starting right now,” he said.

He emphasized that those who deliberately choose not to engage in *Shaping Our Future Together* are also making a decision.

“Let me be as transparent as possible,” Bishop McKnight stated. “If your parish embraces this opportunity to ensure a thriving church and commits itself to working collaboratively with others, I will consider myself obligated to utilize our diocesan resources, as reasonably as I can, to help you succeed.

“If your parish chooses not to engage in this process of *Shaping Our Future Together*, however, then I will consider that to be a decision by default,

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Want your event listed?  
Fill out the ONLINE FORM at [diojeffcity.org/event-listing](http://diojeffcity.org/event-listing).

## Fundraisers & Social Events

Nov. 6

**Brunswick**, St. Boniface & St. Raphael parishes fall dinner, 11 am-1 pm, K of C Hall; **Ewing**, Queen of Peace Parish turkey dinner, 11 am-1:30 pm; **Jefferson City**, Immaculate Conception Holy Name Society pancake & sausage breakfast, 7:30 am-noon, Kertz Hall; **Starkenburg**, Church of the Risen Savior Parish (Rhine-land) fall dinner, 11 am-3 pm, Valentine Hall

Nov. 13

**Belle**, St. Alexander Parish fall dinner, 11 am-4 pm; **Crocker**, St. Cornelius Parish annual dessert auction, 11:30 am-2:30 pm; **Glasgow**, St. Mary Parish drive-thru fall dinner, 11 am-2:30 pm, school parking lot/K of C Hall

Nov. 19

**Loose Creek**, Christmas Extravaganza and pork burger sale, 9 am-4 pm, Loose Creek Community Center

Nov. 20

**Argyle**, K of C drive-thru fall chicken dinner, 11 am-5 pm

Nov. 24

**Tipton**, St. Andrew Parish Thanksgiving dinner, 11 am-10 pm, K of C building

## Meetings/ Workshops

Nov. 15

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

## Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

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](mailto:ecastro@diojeffcity.org)

## Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

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

Nov. 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. 27-29

**Columbia**, "On the Way to Jesus Christ," Sacred Heart Parish mission, with Fr. Blaise Czaja, CP, 7 pm each evening

Nov. 29

**Jefferson City**, "Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room: An Advent to Remember," women's event, 6:30-8 pm, St. Peter Church's Hoog Hall

## Liturgical

Nov. 6

**Columbia**, Charismatic Mass, 5 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center

## Youth & Young Adults

Nov. 20

**Columbia**, Viva Cristo 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

# Celebrating Vatican II anniversary, pope prays for unity of Church

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

The Second Vatican Council was the universal Catholic Church's response to God's love

and to Jesus' command to feed His sheep, Pope Francis said, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the council's opening.

The council reminded the Church of what is "essential," the pope said: "a Church madly in love with its Lord and with all the men and women whom He loves," one that "is rich in Jesus and poor in assets," a Church that "is free and freeing."

Pope Francis presided over the Mass Oct. 11 in St. Peter's Basilica, where the council sessions were held in four sessions from 1962 to 1964.

The date is also the feast of Pope St. John XXIII, who convoked and opened the council; the glass urn containing his body was moved to the center

of the basilica for the Liturgy.

The Gospel reading at the Mass recounted Jesus asking St. Peter, "Do you love Me?" and telling him, "Feed My sheep."

In his homily, the pope said the council was the Church's response to that question and marked a renewed effort to feed God's sheep, not just those who are Catholic, but all people.

The debates that followed the council and continue today are a distraction from the Church's mission, Pope Francis said.

"We are always tempted to start from ourselves rather than from God, to put our own agendas before the Gospel, to let ourselves be caught up in

the winds of worldliness in order to chase after the fashions of the moment or to turn our back the time that providence has granted us," he said.

Catholics must be careful, he said, because "both the 'progressivism' that lines up behind the world and the 'traditionalism' that longs for a by-gone world are not evidence of love, but of infidelity," forms of "selfishness that puts our own tastes and plans above the love that pleases God, the simple, humble and faithful love that Jesus asked of Peter."

"A Church in love with Jesus has no time for quarrels, gossip and disputes," the pope said. "May God free us from being critical and intolerant, harsh and angry. This is not a matter of style but of love."

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, "wants His flock to be united under the guidance of the pastors He has given them," the pope said, but the devil loves to sow division; "let us not give in to his enticements or to the temptation of polarization."

"How often, in the wake of the council, did Christians prefer to choose sides in the Church, not realizing that they

## Veterans Service at OLLIS in Columbia

DATE: November 11  
TIME: 2 pm

Our Lady of Lourdes School Interparish (OLLIS) in Columbia will hold a Veterans Day celebration and prayer service at 2 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 11, in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 903 Bernadette Drive near Stadium Boulevard and I-70.

All veterans are welcome.

The OLLIS band and choir will provide the music and fifth-graders will proclaim the readings. Boy Scouts will present and retire the colors for the assembly.

Those who wish to attend are asked to submit their name, branch, and conflict/duty to [abecht@ollisk8.org](mailto:abecht@ollisk8.org) ahead of time.

## FR. DOYLE

From page 8

other than a priest and in a setting other than a Catholic church.

My guess is that the groom is in fact a Catholic and has not received the needed permissions — in which case I can understand your brother-in-law's reluctance to attend.

Especially as a priest, he is required to avoid giving scandal, and he has evidently decided that his presence at the wedding would create the misimpression that the ceremony was approved by the Catholic Church.

I would guess, further, that he has made the judgment that for the sake of family harmony — and with the hope that later you might decide to have your marriage "blessed" by the Catholic Church — it would better that he be present at the reception.

## PET BLESSING

From page 4

confinement in a carrier.

All were well behaved, while a sweet little Yorkie, ever so discreetly, raised her lip at a Pointer who accidentally entered "her" space.

Finally, all were friendly to include a Labrador, a seeing eye dog who was "off duty"

and was able to receive and enjoy many rubs and caresses, although still attentive of his owner's presence.

Just a wonderful occasion for some of God's creatures.

*Ms. Heidbreder is a member of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in St. Robert.*

See COUNCIL, page 27



### Anniversaries

**Freeburg, Holy Family**  
Ron & Paralee Kloeppe, 55 years  
Carl & Phyllis Sandbothe, 40 years  
Andy & Paige Welschmeyer, 10 years

**Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception**  
Mike & Karen Jaegers, 45 years

**Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart**  
Steve & Joyce Boehm, 40 years  
Leroy & Gayla Bauer, 30 years

**Vandalia, Sacred Heart**  
Jerry & Janet Epperson, 50 years  
Rick & Susan Mollerus, 45 years  
Brandon & Beth Straube, 15 years

**Vienna, Visitation**  
Jim & Georgena Fick, 65 years  
Wayne & Alice Helton, 65 years  
Chris & Brenda Feeler, 30 years

### Marriages

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows —  
**Allison Isenberg & Carter Wilson**

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle —  
**Kristin Boessen & Nate Leuckel**

### Baptisms

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Luna Belle Burton**, daughter of Kevin & Adrienne Burton; **Clay William Martin**, son of Neal & Angela Martin

Indian Creek, St. Stephen — **Emma Josephine Pfanner**, daughter of Dillon & Deanna Pfanner

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Christine Sasha Donaldson**, daughter of Ethan & Samantha Donaldson

Vienna, Visitation — **Jada Schwartze**, daughter of Jacob & Sara Schwartze

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Asher William Burlbaw**, son of Samuel & Chelsea Burlbaw; **Oaklynn Kay Verhoff**, daughter of Brent & Summer Verhoff

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

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

### Deaths

Canton, St. Joseph — **Nancy Wilson**

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Richard Prenger**

Hermann, St. George — **Virginia Crawford**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Eileen Cremer; Diane Pope**

Vienna, Visitation — **Wayne Boeckman; Florence Toebben; Dennis Weider; Leonard J. Weidinger**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Gladys Kempker**

### Birthdays

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Wilma Mengwasser**, her 98th on Oct. 18

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior — **Virginia Hinrichs**, her 92nd on Oct. 21

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart — **Alex Reinkemeyer**, his 90th on Oct. 9; **Helen Rudroff**, her 95th on Nov. 1

Tipton, St. Andrew — **Mary Ann Wallenburn**, her 100th on Oct. 29

Vienna, Visitation — **Marie Haller**, her 93rd on Sept. 1



## Pope announces a second session for Synod of Bishops assembly

By **Cindy Wooden**  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Saying he did not want to rush the process of discerning how the Holy Spirit is calling the Church to grow in “synodality,” Pope Francis announced that the next assembly of the Synod of Bishops would take place in two sessions.

The synod assembly, with mostly bishops as voting members, will meet Oct. 4-29, 2023, as previously announced, the pope said, but the assembly will have a second session in October 2024 as well.

Pope Francis made the announcement Oct. 16 at the end of his Angelus

address. He had met Oct. 14 with the synod leadership.

The pope and local bishops kicked off the listening and discernment process for the “Synod on Synodality” in October 2021, and by November the Synod secretariat is expected to release a working document for continental assemblies.

With 112 of the 114 bishops’ conference in the world having sent in a synthesis of what emerged in the listening sessions in their countries, Pope Francis said that “the fruits of the synodal process under way are many, but so that they might come to full maturity, it is necessary not to be in a rush.”

“To have a more relaxed period of

discernment,” the pope announced, “I have established that this synodal assembly will take place in two sessions” rather than the one originally planned.

“I trust that this decision will promote the understanding of synodality as a constitutive dimension of the church and help everyone to live it as the journey of brothers and sisters who proclaim the joy of the Gospel,” Pope Francis told thousands of people gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the Sunday Angelus prayer.

The website of the synod secretariat describes synodality as a style seen in the Church’s life and mission that reflects its nature as “the people of God journeying together and gathering in assembly, summoned by the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel.”

While it does not imply everyone has a vote on issues facing the Church, it does mean that all the members of the Church — ordained or lay — have a responsibility to contribute to the Church’s mission and to pray, offer suggestions and join in discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit.

A statement from the Synod secretariat Oct. 16 said Pope Francis’ decision to add a second assembly “stems from the desire that the theme of a ‘synodal Church,’ because of its breadth and importance, might be the subject of prolonged discernment not only by the members of the synodal assembly, but by the whole Church.”

Although it did not feature the same widespread, grassroots listening sessions, the deliberations of the Synod of Bish-

ops on challenges and joys facing families also met in two sessions. First, Pope Francis convoked in 2014 an “extraordinary general assembly” on “the pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelization.” Then, using the 2014 gathering’s final report as an outline, the ordinary general assembly of the Synod of Bishops met in 2015 to look at “the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and contemporary world.”

Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, then secretary-general of the Synod, wrote to bishops’ conferences at the time explaining that, “the two synodal assemblies, sharing the same topic of the family, become part of a single synodal process, which includes not only the two celebrative phases but also the intervening time between synods, a time to reflect on the reaction to the first Synod and to make a thorough theological examination of the Church’s pastoral activity in light of the succeeding one.”

### SILECCHIA

From page 9

Some seasons change of our own volition when we choose a new path. Other seasons come unwelcomed and unbeckoned.

Some are seasons of dreams fulfilled, and others are seasons when a dream moves out of view. There are seasons of suffering and loss that come to each life, and seasons to surrender the things to which we cling. There are seasons that are filled with companionship and those when, for a time, we find ourselves walking alone.

In the depth of our hearts, there are those seasons when we walk closely with God, and other seasons with the taste of the “dark night of the soul.”

As years pass and I look back at the ways in which life’s seasons have changed, I can see that there is, indeed, something to be grateful for in each of them. At the time, some have seemed to me far more beautiful than others. Yet, in their own way, each season of life made my own heart new — whether I wanted it to or not.

I hope that as I watch autumn unfold and winter follows, it will be a reminder to cherish each season of life — to thank God for the blessings it brings, to ask Him for strength through what it may take away, and say a trusting “Amen” to every season of ordinary times.

*Lucia A. Silecchia is a Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Faculty Research at the Catholic University of America. “On Ordinary Times” is a biweekly column reflecting on the ways to find the sacred in the simple. Email her at [silecchia@cua.edu](mailto:silecchia@cua.edu).*

### Crossword puzzle answers

I	S	I	S	S	V	L	V	R	D	E	J	S
R	N	N	O	E	G	I	S	S	d	I	N	S
S	O	N	V	I	d	K	C	U	T	R	E	R
I	I	d	L	O	E	C	B					
S	J	S	S	V	S	O	S	S	V	E	S	
M	V	d	S	E	T	d	O	E	d	98	V	T
V	A	E	M	W	O	I	V	E				V
D	R	E	H	d	E	H	S	A	L	N	U	C
E	R	E	G	L	K	V						I
L	S	E	R	V	R	N	A	V	R	N	S	I
S	E	H	S	V	O	I	d	V	R	V	d	E
I	R	L	A	T	N	O	A	S	L	H	G	I



# Kindergarten field trip in Mexico

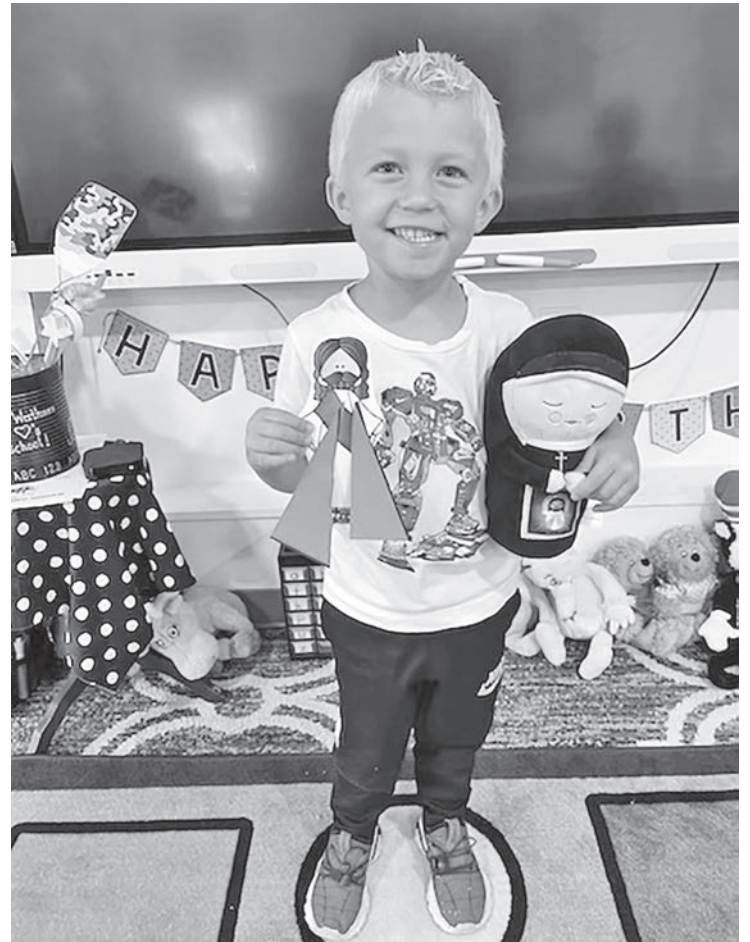


Mrs. Crawford's kindergartners at St. Brendan School in Mexico join Father David Veit, pastor of St. Brendan Parish on a fall field trip.

— Photo from the Saint Brendan Catholic School of Mexico, MO Facebook page



# Divine Mercy in Glasgow



One of the children in the Little Saints Preschool at St. Mary School in Glasgow holds a toy depicting St. Faustina Kowalska, the Apostle of Divine Mercy. "Our preschoolers are doing amazing things — learning about St. Faustina's feast day — all the while learning how to cut triangles," said Father Joshua Duncan, pastor. "A great example of creatively integrating the faith with a purpose!"

— Photo by Father Joshua Duncan

# St. Clement School Blessing of Pets



Students at St. Clement School in St. Clement celebrate the feast of St. Francis by bringing pets to school to be blessed by Father Henry Ussher, pastor. The students in Mrs. Niemeyer's third- and fourth-grade class led the prayer service and everyone joined in singing "Prayer of St. Francis" and "If I Were a Butterfly." The afternoon was beautiful and everyone enjoyed spending some extra time with their favorite pet.

— Photo by Laurie Schuckenbrock





# Jesus and Zacchaeus

By Joe Sarnicola  
Catholic News Service

Jesus arrived at the city of Jericho, intending only to pass through it without stopping for the night. When word spread that Jesus was there, a crowd of people who wanted to see Him quickly formed. In that crowd was a man named Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was the chief tax collector and a very wealthy man. He was also very short. Too short, in fact, to see Jesus over the other people in the village.

Zacchaeus had an idea. He would run ahead of the people and try to find a tree. He found a sycamore tree up the road that was directly in the path of Jesus. Up the trunk and across the branches Zacchaeus climbed. He could see



Jesus coming now. Jesus would be walking under the tree very soon.

Jesus walked closer and closer. Then He stopped for a moment. He was directly under Zacchaeus. Jesus looked up. He looked directly into

the eyes of Zacchaeus and said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house."

Many thoughts passed through Zacchaeus' mind. How did Jesus know he was in the tree? How did Jesus know

his name? And why did He want to stay in his house when He was free to stay with anyone he wanted to?

Many thoughts also went through the minds of the people in the crowd. Tax collectors were not the most popular people in the city, especially those who may have been dishonest, as they believed Zacchaeus to be.

They voiced their opinions loudly enough for both Jesus and Zacchaeus to hear. "Jesus has gone to stay at the house of a sinner."

But the kind of man who climbed down from the tree was not the same kind of man who had climbed up into it. Zacchaeus looked at the people, then he turned to Jesus. He gave Jesus a hug of gratitude. "Lord," he said, "I shall

give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over."

The people were astonished at what Zacchaeus had said. Half his possessions to the poor? Repaying people four times over? What had happened to the tiny tax collector?

Jesus placed His hands on Zacchaeus' shoulders and said: "Today salvation has come to this house because this man, too, is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."

**Read more about it...  
Luke 19**

1. Why did Zacchaeus climb the tree?
2. What did Zacchaeus tell Jesus he would do?

## Bible Accent

The Mass has four main sections: the introductory rites, the Liturgy of the Word, the Eucharist and the concluding rites.

The introductory rites include the entrance procession, the penitential rites, the Gloria, and prayer.

The Liturgy of the Word contains the readings from the Bible, the homily, the creed and the Prayer of the Faithful.

The Eucharist involves the

preparation and offering of the gifts, prayer, the memorial acclamation and Holy Communion.

The concluding rites end the Mass with a closing prayer, a blessing and dismissal.

Prayer is an important part of every section of the Mass, and we should make it an important part of our lives as well.

Our understanding of the church and its teachings can only improve by our regular participation in the Mass.

## Trivia

How many men did Jesus choose to be His first disciples?

(Answer: 12)

## Saint Spotlight

**St. Luke**

St. Luke was more well known for what he wrote than for what he did. His Gospel tells us about the origins of our salvation through the teaching and deeds of Jesus. The Acts of the Apostles, which he also wrote, recounts the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit first came down from heaven and the lives of some of the early Christians, especially Paul. Luke may have been a doctor. He was a traveling companion of Paul. It is very likely that when Paul was thrown into prison, Luke was with him. Scholars believe that Luke was a gentile, probably a Greek, who originally lived in Antioch. When Paul was near the end of his life, he wrote, "Only Luke is with me," a tribute to the friendship of the two men. Little can be verified about Luke's life after the death of Paul, but he may have lived to the age of 84. We remember him on Oct. 8.



## Puzzle

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the list to complete the Lord's Prayer.



Our \_\_\_\_\_, who art in \_\_\_\_\_, hallowed be thy \_\_\_\_\_. Thy \_\_\_\_\_ come. Thy will be done on \_\_\_\_\_ as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass \_\_\_\_\_ us. And lead us not into \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ us from evil.

List of Choices:  
temptation; Father; bread; heaven; deliver; earth; against; name; forgive; kingdom

Answers: (1) Father; (2) heaven; (3) name; (4) kingdom; (5) earth; (6) bread; (7) forgive; (8) against; (9) temptation; (10) deliver.

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## Author takes readers on faith adventure through the galleries of 'the Met'

You may have noticed that God is rarely mentioned in art museums anymore, unless in an archaeological, "scientific" way.

You may also have noticed that museum tours are by and large clinical, tedious affairs.

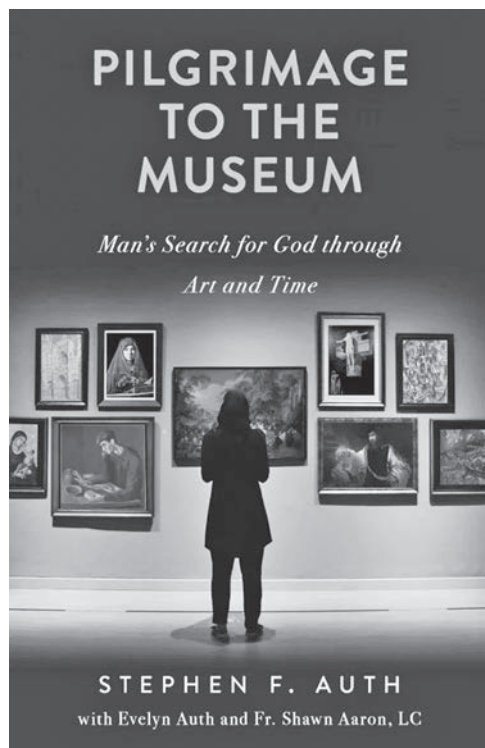
All of that is about to change.

In *Pilgrimage to the Museum*, author-curator Stephen Auth takes you on a provocative journey through the history of Western art, interpreted through a lens of profound Christian faith.

Auth posits that much of Western art expresses humanity's search for God, the Divine Artist-Creator —and God's search for us.

This beautifully illustrated voyage features works drawn largely from New York's popular Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Through fascinating stories,



El Greco, Monet to Picasso, and Rodin to Dali.

Through the works of these great artists, readers will encounter the profound truths that lead multitudes to a personal relationship with God and cause many others to wonder. They will discover how various themes and motifs of man's struggle to find God occur, morph, fade and then re-occur centuries later.

Amid laughter and tears, chaos and hope readers are invited to place themselves into the scenes and pause to contemplate the transcendent. They will emerge refreshed and renewed in their own journey to God — never to look at a work of art the same way again.

"*Pilgrimage to the Museum* provides an extraordinarily coherent and inspiring itinerary through the wealth of works in the Metropolitan Museums of Art," stated art historian and best-selling author Elizabeth Lev.

"Anyone who knows and admires Stephen Auth, as I am happy to say I do, realizes he detects the divine everywhere and in everybody. Even at the 'Met' Stephen observes hints of God in the art that abounds. He's convinced me!" stated Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York.

*SophiaInstitute.com*

it relates humanity's determined quest for truth, beauty and meaning. Reflection questions further inspire readers to listen for God's voice and embark on a course of more virtuous living.

Leaving the standard art-history jargon behind, Auth transports readers in his spiritual time machine from Egypt's Old Kingdom, through Greece and Rome, to medieval Europe; from the Renaissance Age, through the Ages of Exploration and Enlightenment; and from the rise of atheism in the late 1800s to the seeds of a spiritual rebirth in the modern era.

At each destination, readers will experience anew the masterpieces of many artists, from Polykleitos to Raphael, Duccio to Rembrandt, Fra Angelico to

## Enjoyable book on Mother Teresa has reader wanting more

*To Love and Be Loved: A Personal Portrait of Mother Teresa*, by Jim Towey. Simon & Schuster (New York, 2022). 288 pp., \$27.

By Daniel S. Mulhall  
Catholic News Service

St. Teresa of Kolkata (born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu) died Sept. 5, 1997, at the Missionaries of Charity motherhouse in Kolkata, India. The cause of death was heart failure.

During her 87 years, she had become internationally famous as the communities of women and men she founded opened missions around the globe to provide homes for orphans and battered women and care facilities for the destitute dying from AIDS, leprosy and abject poverty.

She was declared a Catholic saint in September 2016.

To mark the 25th anniversary of her death, Jim Towey has written *To Love and Be Loved*, offering a brief biography of Mother Teresa from his perspective as her friend — the saint kept a picture of Towey and his family in her desk and she wrote him notes to Jimmy — and as the attorney who provided legal services for her and her communities.

In this personal portrait, Towey describes how Mother Teresa was instrumental in changing his life for the better through her care for the destitute and her life of holiness.

Numerous books have been written about the life and accomplishments of St. Teresa from which Towey borrows (with acknowledgment) to paint his portrait.

This book is most interesting when Towey tells of his personal experiences with Mother Teresa (whom he generally refers to simply as "Mother") and the Missionaries of Charity communities.

From August 1985, when he first met her in Kolkata, until her death 12 years later, Towey learned to care for the sick and dying — and to see them as the personification of Jesus Christ.

After a brief time considering a vocation to the priesthood as a Missionary of Char-

ity, Towey met his wife among the volunteers at their AIDS facility in Washington.

Because of his connections in the U.S. government — he met Mother Teresa because he was a senior adviser to Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon — Towey soon was called on to help with Missionaries of Charity legal matters.

In this role, he received frequent letters and calls from her, and he accompanied her on many national and international trips. He was an official delegate to her funeral and proclaimed the first reading at her canonization Mass, so he has many interesting stories to tell.

This is neither a "tell-all" book nor a critical examination of St. Teresa's life. Towey simply provides a positive message of the "Mother" he knew and loved.

In the chapter where he discusses some of the negative charges leveled at Mother Teresa and her ministries (for example, that her homes for the destitute and dying provided little real medical care), Towey responds with accuracy and understanding that these homes were not meant to be hospitals; rather, they were expressions of Christian charity, providing a place where the dying could be lovingly cared for until death.

While accurate, more thorough critiques on these topics would have been valuable. In addition, the reader would welcome any insights that Towey could offer as to what drove Mother Teresa to expand the Missionaries of Charity outreach across the planet.

The book is an easy and enjoyable read. While informative, it doesn't bog down in details or minutia. It deserves to be read and discussed by both religious and secular book clubs, for it raises important issues worthy of discussion.

*Also of interest: Teresa of Calcutta: Dark Night, Active Love*, by Jon M. Sweeney. Liturgical Press (Collegeville, Minnesota, 2022). 184 pp., \$19.95.

*Mulhall writes from Louisville, Kentucky.*

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## COUNCIL

From page 22

breaking their mother's heart," the heart of their mother, the Church, Pope Francis said.

How often, he asked, did they prefer "to be on the 'right' or 'left,' rather than with Jesus? To present themselves as 'guardians of the truth' or 'pioneers of innovation' rather than seeing themselves as humble and grateful children of Holy Mother Church?"

The council, he said, taught the Church to see the world around it and to share God's love with all, knowing that "if it is fitting to show a particular concern, it should be for those whom God loves most: the poor and the outcast."

With Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant representatives present, as they were at the council, Pope Francis also prayed that "the yearning for unity" would grow within each Christ, "the desire to commit ourselves to full communion among all those who believe in Christ."

Thanking God for the gift of the council, the pope asked the Lord to "save us from the forms

of polarization that are the devil's handiwork. And we, Your Church, with Peter and like Peter, now say to You: 'Lord, You know everything; You know that we love You.'"

Pope Francis, who was ordained to the Priesthood in 1969, is the first pope ordained after the Second Vatican Council.

Before the Mass, passages were read from the speech St. John XXIII gave at the council's opening. Known by its opening words in Latin, "*Gaudet Mater Ecclesia*," the speech begins: "Mother Church rejoices."

Selections from the council's four constitutions also were read. Pope Francis has asked Catholics to prepare for the Holy Year 2025 by re-reading and studying the documents: Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy ("*Sacrosanctum Concilium*"); Dogmatic Constitution on the Church ("*Lumen Gentium*"); Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation ("*Dei Verbum*"); and Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World ("*Gaudium et Spes*").

## RENOVATION

From page 19

time learning about and praying over," he said. "The end result, the end goal here, as always, is that we grow closer to our Lord through our Catholic faith, through these buildings like our beloved Cathedral."

### Reaching critical mass

Fr. Nelen said he's looking forward to the next phases of the project.

"We look forward to getting the limestone delivered soon for the front face of the building," he said. "And when that comes, Sircal (Contracting Inc.) can begin building out on the portico, and we'll see more of a completion there."

Much of the interior artwork is scheduled to arrive in December and January.

"You will see the mosaics starting to go in — the marble altar, the murals for the baptistry, those will be ready and installed by December," Fr. Nelen said.

Abigail Steck Flippin, a senior architect with The Architects Alliance in Jefferson City, architect of record for the project, noted that the Cathedral and Undercroft are receiving new, efficient electrical and air-handling systems, along with lighting and audio-visual equipment.

Both levels of the building

will be equipped with camera equipment for livestream broadcasts.

Chris Hentges, president of Sircal, spoke of installing additional structural supports for the new altar, baptistry and pipe organ, and chipping through 10 feet of solid rock

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

to sink an elevator shaft between the Cathedral and the Undercroft.

Mrs. Flippin said the decorative scheme for the Undercroft echoes and complements that of the rest of the Cathedral.

"Our goal is to make things low-maintenance and durable" in the Undercroft, she said, "and accommodate all the different events that will be happening there."

She added that a layer of acoustical insulation will help dampen any sound that travels between the upstairs and downstairs.

### Seeing and believing

Several people on the tour reflected on the significance of the project.

"Fifty years ago, they built it and made it useful," one person stated. "Now we're updating and making it useful for the next 50 to 100 years."

Another visitor pointed to the catechetical function of all the new artwork.

"It will be a very good educational tool for our kids while they're growing up," she stated, "making it more educational to draw people closer to their Catholic faith and teaching them from a young age, incorporating all the different aspects, the different pictures and stained glass windows."

Bishop McKnight talked about how down through the centuries, the Church has employed the power of beauty to lead people toward the eternal truth of God and salvation.

"Our church buildings, not just the Cathedral but all throughout our diocese, especially some of those magnificent churches out in the hinterlands — they speak volumes of our faith to those passing by," he said.

"More importantly, however, is the beauty of the faith living in us, lived by us," he stated. "That's what changes hearts and converts others to want to know more about our

## Daily Readings

### Sunday, Oct 30

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
Wis. 11:22-12:2  
Ps. 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13, 14  
2 Thes. 1:11-2:2  
Lk. 19:1-10

### Monday, Oct 31

Phil. 2:1-4  
Ps. 131:1bcde, 2, 3  
Lk. 14:12-14

### Tuesday, Nov 1

Solemnity of All Saints (Holyday of Obligation)  
Rv. 7:2-4, 9-14  
Ps. 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6  
1 Jn. 3:1-3  
Mt. 5:1-12a

### Wednesday, Nov 2

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)  
Wis. 3:1-9  
Ps. 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6  
Rom. 6:3-9  
Jn. 6:37-40

### Thursday, Nov 3

St. Martin de Porres, religious  
Phil. 3:3-8a  
Ps. 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7  
Lk. 15:1-10

### Friday, Nov 4

St. Charles Borromeo, bishop  
Phil. 3:17-4:1  
Ps. 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5  
Lk. 16:1-8

### Saturday, Nov 5

Phil. 4:10-19  
Ps. 112:1b-2, 5-6, 8a, 9  
Lk. 16:9-15

### The Holy Father's prayer intentions for November:

We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

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St. Mary's Hospital  
JEFFERSON CITY

Catholic faith. That is the ultimate goal here."

### Everyone's Cathedral

Bishop McKnight is asking Catholics from throughout the diocese to support the renovation of their Cathedral by praying for all the artists, laborers, engineers and architects who are responsible for this holy work.

### Sunday, Nov 6

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
2 Mc. 7:1-2, 9-14  
Ps. 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15  
2 Thes. 2:16-3:5  
Lk. 20:27-38 or 20:27, 34-38

### Monday, Nov 7

Ti. 1:1-9  
Ps. 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6  
Lk. 17:1-6

### Tuesday, Nov 8

Ti. 2:1-8, 11-14  
Ps. 37:3-4, 18, 23, 27, 29  
Lk. 17:7-10

### Wednesday, Nov 9

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica  
Ez. 47:1-2, 8-9, 12  
Ps. 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9  
1 Cor. 3:9c-11, 16-17  
Jn. 2:13-22

### Thursday, Nov 10

St. Leo the Great, pope and doctor of the Church  
Phlm. 7-20  
Ps. 146:7, 8-9a, 9bc-10  
Lk. 17:20-25

### Friday, Nov 11

St. Martin of Tours, bishop  
2 Jn. 4-9  
Ps. 119:1, 2, 10, 11, 17, 18  
Lk. 17:26-37

### Saturday, Nov 12

St. Josaphat, bishop and martyr  
3 Jn. 5-8  
Ps. 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6  
Lk. 18:1-8

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

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



## 40 Days closing dinner

The Closing Rally Dinner for the Columbia 40 Days for Life Campaign will be on Saturday, Nov. 12, in Veit Hall at St. Andrew Church, 400 St. Andrew Dr. in Holts Summit. It will include a fried chicken dinner and silent auction. A free-will offering will be taken up. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

## Vibrant hues

Fall foliage and the sun's radiant light envelop Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Frankenstein at sunset.

— Photo by Gayla Ocheskey



### Pancake & Sausage BREAKFAST

**St. Peter Holy Name Society**  
Selinger Centre Cafeteria  
**Jefferson City**  
**Sunday, October 30**  
7:30-11 am

Adults \$10- Kids under 12 \$5 - Family (3+ kids) \$30

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH  
TAOS, MISSOURI

## FALL SUPPER

NEXT WEEKEND!

Turkey & sausage dinners

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

11am - 6pm

Pilgrimage to THE HOLY LAND

with Fr. Matthew Flatley  
**FEB 27- MAR 8, 2023**

Tiberias ✦ Nazareth  
Cana ✦ Capernaum  
Mt. Tabor ✦ Jericho  
Qumran ✦ Bethany  
Jerusalem ✦ Bethlehem  
The Holy Sepulcher  
Dead Sea  
The Sacred Tomb  
Mt. Carmel  
Garden of Gethsemane  
Mt. Beatitudes

For more info or to download the full brochure, visit [traveltimepilgrimages.com/pilgrimage-to-the-holy-land-with-father-matthew-flatley](http://traveltimepilgrimages.com/pilgrimage-to-the-holy-land-with-father-matthew-flatley) or contact Fr. Matt at 573-202-3590 or mflatley@diojeffcity.org

Church of the Risen Savior

## FALL DINNER

Valentine Hall — Starkenburg

197 Highway P, Rhineland  
*Handicapped accessible hall; paved parking spaces.*

## Sunday, November 6

11 am - 3 pm

Dine-In or Carry-Out **Adults \$15 | Kids 6-12 \$5**  
**Kids 5 & under FREE | Adults 90 & over FREE**

Country fried chicken, whole hog sausage, mashed potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, sauerkraut, green beans, Missouri baked apples, dinner rolls, salads, pie & desserts

Country Store  
Quilt Prizes  
Religious Articles

### Holy Name Society PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

**Adults \$10**  
**Children 12 & under \$5**  
**Age 4 & under FREE**  
Carryouts available

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 from 7:30 am to noon

*Bring your family and friends!*

Immaculate Conception Parish, Kertz Hall  
**Jefferson City**

St. Mary Parish Annual

# FALL DINNER

Drive-Thru • St. Mary School parking lot  
**Glasgow**  
**Sunday, November 13**

Turkey, Ham, Dressing, Dessert and More!

Meals each \$14, Drinks and limited seating available at the Knights Hall  
Limited in-town deliveries available, call 660-338-2409

Served from 11 am to 2:30 pm

Stop by the Knights of Columbus Hall for more festival fun!  
*Booths open from 10 am to 2 pm*  
Craft Corner / Country Kitchen / Religious Goods  
Prizes & Games / Live Auction 5 pm

## 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  
BISHOP MCKNIGHT AS PRESIDER

DIOCESE OF  
Jefferson City